

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY®  
Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies

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## January 2025 Newsletter

Dear Friends of the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies:

Today, the new era of constructive Catholic-Jewish relations and dialogue faces some of the most difficult challenges in its relatively short history. One way to respond to these challenges is to deepen our commitment to building mutual understanding among Catholics and Jews in our local communities. For this reason, we have organized a program on the history of Catholic-Jewish relations in Tampa at the Tampa Bay History Center, which you can read more about below.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, the Second Vatican Council's historic declaration on the Church's relationship with other religions. The declaration positively reframed Catholic-Jewish relations, rejected the deicide charge, condemned antisemitism, and called for dialogue and study with members of other religious traditions. What is the significance of this declaration and its fruits for Catholic-Jewish relations and interreligious dialogue today?

Catholic priests, deacons, and interreligious officers are invited to attend a CCJS seminar that will address this important question. The seminar will examine the origin of *Nostra Aetate*, subsequent Catholic teaching, and the importance of understanding Judaism. The seminar will take place at the Diocese of St. Petersburg's Bethany Center in Lutz, Florida, on February 24th, and it will be led by myself and Rabbi David Maayan, the Maureen and Douglas Cohn Visiting Chair in Jewish Thought. The Bethany Center is just 20 minutes from the Tampa International Airport.

You can also find information about other upcoming programs, including a webinar on contemporary Catholic and Jewish perspectives on just war, and an online scholarly symposium on Jewish theology in the context of Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

Respectfully,

Matthew Tapie  
Director, Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies  
Associate Professor of Theology

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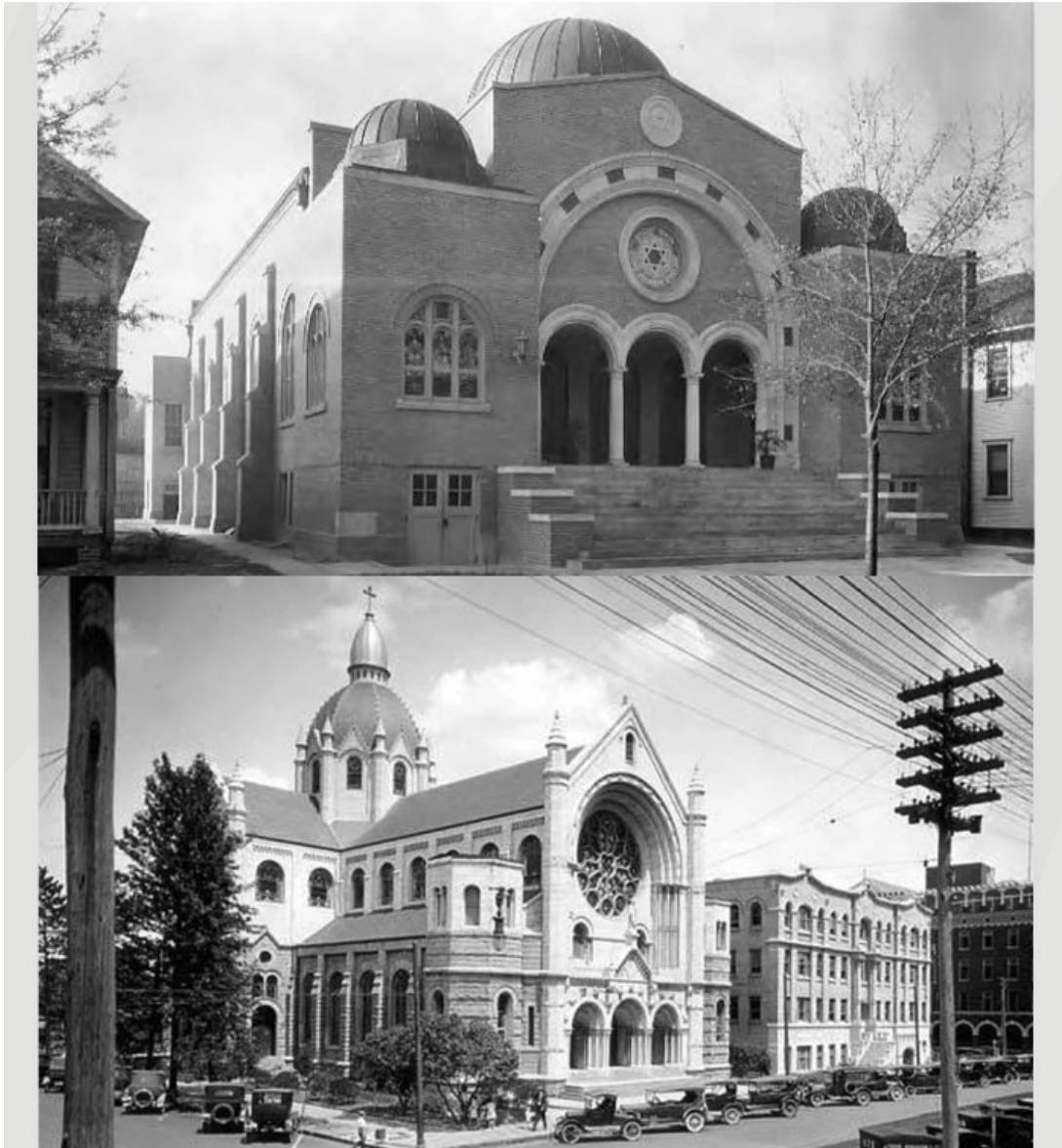
## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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# The History of Catholic-Jewish Relations in Tampa Bay

Wednesday, January 22nd

6:30 - 8 pm | In-person at the Tampa Bay History Center and livestreamed



The Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies and the [Tampa Bay History Center](#) invite you to join a special conversation on the History of Catholic-Jewish Relations in Tampa Bay. This program examines the intertwined history of Tampa's Catholic and Jewish communities. A panel of longtime local leaders will share knowledge and personal experiences, offering insights into this unique relationship.

Dr. Matthew Tapie, Associate Professor of Theology and Director of the CCJS will welcome attendees. Dr. Gary Mormino, Frank E. Duckwall Professor of History Emeritus, University of South Florida, will moderate the discussion. A question and answer session will follow the panelists' remarks. Rabbi David Maayan, the Maureen and Douglas Cohn Chair in Jewish Thought, and Assistant Director of the CCJS, will offer comments.

The event will take place in-person at the Tampa Bay History Center, Water Street, in TECO Hall, and it will be livestreamed via Zoom.

The program is free and open to the public but registration is required. Space is limited.

Please register using the buttons below.

In-person RSVP

Livestream sign-up

### Parking and Transportation

Tampa Bay History Center  
801 Water St. Tampa, FL 33602

Parking is available in the Channelside Parking Garage (369 12th St.), the Garrison Parking Lot (615 Channelside Dr.), and the East Cumberland Garage (1045 E. Cumberland Ave.). Please arrive thirty minutes before the event in order to park in one of the nearby parking garages, walk to the entrance of Tampa Bay History Center on Water Street, and locate TECO Hall on the second floor. Click [here](#) for more information on parking and transportation. A map of the Tampa Bay History Center is available [here](#).



SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY  
Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies



## The Significance of *Nostra Aetate* Today

A Seminar for Priests, Deacons, and Interreligious Officers on the 60th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*

Monday, February 24th

1 - 6 pm | In-person at the Bethany Center, Lutz, FL



The year 2025 marks the 60th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, the Second Vatican Council's declaration on the Church's relationship with other religions. The declaration positively reframed Catholic-Jewish relations, rejected the deicide charge, condemned antisemitism, and called for dialogue and study with the Jewish people.

What is the significance of this document and its fruits for Catholic Jewish relations today? The CCJS and the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg invites Catholic priests, deacons, and interreligious officers to a seminar examining the origin of *Nostra Aetate* and subsequent Vatican teaching, as well as deepening attendees' knowledge of Judaism. The seminar will be led by Rabbi David Maayan and Dr. Matthew Tapie.

The cost of the seminar, which includes dinner, is \$55. If you are a priest, deacon, or interreligious officer interested in attending the seminar please register using the button below. If you have questions, or would like a PDF flyer to share with a priest please contact Ms. Laurie Gens at [laurie.gens@saintleo.edu](mailto:laurie.gens@saintleo.edu).



**Dr. Matthew Tapie**  
Director of CCJS



**Rabbi David Maayan**  
Cohn Visiting Chair  
in Jewish Thought

## Schedule

### 1 - 2 p.m. | Session 1

The Origin of *Nostra Aetate*

### 2:15 - 3:15 p.m. | Session 2

The Fruits of *Nostra Aetate*

### 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. | Session 3

Understanding Judaism Today

### 5 p.m. | Dinner

The seminar takes place at the **Bethany Center**

**18150 Bethany Center Drive,**  
**Lutz, FL**

Register for the seminar

## Contemporary Jewish and Catholic Perspectives on Just War

Monday, February 10th and Monday, March 10th

1 - 2 pm Eastern Time | A Two-Part Webinar Open to the Public



The moral discourse surrounding the war between Israel and Hamas frequently employs or assumes the language of the just war tradition, including the following terms: combatants, noncombatants, the right of self-defense, proportionality, discrimination, and just cause. These and other just war terms emerged over hundreds of years as a part of a complex tradition of reflection on when war can be morally justified. However, current usage of this language by some scholars, religious leaders, and the media lacks awareness of the debated meanings of these terms and how the concepts relate to one another.

CCJS presents a two-part series entitled “Contemporary Jewish and Catholic Perspectives on Just War.” The aim of the series is to deepen mutual understanding of both communities’ perspectives on just war traditions today. What are the just war criteria according to the Catholic and Jewish traditions, and how are these interpreted today? Moreover, how did changing historical circumstances and positionality in relation to political power affect the thinking within each tradition over the centuries? How did the Second World War impact contemporary views of just war? Does the nature of contemporary war and the problem of terrorism require a new set of just war criteria? Is it necessary to evaluate contemporary conflicts according to the just war criteria and how should this be done?

Dr. Reuven Firestone, Regenstein Professor in medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles, will present part one of the series: Jewish views of just war. Dr. Tobias Winright, Professor of Moral Theology at Saint Patrick’s Pontifical University in Maynooth, Ireland, will present part two of the series: Catholic views of just war.

Each program will include a question-and-answer session moderated by Matthew Tapie and David Maayan. The lectures will be recorded.

**The program is free and open to the public but registration is required.**

**Session One: Contemporary Jewish Perspectives on Just War**

Monday, February 10th, 1–2pm



**Reuven Firestone** is Regenstein Professor in medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles and affiliate professor of religion at the University of Southern California. Author of over one hundred twenty scholarly articles Firestone has written over one hundred scholarly articles and eight books on Judaism, Islam, their relationship with one another and with Christianity, including *Journeys in Holy Lands: The Evolution of the Abraham-Ishmael Legends in Islamic Interpretation* (1998), *Jihad: The Origin of Holy War in Islam* (2002), *Children of Abraham: An Introduction to Judaism for Muslims* (1995), *Jews, Christians, Muslims in*

*Dialogue: A Practical Handbook*, with Leonard Swidler and Khalid Duran (1999), *Introduction to Islam for Jews* (2007), *Who Are the Real Chosen People? The Meaning of Chosenness in Judaism, Christianity and Islam* (2005), and *Holy War in Judaism: the Fall and Rise of a Controversial Idea* (2012). His books and articles have been translated into Hebrew, Arabic, Turkish, Farsi, Urdu, Bengali, Russian, French, Serbian, Czech, Romanian, Albanian, Macedonian, German and Indonesian. Firestone is currently chair of the International Abrahamic Forum and is member of the executive board of the International Council of Christians and Jews.

Register for Session One

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## Session Two: Contemporary Catholic Perspectives on Just War

Monday, March 10th, 1–2pm



**Tobias Winright** is Professor of Moral Theology at St Patrick's Pontifical University in Maynooth, Ireland. A former law enforcement officer in both corrections and policing, initially with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (1984-1988), much of his teaching and scholarship focuses on Christian ethics, violence, and peace. He has authored, coauthored, edited, and coedited 7 books, including *After the Smoke Clears: The Just War Tradition and Post War Justice* (2010, 2022); *Can War Be Just in the 21st Century: Ethicists Engage the Tradition* (2015); *Serve and Protect: Selected Essays on Just Policing* (2020); and the *T&T Clark Handbook of*

*Christian Ethics* (2022). He is a past editor of the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* and has served as vice president of the College Theology Society. Previously he taught at Saint Louis University, where he held the Maeder Endowed Chair in Healthcare Ethics (2005-2022), Walsh University (2003-2005), and Simpson College (1998-2002).

Register for Session Two

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## Contemporary Jewish Theology in the Context of Catholic-Jewish Dialogue

Monday, May 12th

7 - 8 pm | A Virtual Symposium



In May of 2025, the CCJS will host an online invitation-only symposium for scholars to discuss contemporary Jewish theology in the context of Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

Over the last decade, some Jewish scholars have begun to highlight the importance of theology and reflect on the possibilities opened by the ongoing dialogue between Catholics and Jews. For example, Jewish scholars involved in Catholic-Jewish dialogue have engaged in an increasingly frank discussion and evaluation of different interpretative traditions and historical approaches in Jewish thought. They have engaged Jewish texts with explicit attention to the implications for Israel's relationship with other people and religions, and whether these implications should guide hermeneutical approaches to certain texts. In addition, some scholars have deepened their engagement of Christian doctrines.

In light of these developments, the conference will feature Jewish theological reflections on central categories in rabbinic Judaism as well as fundamental Christian doctrines. For example, some important categories in rabbinic thought (e.g. *avodah zarah*, *brit*) can have a crucial impact on the relationship between Jews and Judaism and non-Jews. Does the contemporary historical situation allow or even demand a new articulation of the non-Jew, and categories of idolatry and covenant? How can the multivocality in biblical texts serve as a resource for constructing positive images of the other and other religions? The conference will also include Jewish theological reflection on some fundamental Christian

doctrines. Is the Jewish concept of God diametrically opposed to the Christian concept of the Trinity? Does our current context enable or even require a reading of the other's theological texts that articulates resonances as well as differences?

In an effort to advance fruitful reflection on theological questions, this symposium will provide a space for Jewish scholars to discuss constructive proposals in contemporary Jewish theology with Catholic theologians. Following the model of the spring 2021 CCJS symposium, "Catholic Theologies of Jews and Judaism and the Challenge of Theological Dialogue," which resulted in the center's first publication, the below group of scholars will meet virtually, present their writings, and receive critical, constructive feedback in a spirit of friendship.

Participants:

Devorah Schoenfeld, Loyola University Chicago

Rita George-Tvrtkovic, Benedictine University

Alan Brill, Seton Hall University

Eugene Korn, Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation

Tzvi Novick, University of Notre Dame

Malka Simkovich, Editor-in-Chief, Jewish Publication Society

Holly Taylor Coolman, Providence College

Christian Rutishauser, The University of Lucerne

Aaron Canty, Saint Xavier University

Anthony Sciglitano, Seton Hall University

David Maayan, Saint Leo University

Matthew Tapie, Saint Leo University

The symposium will begin with an online lecture on **May 12th at 7pm** that is open to the public and delivered by **Dr. Alan Brill, the Cooperman/Ross Endowed Chair for Jewish-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University**.

Dr. Brill will speak on contemporary Jewish theology today, and its significance for Catholic-Jewish dialogue and relations. A panel of scholars from the symposium will offer comments on Brill's lecture, and the program includes a question and answer session.

[Register for the May 12th online lecture](#)

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## The Transformational Thought of Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira (1889–1943)

Presented by Rabbi David Maayan, the Maureen and Douglas Cohn Chair in Jewish Thought, and Assistant Director of the CCJS

Thursday, February 13th and Thursday, April 24th

7 - 8 pm Eastern Time | A Two-Part Webinar Open to the Public





Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira (1889–1943) was a Hasidic Rabbi in Poland. He has been referred to as “the Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto,” since Rabbi Shapira continued to both teach Torah and write down his teachings in the Ghetto, and most of the writings that we have from him were found buried beneath the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto. His Holocaust writings are both unique and powerful, taking on added significance for one familiar with his pre-war teachings. This fall, Rabbi David Maayan, the Cohn Visiting Chair in Jewish Thought will give two online lectures on the thought of Shapira. A question and answer session will follow both presentations.

Rabbi David Maayan, the Cohn Visiting Chair in Jewish Thought at the CCJS will deliver the third and fourth lectures in a series on the thoughts of Rabbi Kalonymus Shapira, “the Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto.” Shapira's Holocaust writings are both unique and powerful.

The lectures will be recorded. You can access the first and second lectures in the series by clicking [here](#).

**The program is free and open to the public but registration is required.**

**Session Three | Thursday, February 13th, 7–8 pm**

[Register for Session Three](#)

**Session Four | Thursday, April 24th, 7–8 pm**

[Register for Session Four](#)

**Rabbi David Maayan is the Maureen and Douglas Cohn Chair in**



Jewish Thought and Assistant Director of the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies. Rabbi Maayan received his rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Zalman N. Goldberg in Jerusalem, 2004. He is the author of scholarly articles and book chapters on Jewish religious thought (particularly mysticism and Hasidism), comparative theology, and Jewish-Christian dialogue.

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## RECENT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

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### Dr. Joseph Sievers receives Eternal Light Award

On Thursday, November 17th, 2024, Dr. Joseph Sievers, Professor Emeritus of Jewish History and Literature of the Hellenistic period at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, received the 20th CCJS Eternal Light Award for his outstanding contributions to Catholic-Jewish studies and relations.

Over 170 members of the community gathered for the annual Eternal Light Award dinner. Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, The Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, and University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita at Vanderbilt, offered comments on Dr. Sievers' professional and personal accomplishments.







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## Video recordings of Rabbi Maayan's lectures on the thought of Rabbi Shapira now available

The video recordings of Rabbi David Maayan's first and second lectures on the thought of Rabbi Shapira are now available.

You can access the recording on the CCJS YouTube channel by clicking [here](#).

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## FACULTY NEWS

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### CCJS Director invited to deliver lectures at academic conferences at the University of Notre Dame, Boston College, and the CTSA

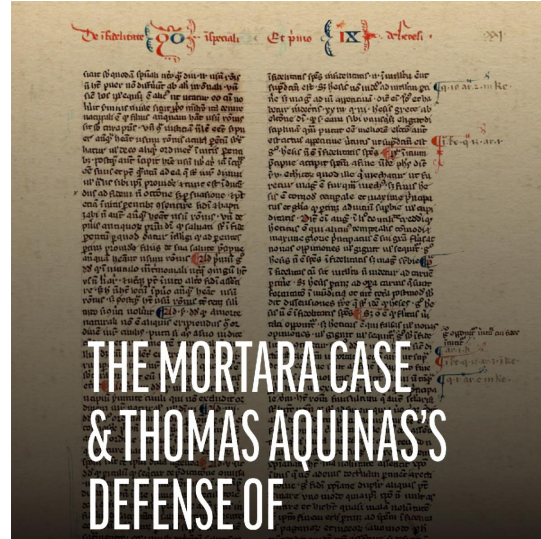
Dr. Tapie will deliver lectures at a few academic conferences this semester. The first lecture is for the Israel-Palestine Series at the University of Notre Dame. The series addresses various issues, including the multiple narratives at play in the region; the application of international law; the role of universities in Israeli and Palestinian civil society; the distinctive vision of a Catholic university in relation to the conflict; and peacebuilding in the midst of extreme polarization. Dr. Tapie's lecture is entitled, "A Catholic Approach to the Task of Dialogue After October 7th."

The second lecture is "The Mortara Family's Interpretation of Thomas Aquinas's Defense of Jewish Parental Rights," at the 2025 Corcoran Conference at Boston College's Center for Christian-Jewish Learning.

Lastly, Dr. Tapie will present a paper entitled, "Christology and the Mystery of Israel in the

## CCJS Director's book on the Mortara case to be published in March 2025

Dr. Tapie's new book, *The Mortara Case and Thomas Aquinas's Defense of Jewish Parental Authority* will be published in March 2025. The Mortara case refers to Pope Pius IX's 1858 removal of a six-year-old Jewish boy, Edgardo Mortara, from his parents in Bologna, Italy. Six years after the child was born, it was reported that the family's Christian housekeeper had baptized him after he had fallen ill as an infant and was allegedly in danger of death. Since canon law and civil law stipulated that a baptized child must be raised Catholic, Pius IX used his power as head of the Papal States to remove Edgardo from his family so he could receive a Christian education. The book contains key documents from the case which are housed in the Vatican Apostolic Archives, and published for the first time. The book examines these documents with attention to the respective interpretations of Thomas Aquinas's defense of Jewish parental rights. You can read more about the book [here](#).



with Original Documents from the Mortara Case: Pro-memoria, Syllabus, Brevi cenni

Matthew Tapie

## SUPPORT THE CCJS

For over 25 years, the CCJS has worked to build bridges of mutual understanding and respect between Catholics and Jews, and all people of good will. Your gift helps us advance scholarship in Catholic-Jewish studies and relations, and provides interreligious education to thousands of students, religious leaders, and members of the public.

Support the work of the CCJS



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