

STUDY ABROAD IN IRELAND







THREE WEEKS WITH **CHRISTENDOM COLLEGE IN IRELAND** FOR COLLEGE-AGED STUDENTS

JULY 23–AUGUST , 2027

ST. COLUMCILLE INSTITUTE

PURPOSE

The St. Columcille Institute promotes the New Evangelization called for by Pope St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis by forming both lay and clerical leaders and equipping them with the tools needed to engage the culture and bring the Faith to our modern world.

- The Institute seeks to strengthen the faith and deepen the understanding of young Catholic leaders through a thorough catechesis, ensuring that participants develop the ability both to evangelize and defend the Faith within secular society. The Institute responds to the exhortation of St. Peter, "To be always ready with a reason for the hope that is within you" (1 Peter 3:15).

- Participants of the Institute examine the patrimony of Western Christian Civilization through an in-depth study of the early foundations of Christendom, highlighting the Irish contribution, with its deep Roman roots, and noting the successful evangelization of Europe through Ireland's historically vibrant Christian culture.

- Supplementing intellectual formation—in a bold effort to celebrate the Christian imagination—the Institute explores the fundamental truths of reality and the problems encountered in living the Faith by means of great works of literature and art.

- Finally, in order to satisfy the human need for community and leisure, the Institute provides an atmosphere that fosters friendship, festivity, and recreation and that nurtures the whole person: mind, body, and soul.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

The Institute invites the young adults of both the United States and Ireland to experience an awareness of the spiritual depth of the Catholic culture of Ireland that has enriched and determined much of the history of Europe, the United States, and the world. With its Gaelic roots, Ireland remains the culturally dominant English-speaking Catholic civilization in the world. Bringing young people together from the United States and Ireland will occasion fruitful dialogue and an exchange of ideas and experiences, reawakening a love of our mutual heritage and energizing a determined hope for a revival of Christian faith and culture.

WHERE IS THE INSTITUTE LOCATED?



Star of the Sea retreat center is located in Donegal Bay, in a spectacular part of the northwest of Ireland (the home of St. Columcille) where local traditions and Irish culture remain strong and vibrant. The center has a commanding view of the ocean, bay, and surrounding beach. Located away from the chaos and noise of modern urban living, the site offers participants the opportunity to experience, in an intimate way, wonder at God's creation amid the power and order in nature. Ample opportunity to pray and reflect deeply upon that which is permanent—the good, the true, and the beautiful—will reinforce the riches gleaned in the classroom.





OUR PATRON

St. Columcille (or St. Columba) was born in County Donegal in 521 and died on the island of Iona in 597. One of the intellectual giants of his age, he was raised and educated by a priest close to his family. After being trained in the school of Christian asceticism and monasticism, Columcille founded a number of monasteries, including the famous Monastery of Derry in 548. In 563, he left Ireland with twelve companions and sailed for the Island of Iona, where he erected a monastery and began his great mission to Scotland. Iona became a thriving center of the monastic culture that dominated the Northwest for centuries. Columcille, a voluntary exile for Christ, returned to Ireland only once in 575 to attend the Convention of Drumceatt in Ulster, where his intervention saved the bards and poets of Ireland from banishment. A man of deep faith, great culture, and charity, his life has been recorded for us in the *Vita San Columba*, written by St. Adomnan. St. Columcille was one of the great lights of the early Middle Ages and one of the great missionary evangelists in the history of the Church. We are proud to claim him as our special patron.

ACADEMICS

Theology 501: Special Topics in Catholic Apologetics
With Dr. Hugh O'Donnell / Dr. Timothy O'Donnell (2 credits)
As part of the New Evangelization called for by the Church, this course presents the basic arguments for the credibility of the Catholic Faith and natural law. Students will develop cogent arguments for defense to serve as effective means of persuasion. Topics range from God's existence and the problem of evil to the historical reality of Jesus Christ and the mystery of the human person at the center of the New Evangelization and the importance of the four cardinal virtues.

History 501: Ireland and the Western Ethos
With Dr. Timothy O'Donnell / Dr. Kelly (2 credits)
Among all the nations of Europe, Ireland boasts a unique and stirring history. With due attention to extant literary and archaeological source material, this course seeks to illumine that history, from pre-Christian times through the trauma of early modernity. The first evangelization of Ireland's Celtic chieftains, the achievements of the island's medieval monasteries and missionaries, the connections between Ireland and continental civilization, and the fierce resistance to the Elizabethan settlement will all be important themes. Moreover, this course is complemented in a special way by the excursions, as the recent history of Ireland—from the Ulster Plantation to the famine and the Civil War—is there to be read in the very folds of the Donegal countryside.

Literature 501: Christian Imagination and Prominent Irish and Continental Writers
With Dr. Sullivan (2 credits)
This course surveys fiction, drama, and poetry drawn from the masterworks of the Western literary tradition, focusing on the Catholic perspective of man's struggle throughout history to exercise his free will as he encounters both the reality of evil and the force of God's love and mercy. Special emphasis on Irish writers will reveal the powerful, universal Truth of the redeeming nature of suffering especially when leavened by the Faith. The authors studied include James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, Walter Macken, Liam O'Flaherty, John Synge, Sean O'Casey, Oscar Wilde, Leo Tolstoy, Graham Greene, Gertrud von Le Fort, and Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

The Art of Communication in the New Evangelization: Living the Medium. Loving the Message.
With Dr. Lovett
A series of three experiential communication workshops aimed at re-energizing the evangelizer in you by focusing on your talents and skills as a communicator—and applying them to ensure the Word is both heard and understood.

THE FACULTY

Dr. Timothy O'Donnell

Dr. O'Donnell, President Emeritus of Christendom College, serves as Dean of the Institute. He received his early education at Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles, California, where he graduated with B.A. degrees in Philosophy and History and an M.A. in Church History. He received a doctorate in Ascetical and Mystical Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome (Angelicum).

Dr. Michael Butler Kelly

Dr. Kelly lived for a year in West Cork when he was a boy. He received his B.A. in history and literature, with a minor in Medieval Studies, from the University of Oregon. He went on to get a Master's degree in early modern European history at St. Louis University and a doctorate in modern European history from the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Kelly has been with the history faculty of Christendom College since 2012.

Dr. Kathleen Sullivan

Dr. Sullivan is an Associate Professor of English Language and Literature at Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia. She teaches Literature of Western Civilization courses for the underclassmen and offers courses in British and American Literature for upperclassmen. Most of her writing and research is focused on Jane Austen and British novels of the nineteenth century.

Dr. Seàn-Patrick Lovett

Dr. Lovett served as Vatican Radio's Director of English Programming under five Popes. He holds a doctorate in communication from the American University of Rome and is an Adjunct Professor of Christendom College. He teaches courses in strategic communications all over the world and is media consultant to both the Safeguarding Institute of the Pontifical Gregorian University and Rome Reports TV News Agency.

Dr. Hugh O'Donnell (Guest Lecturer)

Dr. Hugh O'Donnell is an adjunct professor with the Department of Theology at Christendom College. He received his doctorate in Theology from the University of Notre Dame.

Prof. Mike Brown (Guest Lecturer)

Professor Mike Brown is an assistant professor with the Department of Philosophy at Christendom College.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Fr. Columba Jordan, CFR: Chaplain

Father Columba Jordan, CFR, is a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal (CFR) originally from County Kildare, Ireland. He currently serves at St. Patrick's Friary in Limerick, Ireland, focusing on youth outreach, vocational discernment, preaching, and evangelization.

INSTITUTE COORDINATOR

Mrs. Catherine O'Donnell

Mrs. O'Donnell has been a travel coordinator to Ireland, Italy, and other European countries for the last 20+ years. A founding staff member of the St. Columcille Institute, she is available to assist attendees with any needs throughout the trip.










OTHER TRAVEL

In addition to the classes, proposed excursions in the afternoons and on the weekends throughout Donegal may include the following:

- The scenic and historic Glen Columcille
- The Blue Stack Mountains
- The historical Donegal Castle and Monastery
- The ancient kings' residence and sun temple of Grianan of Aileach
- The spectacular cliffs of Bunglass, the tallest sea cliffs in Europe
- The historic Doe Castle and Lough Swilly
- The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Doon Mass Rock and Holy Well
- County Mayo and Croagh Patrick
- Mass at the site of Our Lady's apparition at Knock
- St. Eunan's Cathedral in Letterkenny
- Dublin
- Kilmainham Jail

BASIC ITINERARY

July 23: Depart for Dublin from Washington-Dulles (or your local airport).
July 24: Arrive Dublin airport and take bus to Our Lady Star of the Sea, Co. Sligo (18 nights)
August 12: Leave Mullaghmore for overnight in Knock.
August 13: Depart Knock for Dublin.
August 15: Return to the United States.

COST

Irish Students: €2,000
ARDS ONLY PACKAGE
Includes price of the courses, room and board, three full meals per day, all excursions in Donegal.

American Students: $3,750
AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED
Includes price of the courses, room and board, three full meals per day, all excursions in Donegal and Dublin.

Deposit of $500 due upon acceptance to Institute.
Full payment due May 15, 2027.

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www.christendom.edu/ireland