

Dean's Forum

“Expressive Individualism, the Cult of the Artist as Genius, and Milton’s Lucifer” by Patrick Madigan

**Thursday, April 25th 12-1:30pm
Wesley Theological Seminary
Elderdice Hall, Kresge Building**

***Light Refreshments Provided**

Dr Patrick Madigan SJ completed his Masters and Ph.D degrees in Philosophy from Tulane University in New Orleans. He served for twelve years as Professor of the History of Philosophy at Arrupe College in Harare, Zimbabwe. Since January 2006, he has lived in England and served as the editor of the *Heythrop Journal: A Bimonthly Review of Philosophy and Theology*.

Dr. Madigan says that 'Expressive Individualism' is the default lifestyle of our time, especially in the West. In his talk, he will trace this lifestyle back to the cult of the artist revered as a 'genius' which flourished during the 19th century. He connects this idea to the depiction John Milton gives of Lucifer in his poem *Paradise Lost* in which Lucifer rejects not only Jesus as the highest creature, he rejects the Father as father. In embracing 'expressive individualism' as an ethic for our time, we are implicitly committed to Milton's Lucifer as an archetype for human fulfillment. Madigan suggests this is a toxic model.

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