SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET SPEAKER

6:30-7:45 pm -
8:00-9:00 pm -
9:00-10:00 pm Reception -

Mary Clark Moschella

Sparkling in the Darkness:
Joy and Justice in Pauli Murray’s Story

What is joy and why does it matter? How does joy work in real human lives and stories? This presentation draws upon a study of joy through a pastoral-theological lens. Caregivers’ lives are often weighted down by stress and vicarious suffering. This project explores narratives of care that “make room for joy” (Peggy Way). The research discovers glimpses and glimmers of joy-in-action, found in the narrative accounts of five particular Christian caregivers. The practices, beliefs, and values identified in these narratives are analyzed so that they might inform a practical, pastoral theology of joy. This presentation highlights one of these figures—Pauli Murray—a noted attorney, poet, and early civil rights activist who later became the first African American woman ordained as an Episcopal priest. Murray’s autobiography, seen in its historical context, offers clues illuminating the ways in which joy undergirded the struggle for justice that was her lifelong quest.

Mary Clark Moschella
Roger J. Squire Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling,
Yale Divinity School

Prior to joining the faculty of YDS in 2010, Professor Moschella taught at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. for ten years. Before that, she was a pastor in United Church of Christ congregations in Massachusetts for thirteen years. Her publications include Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice: An Introduction and Living Devotions: Reflections on Immigration, Identity, and Religious Imagination. She has edited, with Jane F. Maynard and Leonard Hummel, Pastoral Bearings: Lived Religion and Pastoral Theology. One of her current research projects, supported by a Henry Luce III Fellowship in Theology, is a pastoral theological study of joy. Professor Moschella serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Pastoral Theology and the Journal of Childhood and Religion. She is a 2012-13 Public Voices Thought Leadership Fellow at Yale, and a fellow of Calhoun College.