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John W. O'Malley



Jesuits and Change Spirit, Classroom, and Change

John W. O'Malley

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History textbooks, once they get over describing the Jesuits as the shock troops of the Counter Reformation, often mention that Ignatius of Loyola wrote a book called *Spiritual Exercises*, and that the order ran a lot of schools. Those two aspects of the Jesuit enterprises will be the subject of Professor O'Malley's lecture. The book of the *Exercises* is crucial for

understanding the Jesuits, but its historical significance was generally not understood even by them. What is it, then, that sets it apart from similar books of its era and constitutes it as a classic? Beyond the *Exercises* Ignatius, through his governance of the order, broke new ground in how holiness could be pursued.

John W. O'Malley, University Professor in the Theology Department at Georgetown University, specializes in the history of religious culture in early modern Europe, especially Italy. He has written many books, including the recent *The Jesuits: A History from Ignatius to the Present* and *Trent: What Happened at the Council*.

Religious Change, 1450-1700 is a year-long, multidisciplinary project exploring how religion and print challenged authority, upended society, and made the medieval world modern.

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