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'Being Catholic Now'

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A Marianist priest and members of the New York/New Jersey Metro chapter of the National Alumni Association gather Oct. 22 to discuss the meaning of being Catholic today.

Kerry Kennedy, daughter of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and author of *Being Catholic Now: Prominent Americans Talk about Change in the Church and the Quest for Meaning* (Crown, 2008), will lead the discussion with Father Gene Contadino, S.M., who has studied the informal standards by which Catholics measure their belonging to the Roman Catholic Church.

Kennedy's book explores the re-examination of Catholic conventions by Catholics in various stages of their faith journeys.

"Generations ago," Kennedy said, "the search for spirituality came predefined and prepackaged. [The Church] not only gave us all the answers, it even gave us the questions to ask." To convey these changes, Kennedy asked thirty-seven prominent U.S. Catholics to speak candidly in the book about their faith and the Church.

The presentation and discussion follow a visit to the exhibition Catholics in New York (url: <http://www.mcny.org/exhibitions/current/catholics-in-new-york-1808-1946.html>) at the Museum of the City of New York.

The exhibition examines Catholic influence on New York from three perspectives: Parish life; the Catholic contribution to New York health, education, and social welfare systems; and the rise of Catholics as a force in New York politics.

Kennedy was on campus in 2002 for the Distinguished Speakers Series.