History of American Catholicism

This course is an introduction to American Catholic culture through the lenses of history, fiction, and film. Students will be introduced to the history of American Catholicism, including the struggle against anti-Catholic bigotry in the early 19th and 20th century. Leading Catholic figures will be examined, including St. Katharine Drexel and Dorothy Day. Students will read at least one novel and watch at least two movies that portray Catholicism in a kindly but humorous light. The course will include brief writing assignments and a group project, which students can help choose and design.