



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Faculty & Administration News (FAN)

Volume XVII, Issue 3

May 2026

First issued in November 2009, [*Faculty & Administration News \(FAN\)*](#) is a quarterly publication of [Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology \(ICSST\)](#). This newsletter highlights the most recent professional accomplishments and service activities of ICSST's faculty and administrators. Click the hyperlinks to explore the work of our faculty and administrators.

Awards, Grants, Professional Recognitions, and Honors

- ❖ On April 2, 2026, ICSST's Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Koch Foundation to facilitate a *New York Pilgrimage and Writing Retreat Weekend*. This experience will teach participants to write meditations and spiritual presentations and help them learn ways to emphasize the importance of prayer and community. Participants will visit the Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and the Cloisters Museum in New York City. For the remainder of the weekend, participants will spend time at a retreat center to engage in writing, sharing, and providing feedback on one another's work. This event will be held around October 1, the feast day of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the patron saint of missionaries.

- ❖ **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L. S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, Interim Director of the Seminary Library, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, was awarded a \$1,635 grant from the Seton Hall Priest Community to fund his participation in the biennial meeting of the Association of Theological Schools. The meeting will be held in Chicago, IL, in June 2026.

- ❖ **Víctor Velarde-Mayol, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor of Philosophical Theology, was recognized by the Seton Hall University Provost’s Office in March 2026 as “Compass Super User of the Week” for being an early adopter of AI tools in Compass. Dr. Velarde-Mayol has explored new ways to use AI-supported features, with a view toward streamlining outreach, prioritizing student support and success, and saving valuable time—while keeping meaningful, personal connections with students at the center of his work.

- ❖ At the 2026 Celebration of Faculty Excellence, sponsored by Seton Hall University’s Office of the Provost, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 28, 2026, five outstanding ICSST faculty members were recognized with awards:
 - **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, was honored as ICSST’s Researcher of the Year. Dr. Scully was acclaimed at this event last year as a fine teacher, appreciated by her faculty colleagues and Seminary administration for her dedicated service and her creative initiatives therein. She has published another fine book, this one by Cambridge. [*Human Salvation in Early Christianity: Exploring the Theology of Physicalist Soteriology*](#) addresses the question of how the Holy Trinity saves us through the incarnate Son of God, Jesus, bringing us into eternal life, through the prism of the early Church writers, and holds up for us implications often overlooked. ICSST is grateful for

- Dr. Scully's rightly deserved recognition and respect by her colleagues at Seton Hall's School of Theology and broadly in her field of Patristic Studies.
- **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology, was honored as ICSST's Teacher of the Year. Dr. Fortin, an accomplished scholar as evidenced by last year's Faculty Excellence Award for his book [*On the Nature of Human Sexual Difference: A Symposium*](#), is greatly appreciated by his students, receiving compliments in his student evaluation forms that reach the level of encomia. Dr. Fortin consistently puts students first, always embracing the best pedagogy he can, no matter how exacting it may be on him. He will teach an independent study as though it were a regular class if that seems best for the student. Not surprisingly, this attitude spills over into the incredibly generous service he provides for ICSST.
 - **Reverend Thomas P. Shubeck, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology, was honored as ICSST's Adjunct of the Year. Father Shubeck, who serves on the staff of The College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew's Hall, as in-house counselor, and as counselor to resident seminarians at Immaculate Conception Seminary, has long been teaching ICSST's Pastoral Counseling course, required in ICSST's Master of Divinity curriculum. Every priest needs pastoral counseling skills, as well as guidance on when referrals to professionally accredited counselors are necessary. Father Shubeck receives excellent reviews from the seminarians and has earned their respect both as teacher and as trusted counselor. As a side benefit, as a Byzantine Catholic priest, he brings to Latin Rite Catholics a living experience of the diversity of the Roman Catholic Church.
 - **Víctor Velarde-Mayol, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor of Philosophical Theology, was honored with ICSST's Award for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching 21st-Century Skills.

Dr. Velarde-Mayol, ICSST's senior Philosophical Theology teacher, brings to ICSST his polymathic skills, demonstrating an impressive capacity for interdisciplinarity. An accomplished philosopher, Dr. Velarde-Mayol exhibits acute awareness of the place of the discipline in the contexts of Theology and Church ministry. He maintains the engagement of seminarians especially by making these connections, helping them to see that the struggle of members of the People of God to embrace certain Christian and specifically Catholic doctrines is often best handled on the level of the philosophical-theological substratum rather than by addressing the presenting problem directly.

- **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, was honored with ICSST's Award for Excellence in Service-Learning. Dr. Manning, a pastoral theologian, occupies that space where Theology meets pastoral practice. In the terms of the theologian and philosopher Bernard Lonergan, whose works he has long studied, it is the space where Theology is communicated. Dr. Manning brings his experience in Father Lonergan's theological method, and his engagement in the social sciences through his expertise in Catechetics, to lead students to examine the meeting place of Theology and practice, and to reflect and pray about what the Holy Spirit reveals in this intersection. His development of contemplative pedagogy, which has blessed the Seton Hall faculty and, through them, Seton Hall's students, equips us to serve the community through prayer.

Additional information about the Faculty Excellence Awards can be found [here](#).

New Administrative Staff Member

- ❖ On May 1, 2026, ICSST welcomed to its team of administrative staff **Carlos R. Flores, C.P.A.**, as he assumed the role of Graduate Admissions Coordinator. From Panama, Carlos has decades of volunteer experience working for the Catholic Church in numerous capacities. Upon moving to the United States, he immediately became involved in parish life at Holy Trinity Parish, Westfield, NJ, and more recently, he became a Spanish as a Second Language tutor for seminarians at ICSST. He has extensive international experience, having worked as an accountant and finance manager at McKinsey & Company and at Johnson & Johnson. Carlos views his new role as a professional responsibility but also as a vocation of service. He is eager to support the entire ICSST community and all ICSST students, whether priests, seminarians, religious brothers and sisters, diaconal candidates, or lay men and women.

Publications

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, published a book co-edited with **Reverend Paul Haffner, S.T.D.**: [*Stanley Jaki Foundation International Congress 2024*](#). Leominster, England: Gracewing, April 30, 2026. Father Laracy wrote the following chapter of this book:
 - “Jaki and Barbour: Pilgrims on Parallel Paths of the Science and Religion Journey,” 51-80.
- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor C. Anthony Ziccardi, S.S.L, S.T.D.**, ICSST’s Coordinator of Undergraduate Admissions and Retention, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, published a book translation:

[*Pope Leo XIV: Peace Be with You All!*](#) Totowa, NJ: Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, 2026. Translation from French into English of a book by Benjamin Rosier, *Leon XIV: La Paix Soit avec Vous Tous!* Paris: Mame, 2025.

- ❖ On March 16, 2026, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, The G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith and Culture and Seton Hall University's Walsh Gallery and Archives hosted a celebration of the recent publication of [*An Earthly Story with a Heavenly Meaning: Essays on G.K. Chesterton*](#). Providence, RI: CLUNY, 2025. Approximately ten people attended. The book is a collection of essays on Chesterton by the internationally renowned scholar Reverend Ian Boyd, C.S.B., Ph.D., founder of the G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith and Culture. The book is edited and introduced by **Dermot A. Quinn, D.Phil.**, Professor of History at Seton Hall University, and includes a preface by **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies. This collection honors the lifelong work of Father Boyd to promote the thought and writings of G.K. Chesterton, and the 50th anniversary of the Chesterton Institute and its journal, *The Chesterton Review*. Additional information can be found [here](#).

- ❖ **Justin M Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, published the following:
 - Online encyclopedia article: ["Virtue in General."](#) In *Encyclopedia of Catholic Theology*. Cape Girardeau, MO: Global Catholicism Foundation, March 24, 2026.
 - Book review of *Social Justice and Subsidiarity: Luigi Taparelli and the Origins of Modern Catholic Social Thought*, by Thomas Behr. [*Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly*](#) 45, no. 1 (Spring 2024): 117-20.

- ❖ **Julie V. Burkey, D.Min.**, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology, published a magazine article: [“Evangelize Like a First-Century Christian.”](#) *Crisis Magazine* (March 30, 2026).

Media Contributions and Coverage

- ❖ **Justin M Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology:
 - Was interviewed by **Alan B. Delozier, D.Litt.**, Humanities and Outreach Librarian at Walsh Library, for episode 15 of the Seton Hall University Libraries *Zet Forward* podcast: [“Writings on Aquinas & Jesuitical Philosophy.”](#) This episode aired on November 21, 2025. The *Zet Forward* series brings together members of the University community—students, faculty, administrators, and other guests—whose work continues the shared search for meaning that animates the life of Seton Hall and its engagement with the world. Additionally, Dr. Anderson was featured in a news story published on the Seton Hall University website on March 10, 2026: [“Teaching for the Whole Person at Seton Hall: Justin Anderson on Moral Theology and the Search for Meaning.”](#) by Flora Qiyue Wu. The article focuses on Dr. Anderson’s study of ethics with a perspective that is both scholarly and deeply human.
 - Was interviewed by **Reverend Timothy Graff**, Director for Social Concerns and Secretariat for Parish Mission and Vitality, on the topic [“War and Peace,”](#) for the *Meaningful Conversations* series sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark’s Office of Lifelong Faith Formation and Office of Social Concerns, on March 11, 2026.
- ❖ **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology:
 - Participated with **Jon Radwan, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Communication in Seton Hall’s College of Human Development, Culture, and Media, and Director of the Institute

- for Communication and Religion, in a [podcast discussion](#) of Dr. Radwan's recently published book, *[Ethics and Contact Rhetoric: Communication and the Dance of Bodies and Power](#)*. The podcast, which aired on February 23, 2026, is part of the *Faculty Matters* series sponsored by Seton Hall University's Center for Faculty Development.
- Was interviewed by Brian Stahl for *The Long History Short Podcast*, on April 2, 2026. Dr. Johnston spoke on the topic ["The Beginnings and Evolution of Holy Week."](#)

❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, with **Liam J. (LJ) Davis '27**, was interviewed by Bernie Wagenblast for the Seton Hall University Institute for Communication and Religion's *CORECast* podcast, on April 14, 2026. [The episode](#) explores I Corinthians 12, which explains how the Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to believers for the common good, emphasizing unity and the strengthening of the community. The discussion also addresses views on women and slavery within the early Church. Additional information about the podcast can be found [here](#).

❖ **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, was interviewed for the *Beyond The Beacon* podcast of the Diocese of Paterson, co-hosted by **Most Reverend Kevin J. Sweeney, D.D.**, Bishop of Paterson, and **Reverend Paul S. Manning, M.Div.**, Vicar for Evangelization for the Diocese of Paterson and Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology at ICSST. Also guests on this episode were **Eniola Honsberger, M.A.**, Director of the Office of Family Life of the Diocese of Paterson; **Patrick Dillon**, parishioner and student in the CCE program; and **Annamaria Garcia**, Office Manager and Minister to Young Adults for

the Diocese of Paterson. Taped on April 28, 2026, the interview aired on May 1, 2026. The topic of this episode was the Certificate in Catholic Evangelization and Leadership (CCE)—a unique program, taught over three years, that seeks to transform Catholics into effective evangelists and spiritual leaders, equipping them to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to their homes, parishes, and local communities. The certificate is offered by the Office of Evangelization of the Diocese of Paterson (St. Paul Inside the Walls), in collaboration with Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, Seton Hall University. The interview is available [here](#).

Special Events and Initiatives

- ❖ As previously reported, in 2023, ICSST received a \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., to support the establishment of the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program. This five-year, multifaceted effort seeks to form preachers who will grow in self-confidence as they prayerfully encounter God in Scripture and experience the power of Christian hospitality through inviting, welcoming, and sharing the Word of God. The Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program team is comprised of: **Reverend Dominic Ciriaco, D.Min.**, Director; **Alyssa V. Carolan, M.A. '20**, Administrative Assistant; **Michael J. Morano, B.A. '23**, Web Editor and Writer; and **Angelica K. Bullock, M.A., Ph.D. (Cand.)**, Digital Biographer. Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program events and initiatives this quarter have included the following:
 - The [*Wisdom Figures of Preaching*](#) series is a digital resource consisting of interviews with priests and deacons ordained 30 years or more, which will be used and shared in preaching courses and other formation programs. These video interviews are made available on the Preaching as Hospitality [playlist](#) on Seton Hall's YouTube channel,

and on ICSST's website, so that this knowledge is preserved and accessible. The Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program seeks to form seminarians, diaconal students, and religious and lay ICSST graduate students of theology to be compelling preachers who will offer hospitality of the heart as they break open the Word of God. The Program intends to form preachers who understand and embrace preaching as hospitality — a ministry of inviting, welcoming, sharing, and offering compassion. Newly ordained priests and deacons and newly appointed pastors (fewer than five years) are invited to begin this journey with the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program and to reimagine their preaching through the lens of Christian hospitality. From early March to early May 2026, the Preaching as Hospitality team conducted video interviews of two deacons and three priests for the series:

- **Deacon Richard Ferreira, M.A. '22, M.S.W.**, Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation, on March 4, 2026;
- **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Co-Director, *4:12 Pathway for Pastoral Leadership* Grant, on March 24, 2026;
- **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, President of Seton Hall University, on April 13, 2026;
- **Reverend Monsignor Raymond J. Kupke, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Church History, on April 22, 2026; and
- **Reverend Robert B. Stagg, M.Div.**, Pastor Emeritus of Church of the Presentation, Upper Saddle River, NJ, on May 6, 2026.

Additional information about these interviews will be released in the coming weeks. Additional *Wisdom Figures of Preaching* interviews will be scheduled for Spring and Summer 2026.

- The Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program continued its *Many Faces of Hospitality* series. During the Spring 2026 semester, three *Many Faces of Hospitality* events were held at Immaculate Conception Seminary for the Seton Hall University and broader communities:
 - *Restless Heart Speaks to Restless Heart: St. Augustine and Preaching as a Sacramental Exchange*, on March 18, 2026. This event included light refreshments and fellowship in the Seminary refectory, as well as presentations and reflections by **Reverend Douglas J. Milewski, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, and **Reverend Nicholas C. Sertich '15, S.T.L.**, Director of Campus Ministry. Twenty-six people attended.
 - *Love Has a Language: St. Francis de Sales, Hospitable Preaching, and Deaf Belonging*, on April 15, 2026. This event included evening prayer, dinner in the Seminary refectory, and presentations and reflections by **Most Reverend Pedro Bismarck Chau, D.D.**, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, NJ, and **Reverend Dominic Ciriaco, D.Min.**, Director of the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program. Forty-one people attended.
 - *Welcoming the Word: St. Paul, Women, and the Practice of Hospitality*, on May 2, 2026. This event included Mass in the Seminary's Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, breakfast and fellowship in the Seminary refectory, and reflections by **Sister Anne Joan Flanagan, F.S.P.**, and **Reverend John D. Gabriel, V.F.**, Pastor of St. Paul Church, Ramsey, NJ. Forty people attended.

Additional information on these events will be made available on ICSST's website and on the Preaching as Hospitality [playlist](#) on Seton Hall's YouTube channel.

- Since 2019, ICSST has offered reflection series during the Advent and Lenten seasons, uniting in prayer during these key liturgical seasons Seton Hall students, faculty, staff, administrators, and other community members from near and far. These reflections reach an audience of more than 3,300 subscribers, and the number of subscribers continues to grow. Beginning with Advent 2024, the reflection series have been offered through ICSST's Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program.
- In Lent 2026, the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program was pleased to sponsor a series of reflections titled [*Welcoming and Embracing the Stranger: Lenten Reflections with the Artwork of James Tissot*](#). This series featured meditations written by ICSST and SHU administrators, faculty, staff, and students, and *visio divina* with religious artwork by French painter James Tissot (1836-1902). Daily reflections were delivered via email, starting on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026, and continuing through Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026. Among the ICSST and SHU administrator authors of the reflections were:
 - **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology;
 - **Reverend Dominic Ciriaco, D.Min.**, Director of ICSST's Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program;
 - **Reverend Monsignor C. Anthony Ziccardi, S.S.L, S.T.D.**, ICSST's Coordinator of Undergraduate Admissions and Retention, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies;
 - **Deacon Richard Ferreira, M.A. '22, M.S.W.**, Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation;

- **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies;
- **Sister Anne Dukart, C.S.J.**, Campus Minister;
- **Sister Lety Guadalupe Sanchez Beltran, C.S.J.**, Campus Minister;
- **Reverend Roberto Ortiz, S.T.L., S.T.D. (Cand.)**, Vice Rector, Acting Business Manager, Director of Liturgy, and Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology;
- **Reverend Nicholas C. Sertich '15, S.T.L.**, Director of Campus Ministry;
- **Alyssa V. Carolan, M.A. '20**, Administrative Assistant for the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program;
- **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology;
- **Justin M Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology;
- **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Co-Director, *4:12 Pathway for Pastoral Leadership* Grant;
- **Reverend Monsignor James C. Turro, S.T.L., S.S.L., Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus of New Testament Studies;
- **Katherine N. Lizzo, M.A.**, Coordinator of Student and Administration Support Services;
- **Reverend Juan Gabriel Rojas-Hernandez, S.T.L.**, Vice Rector of The College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew's Hall and Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies;
- **Reverend Colin A. Kay, M.Div. '04**, Vice President for Mission and Ministry;

- **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology;
 - **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L. S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, Interim Director of the Seminary Library, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies; and
 - **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, President of Seton Hall University.
- The Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program is preparing a new set of reflections for Summer 2026. The new series, titled [*A Midsummer's Reflection*](#), will feature reflections written by **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, former Professor of Theology at ICSST, and *visio divina* with artwork by Vincent van Gogh. Reflections will be distributed to subscribers daily via email from May 31 through June 30. Additionally, the reflections will be archived on the Seminary website.
- ❖ Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, the Seton Hall University Catholic Studies Program, and the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies sponsored a presentation by **Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., D.D.**, Archbishop of Newark, on [*“Pope Leo and the Legacy of Pope Francis,”*](#) at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on March 18, 2026. Approximately 120 people attended. Additional information on Cardinal Tobin’s presentation can be found [here](#).

- ❖ The Seton Hall University CORE, Center for Catholic Studies, Catholic Studies Program, the Department of Religion, and Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology are co-sponsoring a *Scholars' Forum in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition*, conducted online via Microsoft Teams. Approximately ten people attend each session. As part of this forum:
 - **Elizabeth B. Redwine, Ph.D.**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Coordinator of Core I, *Journey of Transformation*, discussed her latest book, [*Sara Allgood's Memories: Untold Stories of the Abbey Theatre and Early Hollywood*](#) (Oxford Academic, 2025), on March 25, 2026. This book tells the story of Allgood's life, which involves her struggles with discrimination as both a woman and a Catholic.
 - **Justin M Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, delivered a talk on the Jesuit intellectual tradition, focusing on three of his recent co-edited books, [*Aquinas's Summa and Jesuit Ethics: A Call for Ressourcement*](#) (CUA, 2026), [*Ignatius of Loyola and Thomas Aquinas: A Jesuit Ressourcement*](#) (CUA, 2024), and [*The Roman School: Nineteenth-Century Jesuit Theology and its Achievements*](#) (Jesuit Studies 43, Brill, 2024), on April 22, 2026. Additional information about the event can be found [here](#).

Mission and Service

- ❖ **Justin M Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology:
 - Volunteers as co-organizer of small circles of Catholic married couples in New Jersey. These couples meet eight times per year in one another's homes, enjoy dinner, and listen together to a presenter via Zoom, then discuss the topic on faith, marriage, and family in their respective circles. Approximately 32 people (16 couples) attend each meeting.

- In academic year 2025-2026, is serving as a Confirmation catechist for seventh and eighth grade students, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Stirling, NJ. The class meets 13 times throughout the academic year, with 25-35 students attending each session.
- Is serving on the Seton Hall University Strategic Plan Implementation Committee on Priority 3: Impactful Programs, Research, and Innovation / Objective 1: Research and Scholarship. Dr. Anderson was appointed to this committee in the Fall 2025 semester.
- Presented “Use of AI, Internet, and Social Media Platforms,” a formation talk for approximately 20 seminarians of the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew’s Hall, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on November 18, 2025.
- Is serving on the Seton Hall University [Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council \(AIAC\)](#). Dr. Anderson was appointed to this council in the Spring 2026 semester.

❖ **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Chapel, S.T.D.**, Associate Spiritual Director:

- As Director of Permanent Diaconate Formation for the Archdiocese of Newark, organizes and leads monthly Saturday formation sessions for more than 50 permanent diaconate candidates and their wives.
- Offered Masses and/or prayer for St. Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, NJ:
 - Invocation/Grace at the Hall of Fame Dinner, on November 6, 2025.
 - Community Mass, on November 20, 2025.
 - Mass in Italian for Italian students, on March 16, 2026.
 - Blessing of the lacrosse team (and sticks), on March 16, 2026.
- Celebrated a Community Mass at Seton Hall Preparatory School, West Orange, NJ, on March 3, 2026.

❖ **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology:

- Serves as coordinator of prison ministry religious services for the Archdiocese of Newark, at Essex County Correctional Facility, Newark, NJ, on an ongoing basis. This includes interaction with jail administration for arrangement of Catholic services and accessibility of the sacraments for detainees.
- Serves as prison minister at Essex County Correctional Facility, Newark, NJ, every Friday. In this role, Dr. Fortin offers Bible studies and outreach to county, federal and Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees.
- For the event “Tolkien’s *The Two Towers* and *Laudato Si*,” introduced the first half of the film *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, presenting on the nexus between Tolkien and Pope Francis on the question of proper engagement with the created world. After the showing of the film, Dr. Fortin answered questions asked by student attendees. The event was sponsored by the Seton Hall University CORE, Campus Ministry, and the English Club, and was held at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 8, 2026. Approximately eight people attended.

❖ **Reverend Douglas J. Milewski, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology:

- Led the following tours of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, NJ:
 - for recent Seton Hall University alumni, on August 8, 2025. Five people attended.
 - for the Seton Hall University Student Services Caritas Professional Development Group facilitated by the Office of Mission and Ministry, on February 20, 2026. Twelve people attended.
 - for the Seton Hall University Honors Program, on May 1, 2026. Twenty students attended.

- In November 2025, was appointed to the Seton Hall University Strategic Plan Implementation Committee for Catholic Mission and Culture. Additionally, Father Milewski serves as co-chair of the subcommittee for joint programs and double majors/minors.
- Continues service as faculty advisor to *Heart of the Hall* (HOTH), a student publication from Seton Hall University's Office of Mission and Ministry. Father Milewski served as chief cook for HOTH dinners on November 20, 2025, and May 5, 2026, serving 20 students, faculty, and staff each time.
- Led an Advent retreat day on the theme *Wisdom of the Magi: Insights from Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich*, for Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, NJ, on December 6, 2025. Co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and held at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, the retreat day included a talk, small group discussions, Adoration and Benediction, Rosary, Confessions, and Mass. Approximately 100 people attended.
- Presented an academic "orientation" talk to prospective undergraduate seminarians from the Diocese of Camden, NJ, at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on March 18, 2026. Approximately 20 students participated.
- Presented a parish adult formation talk on The Creed, for St. Agnes Parish, Clark, NJ, on March 25, 2026. Approximately 20 people attended.

❖ **Reverend Monsignor C. Anthony Ziccardi, S.S.L., S.T.D.**, ICSST's Coordinator of

Undergraduate Admissions and Retention, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies:

- Taught and led Seton Hall's [*University Seminar on Mission*](#), sponsored by the Office of Mission and Ministry and the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership, and conducted online via Microsoft Teams. Monsignor Ziccardi performed this service both in the Fall

- 2025 semester and in the Spring 2026 semester. Each semester, the group met for two hours each week, over a six-week period. The seminar provides an opportunity for in-depth reflection on the University's Mission in light of its history, nature, and present circumstances. Participants discuss seminal texts and contemporary commentary on the mission of Catholic universities and the unique Mission of Seton Hall.
- The Fall 2025 seminar was conducted from September 26 to November 7, 2025. Thirteen people from the faculty and administration of Seton Hall University participated.
 - The Spring 2026 seminar was conducted from February 20 to April 17, 2026. Fourteen people from the faculty and administration of Seton Hall University participated.
- As Chair of the *Censores Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, recently reviewed three books submitted to the Archbishop of Newark for his certification that they are free from Catholic theological error:
- *No Throwaway People: Faith, Race, and the Call to Justice* (RENEW International).
 - *From Leo to Leo: Papal Leadership in a Changing World* (RENEW International).
 - *A Quiet Gift of Love: A Caregiver's Companion* (RENEW International).

❖ **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, is serving on the Seton Hall University Strategic Plan Implementation Committee on Priority 1: Transformational Student Experience / Objective 2: Reaffirming the University's commitment to access and inclusion. Dr. Johnston was appointed to this committee in the Fall 2025 semester.

❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies:

- Is serving on the Seton Hall University [Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council \(AIAC\)](#). Dr. Manning was appointed to this council in the Spring 2026 semester.
- Introduced the Spring 2026 Toth-Lonergan lecture delivered by **Jonathan Heaps, Ph.D.**, director of the Bernard J. Lonergan Institute, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 16, 2026. Dr. Heaps's lecture, [“Finding a Path in the Dark: Lonergan’s Guidance for Getting Oriented in a Disorienting World,”](#) explored Bernard Lonergan’s practical guidance for cultivating clarity, responsible judgment, and moral orientation in times marked by uncertainty and rapid change. Approximately 15 people attended the lecture. Additional information about the lecture can be found [here](#).

❖ **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L. S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, Interim Director of the Seminary Library, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, presented the following:

- *The Eucharist of the First Christians: Worship in the Early Church & Us*, a five-part series, at Immaculate Conception Church, Montclair, NJ. This series was co-sponsored by Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology. Approximately 25 people attended each lecture:
 - “The Last Supper: The Eucharist in the New Testament,” on February 19, 2026.
 - “The Eucharist in the Apostolic Fathers: Worshipping During the 2nd Century,” on February 26, 2026.
 - “The Eucharist and Non-Christians: How the Ancient Romans Understood Christian Worship,” on March 12, 2026.

- “The Eucharist and the Councils of the Church,” on March 19, 2026.
 - “The Eucharist East and West: From the Rising of the Sun to its Setting,” on March 26, 2026.
 - “The Eucharist: A Personal Journey During Lent,” at a Lenten Evening of Adoration and Reflection, held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, NJ, on March 12, 2026. Approximately 45 people attended.
- ❖ **Reverend Dominic Ciriaco, D.Min.**, Director of ICSST’s Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program and Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology:
- Preached on the topic “Living the Stations of the Cross with St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Carlo Acutis,” at Stations of the Cross, at Holy Trinity Church, Westfield, NJ, on February 27, 2026. Approximately 60 people attended. Father Ciriaco’s homily begins at the 37:16 mark on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlF58Y8trPo&t=3086s>.
 - Gave a talk titled “Preaching as a Way of Life: Finding Your Voice at the Ambo,” to the seminarians of the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew’s Hall, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on March 29, 2026.
- ❖ **David C. Hajduk, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Moral Theology, presented the following:
- *Living the Good Life: A Meditation on the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love*, Lenten Morning of Reflection, at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, NJ, on February 28, 2026. Approximately 30 people attended.
 - “God’s Plan for Life and Love,” Theology of the Body talk for Confirmation students and their parents:

- at St. Magdalen de Pazzi Parish, Flemington, NJ, on March 1, 2026. Approximately 125 people attended.
- at Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Sparta, NJ, on March 7, 2026. Approximately 125 people attended.
- at St. Lawrence Parish, Chester, NJ, on March 14, 2026. Approximately 70 people attended.
- *Living the Good Life: A Meditation on the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love*, three-night Lenten parish mission, at St. Paul Parish, Ramsey, NJ, from March 9 to 11, 2026. Approximately 75 people attended each night.
- “God’s Plan for a Joyful Marriage,” marriage preparation workshop for engaged couples, at St. Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center, Madison, NJ, on March 22, 2026. Approximately 60 people attended.
- *Behold: A Eucharistic Revival*, three-night parish mission with [Array of Hope](#), at St. Andrew Parish, Westwood, NJ, from March 23 to 25, 2026. Approximately 200 people attended each night.

❖ **Reverend Mariusz Eugene R. Koch, C.F.R., M.Div., M.A.**, Spiritual Director:

- Served as speaker for the first night of a Lenten parish mission at St. James Parish, Springfield, NJ, on March 9, 2026. The theme of Father Koch’s talk was “God’s Love and Mercy.” Approximately 200 people attended.
- Served as confessor at a Men’s Day of Recollection, at Most Blessed Sacrament Friary, Newark, NJ, on March 14, 2026.
- Facilitated a post-abortion evening of healing, at Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Sparta, NJ, on April 10, 2026. The evening included Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,

conferences, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and a healing procession. Approximately 30 people attended.

❖ **Julie V. Burkey, D.Min.**, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology, presented the following talks:

- “Loving Like Mary: Saying Yes to God and His Gifts,” for the annual retreat for faculty and administrative personnel of Immaculate Heart Academy, Washington Township, NJ. The event was held at The Terrace, Paramus, NJ, on March 13, 2026. Approximately 100 people attended.
- “Mary at Ephesus: Her Later Years,” on March 24, 2026, for the Newark Chapter of Legatus, an international organization of Catholic business leaders and executives who have committed to study, live, and spread the Catholic faith. Following Mass and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Park Ridge, NJ, the group gathered for dinner at Andrea’s Ristorante Italiano, Waldwick, NJ, where Dr. Burkey delivered her talk and the group engaged in discussion. Approximately 35 people attended.

❖ **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology:

- Presented a reflection at Stations of the Cross, at Notre Dame Church, North Caldwell, NJ, on March 20, 2026. Monsignor McCarren’s reflection focused on finding true humility by seeing things as they really are and feeling grateful, rather than superior, to others. Approximately 40 people attended. Monsignor McCarren’s reflection begins at the 27:07 mark on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pChHyVg3FAg>

- As *Censor Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, in May 2026, reviewed the 2027 Paulist Press *Ordo*, which is distributed to most US dioceses for use in church sacristies.
 - Offered the invocation at the Clinical Internship Awards and Appreciation Dinner, for the College of Human Development, Culture, and Media, Educational Studies, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on May 6, 2026. This was a blessing of clinical interns (student teachers) upon the culmination of their work, together with their supervisors, faculty, and supporting administrators.
- ❖ **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, served as event organizer and introduced the speaker for the Spring 2026 Jaki Lecture, [“Science as an Art: Between Theoria and Praxis.”](#) by **Nicholas Teh, Ph.D.**, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. In this lecture, Dr. Teh introduced one of the main insights of the treatise of noted physicist Pierre Duhem: that scientific practice shares in the general structure of human action, as first sketched by Aristotle. The Stanley Jaki Academy for Theology and Science sponsored the event, which was held at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 16, 2026. Twenty-two people attended.
- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, served as one of the faculty organizers of the two-part event [Restoring the Human Person: Addiction, Neuroscience, and Christian Hope](#), sponsored by Seton Hall University’s [Academy For Nature And Nurture: Interdisciplinary Approaches To Resilience](#), at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 21, 2026. The event brought psychology, neuroscience, theology, and pastoral ministry experience into conversation about addiction and healing. The first presentation featured **Samantha R. Mattheiss, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Psychology at

Felician University. The second presentation was delivered by the **Reverend Simon Manwo Lau**, a Christian minister from Taiwan, associated with Operation Dawn, a long-standing faith-based residential treatment community that serves people struggling with substance use. Approximately 25 people attended. Additional information about the event can be found [here](#).

Conferences, Meetings, Panel Discussions, and Symposia

- ❖ **Victor Velarde-Mayol, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor of Philosophical Theology, presented the following during his academic year 2024-2025 sabbatical:
 - “Einstein on Time Dilation and Metaphysics of Contingent Future,” at the History of Contemporary Physics seminar, sponsored by the Max Planck Institute, and held in Berlin, Germany, on November 11, 2024. Approximately 25 people attended Dr. Velarde-Mayol’s presentation.
 - “Einstein and Aquinas on Time,” at the History of Modern Physics seminar, sponsored by the Max Planck Institute, and held in Berlin, Germany, on December 2, 2024. Approximately 30 people attended Dr. Velarde-Mayol’s presentation.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology:
 - Presented [“From Human Dignity to Responsible AI: Bridging Ethics, Design, and Governance.”](#) Seminar, sponsored by Accountable, Responsible, and Transparent AI ([ART-AI](#)), a Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the United Kingdom’s national body for directing public research and innovation funding. The seminar was based on recent research with collaborators including

Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, and was held at the University of Bath, England, on February 23, 2026. Approximately ten people attended Father Laracy’s presentation. Many current AI ethics frameworks struggle to move beyond procedural compliance because they lack a sufficiently robust account of the human person, agency, and responsibility. Drawing on Catholic Social Teaching as a classical, rational, and historically influential philosophical ethical framework, Father Laracy’s presentation demonstrated how principles such as human dignity, subsidiarity, solidarity, and stewardship can clarify accountability and guide responsible AI design across concrete domains including agentic systems, data-center infrastructure, and education.

- At Seton Hall University’s [30th Annual Petersheim Academic Exposition](#) sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the Office of Grants and Research Services, and the University Research Council, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, presented the following:
 - A lecture on his project “AI and the Human Person: A Thomistic Inquiry into Dignity, Agency, and Moral Responsibility,” as part of the Faculty Research Showcase, on April 22, 2026. As previously reported, Father Laracy received a University Research Council award for the period June 1 to August 31, 2025, in support of this project, which explores the implications of AI, especially machine learning, through the lens of Catholic, Thomistic anthropology and ethics. It addresses questions about human dignity, agency, and moral responsibility. Approximately 20 people attended Father Laracy’s lecture. Father Laracy’s presentation begins at the 3:25-minute mark: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySf3n1GtZ28&list=PLppHCkhATHuXh_uFt_0C3ixTCDkBKjppFR&index=5

- A plenary keynote address, “Mentoring as an Academic Vocation: Forming Minds, Shaping Lives,” at the Closing Ceremony of Celebration, on April 24, 2026. Approximately 50 people attended. Father Laracy’s presentation begins at the 13:27-minute mark: <https://www.shu.edu/petersheim/closing-ceremony.html>

- ❖ **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, served on an online panel for the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics author-meets-critic forum, with **Jon Radwan, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Communication in Seton Hall’s College of Human Development, Culture, and Media, and Director of the Institute for Communication and Religion. Also serving on the panel were those with whom Dr. Radwan co-authored the book [*Ethics and Contact Rhetoric: Communication and the Dance of Bodies and Power*](#). The forum was held on April 10, 2026.

Other Scholarly and Professional Activity

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, served as a peer reviewer for the following journals:
 - [*Discover Artificial Intelligence*](#), on March 7, 2026.
 - [*Studies in Christian Ethics*](#), on March 17, 2026.
 - [*Applied Computational Intelligence and Soft Computing*](#), on April 8, 2026.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, and **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, are serving as co-editors of a special issue of the journal *Religions*. The topic of the special issue is [*Science and Christian Theology: Past, Present, and Future*](#).