



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

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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.

New Administrative Staff Role

- ❖ **Reverend Roberto Ortiz, S.T.L., S.T.D. (Cand.)**, Director of Liturgy and Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, has been appointed Vice Rector of Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, for three years, effective July 1, 2025.

Promotion

- ❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, has been awarded promotion to Full Professor, to take effect beginning with academic year 2025-2026.

Awards, Grants, and Honors

- ❖ As part of Seton Hall University's Mission Partners Program for academic year 2024-2025, **Justin M Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, is collaborating with

Thomas W. Seat II, Ph.D., Teaching Fellow, University CORE, on the project “Thomism and Justice in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.” The aim is threefold:

- To lead a *Journey of Transformation* Faculty Development Session on the optional excerpt from Bartolomé de Las Casas’s *History of the Indies* for *Journey of Transformation* curriculum.
- To develop a CORE III course titled *Justice and Christian Traditions*.
- To produce a scholarly article on Las Casas’s treatment of the virtue of religion in the Americas (among Amerindians and European Christians living in the Americas).

Dr. Anderson and Dr. Seat were awarded \$2,000 each for this project. Their proposal was approved for funding on October 17, 2024.

❖ For their dedication and commitment to vocations work, five members of the ICSST and SHU communities were honored by the 22nd District of Serra International, Archdiocese of Newark, at their 70th Annual Vocations Fundraising Dinner, at Nanina’s in the Park, Belleville, NJ, on May 12, 2025.

- **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, University President, was honored for his appointment as President of Seton Hall University and for his many years of service to both the Seminary and the University.
- **Reverend Monsignor John A. Radano, Ph.D.** (R.I.P.), Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, was presented with the Governor’s Award.
- **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, was presented with the Junipero Serra Award.
- **John D. Nowik, M.M.**, Director of Music, Organist, and Adjunct Professor of Liturgy and Music, was presented with the Rose Marie Deehan Award.

- **Stella F. Wilkins, M.A., M.L.S.**, Librarian/Library Manager and Adjunct Professor of Graduate Research Seminar, was honored for her years of faithful dedicated service as Librarian at ICSST.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, was awarded a Seton Hall University Research Council Summer Stipend in the amount of \$10,000, to support his project titled “Artificial Intelligence and the Human Person: A Thomistic Inquiry into Dignity, Agency, and Moral Responsibility.” This grant was awarded for the period June 1 to August 31, 2025.

- ❖ **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, in July 2025, was nominated for, and accepted for membership in, the [Faculty Academy for External Recognitions and Awards \(FAERA\)](#) sponsored by Seton Hall University’s Office of the Provost. Throughout AY 2025-2026, Dr. Boulding will participate in this program as a member of a cohort of 10 to 12 faculty members. FAERA participants meet virtually approximately every three weeks to discuss, workshop, and collaborate on elements of competitive academic honorifics. Upon submission of a full application for a distinguished award or recognition, participants will receive a stipend.

Publications

❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, published the following:

- Book, co-edited with Atria A. Larson: [*Thomas Aquinas and Medieval Canon Law: Historical and Systematic Perspectives*](#). Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, June 2025. Dr. Anderson wrote the following chapter of this book:
 - “*Qui Autem Facit Veritatem*. The *Triplex Veritas* in the Canonical Tradition and Thomas Aquinas,” 94-122.
- Journal article: “Finding Equity: Virtues That Enable the Truth of Justice.” *The Thomist: A Speculative Quarterly Review* 89, no. 2 (2025): 213-40.

❖ **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, published the following:

- Short article promoting [*An Interdisciplinary Pedagogical Model for Catholic Studies: Rooted in Vatican II, Growing Through the 21st Century*](#), the co-edited book that he and **Ines A. Murzaku, Ph.D.**, recently published. Dr. Rice’s article, [“An Essential Resource for Catholic Studies,”](#) was published on the website of *Reclaiming the Piazza*, on March 12, 2025.
- Book chapter previously published in February 2024, part of a volume that has now been published in softcover: “A Deeper Humanity: The Family as the School of an Inclusive Economy.” In [*Homo Curator: Towards the Ethics of Consumption*](#). Virtues and Economics, vol. 8, edited by Peter Róna, László Zsolnai, and Agnieszka Wincewicz-Price, 159-85. Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2025.

- ❖ **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, published a book review of *Theology, Science and Life*, by Carmody Grey. *Science and Christian Belief* 37, no. 1 (April 2025): 90-91.

- ❖ **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 review of *Ecclesial Exegesis: A Synthesis of Ancient and Modern Approaches to Scripture*, by Gregory Valle. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 87, no. 2 (April 2025): 381-83.

- ❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, published an invited book chapter: "Agency and Universality in Cyril of Alexandria's Use of the Adam-Christ Parallel." In [*Embodying the Tradition: Essays in Memory of Joseph Mueller, S.J. \(1960-2023\)*](#), edited by Andrei A. Orlov, 325-46. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, May 2025.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, published three articles on the website of the journal *First Things*:
 - ["David Tracy's Theological Missteps"](#) (May 15, 2025).
 - ["Was St. Vincent of Lérins Anti-Augustinian?"](#) (July 22, 2025).
 - ["Did Vatican II Replace One-Sided Papalism with One-Sided Episcopatism?"](#) (August 12, 2025).

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, with **Vassilka D. Kirova, Ph.D.** (Department of Informatics, New Jersey Institute of Technology), **Cyril S. Ku, Ph.D.** (Department of Computer Science, William Paterson

University), and **Thomas J. Marlowe, Ph.D.** (Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Seton Hall University), published an article: “Human Dignity and the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: A Framework for Responsible Design and Use from the Perspective of Catholic Social Teaching,” in the [*Proceedings of the 2025 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers \(IEEE\) International Symposium on Ethics in Engineering, Science, and Technology \(ETHICS\)*](#) (2025): 1-10.

Media Contributions and Coverage

- ❖ **Reverend Douglas J. Milewski, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, was interviewed by Seton Hall University Honors student Alyssa Carrier, for her Senior project podcast, *The Dinner Table: Religion and Politics*. Father Milewski was interviewed for the hour-long episode 3: [“Back to the Basics?”](#) on December 2, 2024. The podcast aired on December 17, 2024.

- ❖ As previously reported, **Justin M Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, with Dr. Matthew Levering and Reverend Aaron Pidel, S.J., published a co-edited book: [*Ignatius of Loyola and Thomas Aquinas: A Jesuit Ressourcement*](#). Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, June 2024. This book was featured in an article, [“Comparing the Affinities, Differences Between Ignatius and Aquinas,”](#) written by Tracey Rowland and published in the online magazine *Catholic World Report* on June 10, 2025.

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, a five-year, multi-faceted effort that seeks to form preachers who will grow in their self-confidence as they prayerfully encounter God in Scripture and experience the power of Christian hospitality in inviting, welcoming, and sharing the Word of God. Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program events and initiatives not previously reported have included the following:
 - Since 2019, ICSST has offered reflection series during the Advent and Lenten seasons, uniting in prayer during these key liturgical seasons more than 2,500 Seton Hall students, faculty, staff, administrators, and other community members from near and far. Beginning with Advent 2024, the reflection series have been offered through ICSST's Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program.
 - In Advent 2024, ICSST was pleased to sponsor a series of reflections titled [*Preparing the Table for the Lord this Advent*](#). These reflections considered how Jesus invites us to prepare our hearts and minds during Advent so that we may understand and appreciate God's desire to come to us, dwell within us, and be welcomed into our homes and lives. The reflections invited us to consider how the Advent season might be a journey of ever-deepening hospitality of the heart. Authored by ICSST faculty, administrators, alumni, and graduate students, daily reflections were delivered via email, starting on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024, and continuing through Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024. 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 Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, President of Seton Hall University; **Reverend Dominic**

Ciriaco, D.Min., Director of ICSST's Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program; **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology; **Katherine N. Lizzo, M.A.**, Coordinator of Student and Administration Support Services; **Gregory Y. Glazov, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, Professor and Chair of Biblical Studies; **Michael F. Burt**, Senior Director of Seminary Advancement; and **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Co-Director, *4:12 Pathway for Pastoral Leadership* Grant.

- Throughout the 2025 Lenten season, ICSST was pleased to sponsor a series of daily reflections inspired by Matthew 20:22-23, titled [*"Can You Drink This Cup?": Accompanying the Lord Through Lent*](#). The reflections helped us to enter more deeply into the Lenten season, inviting us to journey with the Lord in His Passion and death. The daily meditations began on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, and were delivered via email through Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025. 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; **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology; **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology; **Deacon Richard Ferreira, M.A. '22, M.S.W.**, Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation; **Alyssa V. Carolan, M.A. '20**, Administrative Assistant, Grants; **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 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; **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Co-Director, *4:12 Pathway for Pastoral Leadership* Grant; **Eilish R. Harrington '08**, Institutional Planning and Communications Analyst; **Reverend Roberto Ortiz, S.T.L., S.T.D. (Cand.)**, Director of Liturgy and Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology; **Reverend Monsignor Raymond J., Kupke, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Church History; **Reverend Robert K. Suszko, M.B.A., M.Div.**, Vice Rector and Business Manager; **Reverend Mariusz Eugene R. Koch, C.F.R., M.Div., M.A.**, Spiritual Director; **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology; **Reverend Douglas J. Milewski, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology; **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies; and **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, President of Seton Hall University.

- The Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program's *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 will be made available on the University YouTube channel and ICSST's website for public viewing 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 will 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) will be invited to begin this journey with the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program, and to reimagine their preaching through the lens of Christian hospitality. Thus far, the Preaching as Hospitality team has interviewed and recorded two priests for the series: **Reverend Monsignor James C. Turro, S.T.L., S.S.L., Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus of New Testament Studies, on December 18, 2024, and **The Most Reverend John W. Flesey, S.T.D., D.D.**, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark, Pastor Emeritus of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Franklin Lakes, NJ, and former Rector/Dean of ICSST, on May 21, 2025. Additional interviews of *Wisdom Figures of Preaching* will be scheduled for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026. Additional information about the interviews of Monsignor Turro and Bishop Flesey can be found at

<https://www.shu.edu/theology/news/father-turros-long-and-remarkable-life.html>

and <https://www.shu.edu/theology/news/bishop-flesey-reflects-on-hospitable-preaching.html>

- On June 21, 2025, Immaculate Conception Seminary hosted a day of reflection: [*The Hospitality of God in the Gospel of Luke*](#). This day of reflection, held in the Seminary Refectory, was a component of the Summer 2025 course *Scripture and Hospitality*, co-taught by **Reverend Dominic Ciriaco, D.Min.**, and **Gregory Y. Glazov, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, and was open to the public. The event included presentations on Luke 4-18 by Dr. Glazov and an introduction and conclusion by Father Ciriaco, encompassing the Infancy Narratives and Passion of Christ, and using art and *visio divina* to guide participants in prayer and reflection. Mass in the University Chapel and lunch in the Seminary Refectory were included. Forty-one people attended.

- During Spring and Summer 2025, **Michael J. Morano '23**, Web Editor and Writer for the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program, collaborated with **Linda T. Karten, M.A. '11**, Seton Hall University's Senior Director of Marketing and Communications, on the [Preaching as Hospitality webpage](#), which launched in late June 2025.

- ❖ Recent strategic diaconate initiatives under ICSST's [The 4:12 Pathway for Pastoral Leadership](#) project, funded by a \$989,384 grant from the Lilly Endowment, have included:
 - [Diaconal Formation and Leadership Today](#)

In 2024, the design of a digital resource hub database (Digital Hub) began, with the goal of sharing best practice information and diaconate competencies in collaboration with our diocesan partners. The Digital Hub, prepared in collaboration with the Seton Hall University Instructional Design Team, will be a central online location for information sharing, communication, and education. In Spring 2025, the Digital Hub development work began and was rebranded as [Diaconal Formation and Leadership Today](#). The innovative design contains front-end unrestricted access content of articles, videos, and podcasts for deacons and deacon candidates integrated into the social media student and alumni outreach of ICSST. The new site has restricted member access for senior diaconate leaders and formators to share best practice information on diaconal formation in an indexed manner presented in searchable and user-friendly format.
 - Diaconal Leadership Forum Colloquy
 - Attended by the senior diaconate leaders of the Center for Diaconal Formation's sending dioceses and senior Seminary leaders, the colloquy was held on June 6, 2025, at Immaculate Conception Seminary, South Orange, NJ. The meeting was an

opportunity to strengthen and enhance the Center's key partnerships and relationships with its sending dioceses and, through these individuals, to deepen the Center's engagement with students and alumni.

- **Deacon Raphael Duplechain**, Director of the Diaconate for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, served as a guest speaker via Microsoft Teams. The topic of his presentation was diaconal formation in the 21st century. He provided a “forward-leaning” viewpoint and key trends for formators to consider.
- The colloquy provided an opportunity to “soft launch” the new [Diaconal Formation and Leadership Today](#) website. A formal launch with a press release to ICSST's students and alumni is expected in Fall 2025. The colloquy also provided an opportunity for operating committees to report on the following topics: badging and micro-credentialing, status of an experimental schema for academic formation, integration of the four dimensions of formation, and non-academic formation. All of these, when completed, will directly enhance the Center for Diaconal Formation's engagement with, and outreach to, diaconal students and alumni.

- Membership in Professional Organizations

Membership in the following organizations provides key insight into important trends, issues, and best practices which impact the engagement of potential students, students, and alumni. These organizations are comprised of directors of diaconate formation nationally and internationally. The membership and participation of **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08** (formerly as Director of ICSST's Center for Diaconal Formation and now as a leader under the *Pathways 4:12* grant) in conferences and study groups has had the added benefit of enhancing the Catholic brand identity of Seton Hall University,

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, and the Center for Diaconal Formation among diaconate directors nationwide and now internationally.

- National Association of Diaconate Directors (NADD)

Through this membership, ICSST continues to collaborate with diaconate directors across the United States on critical issues affecting the diaconate. **Deacon Richard Ferreira, M.A. '22, M.S.W.**, who began in October 2024 as Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation, attended the NADD conference in April 2025, and is now an active voting member.

- International Diaconate Center (IDC)

In March 2024, Deacon Saunders was accepted as a member of the IDC, located in Rottenburg, Germany. Established in 1965, IDC is an international organization which supports the diaconate worldwide through collaborations, study conferences, projects, and questions concerning the spiritual, pastoral, and theological formation of deacons. As previously reported, Deacon Saunders attended the International Diaconate Centre Conference in Rome in February 2025.

❖ **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, created and is facilitating the Theology and Science Reading Group, a new monthly group for Seton Hall faculty and graduate students to discuss foundational questions at the intersection of theology and science. In Spring 2025, the group discussed selections from Peter Harrison's [*Some New World*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2024). The group met on January 30, February 27, March 27, and May 1, 2025. The average attendance at each meeting was ten people, including faculty from a range of disciplinary perspectives across the University, such as Theology, Physics, Sociology, Economics, and the CORE.

❖ With great pride and gratitude, ICSST celebrated the accomplishments of its Class of 2025 at Evening Prayer and a reception, held at ICSST, South Orange, NJ, on May 5, 2025. Immediately following Evening Prayer, eight new members of Seton Hall University's chapter of *Theta Alpha Kappa (TAK)*, the National Honor Society for Theology and Religious Studies, were inducted by faculty advisor **Reverend Douglas J. Milewski, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology. The following week, ICSST continued the celebration at a Mass of Blessing and hooding ceremony, held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, NJ, on May 14, 2025. ICSST awarded 39 graduate degrees and certificates that day to a diverse and talented group of alumni of a multitude of ethnicities, from various walks of life, and living out all types of vocations. At the hooding ceremony, **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology, served as emcee; **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, offered the invocation; and **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology, offered the benediction. **Reverend Douglas J. Milewski, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, **Antonio Rios**, Coordinator of Daily Operations for the Center for Diaconal Formation, and **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, served as student marshals; **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, served as faculty marshal; and **Reverend Robert K. Suszko, M.B.A., M.Div.**, Vice Rector and Business Manager, served as dais party marshal. A recording of the Mass and hooding ceremony is available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2R0nvzXwqTI>

- ❖ The Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas (Rome, Italy), and Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University, in collaboration with St. Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center (Diocese of Paterson), presented *A Day of Reflection: Evangelization and Catechesis at the Beginning of the Pontificate of Pope Leo XIV*, on July 31, 2025, in Bethany Hall, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ. Seventy-nine people attended. Featured speakers included:
 - **Filipe Domingues, Ph.D.**, Director of The Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas; Lecturer at The Pontifical Gregorian University; Brazilian journalist; and author of *Selflessness in the Age of Selfies*.
 - **Reverend Paul S. Manning, M.Div.**, Vicar for Evangelization, Vicar for Education, and Executive Director of St. Paul Inside the Walls (Diocese of Paterson); and Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology at ICSST.
 - **Donna L. Orsuto, S.T.D.**, Co-Founder and Senior Advisor of The Lay Centre; Director of the Department of Moral Theology and Spiritual Theology at The Pontifical Gregorian University; and member of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.
 - **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Co-Director of ICSST's Lilly Endowment-funded *4:12 Pathway for Pastoral Leadership* grant, a role in which he focuses on strategic diaconate initiatives; Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology at ICSST; and former Director (2014 to 2024) of ICSST's Center for Diaconal Formation.
 - **Lourdes Sposito, J.D., S.T.L.**, a lawyer with a bachelor's degree in Canon Law from the Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina; member of The Lay Centre; master's candidate in International Relations at Universidad Austral; and Vatican Fellow at the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

- **G. Gregory Tobin, M.A. '06**, ICSST alumnus and recipient of the John Paul II Medal for Academic Excellence; former publishing executive; former president of RENEW International; and author of *The Good Pope*, a critically acclaimed biography of St. John XXIII.
- **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D., S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology at ICSST; and author of *Edith Stein: A Spiritual Portrait*.

The event began with refreshments and fellowship. Dr. Traflet, emcee for the day, offered a welcome address. This was followed by opening remarks and a prayer offered by **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at ICSST, a scholar with degrees from Yale University, ICSST, and The Catholic University of America, known as a spiritual director and for his engagement with the theology of St. John Henry Newman. The program continued with presentations and a panel discussion, *visio divina*, lunch and small group discussions, and *lectio divina*. The book [*Grace and Action*](#) (edited by Donna Orsuto and David Dawson Vásquez), a compilation of valuable catechetical and ecumenical insights that emerged from the July 2023 international symposium in Rome sponsored by The Lay Centre and ICSST, was presented and was available for purchase at the event.

Mission and Service

- ❖ Six faculty members of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology continue service as assessors and examiners for former Anglican/Episcopalian clergymen who apply for ordination as Roman Catholic priests through the Pastoral Provision. One candidate was assessed during the period July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. This service was rendered at

Immaculate Conception Seminary, South Orange, NJ, by the following ICSST faculty members:

- **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology.
 - **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology.
 - **Reverend Roberto Ortiz, S.T.L., S.T.D. (Cand.)**, Director of Liturgy and Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology.
 - **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology.
 - **Reverend Monsignor Robert J. Wister, Hist.Eccl.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Church History.
 - **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
 - Presented the opening lecture, “The Philosophical Foundations of the Theology of the Body,” for the certificate program in Theology of the Body for the Diocese of Paterson, at St. Paul Inside the Walls Diocesan Center for New Evangelization, Madison, NJ, on September 4, 2024. Approximately 15 students participated.

❖ **Reverend Roberto Ortiz, S.T.L., S.T.D. (Cand.),** Director of Liturgy, and Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology:

- On August 12, 2024, was appointed Co-Chair of the University Strategic Plan Working Group on Catholic Mission and Culture. The committee was charged to present an understanding of the Catholic Mission, culture, policies, and efforts of the University for the new Strategic Plan. The objectives chosen were five: promoting a deeper appreciation of our Catholic Mission and identity; living our Catholic Mission with intentionality; infusing Catholicity in the Mission and culture of the Seton Hall experience; ensuring University policies reflect Catholic Social Teaching; and making sure Seton Hall continues to be a welcoming place for all peoples and other cultures.
- As *Censor Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, reviewed the following:
 - A book for RENEW International.
 - The Paulist Press *Ordo* in Spanish for the New Jersey dioceses.

❖ **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.,** Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology:

- Led a three-day retreat for permanent deacons of the Diocese of Paterson, at Malvern Retreat Center, Malvern, PA, from August 13 to 15, 2024. The topic of the retreat was *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing:” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18): Guidance from Deacons for Deacons*. Based on Thessalonians 5:16-18, the retreat pondered the joy of the diaconate and the call to unceasing prayer, while focusing on the witness and prayers of saintly deacons, such as Pope St. Gregory the Great. Fifty-one deacons attended.
- Presented “Mary and the Feminine Genius” to approximately 125 women—including 14 cadets from the U.S. Military Academy and 15 wives of deacons and deacon candidates—at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway, NJ, on October 25, 2024.
- Led a three-day women’s retreat, *Joy is God’s Presence*, for St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, NJ. The retreat was held from November 1 to November 3, 2024, at Don Bosco Retreat Center at the Marian Shrine, Stony Point, NY. Thirty-six retreatants attended.
- Led a retreat, *How St. Edith Stein Lived Advent and what her Example and Advice Means for us Today*, at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Jersey City, NJ, on December 7, 2024. Approximately 75 women attended.
- Delivered a presentation on Father Walter Ciszek’s *He Leadeth Me*, in the context of prayer and spirituality, for Diocese of Paterson permanent diaconate aspirants and their wives, at St. Paul Inside the Walls Diocesan Center for New Evangelization, Madison, NJ, on January 11, 2025. Approximately 50 people attended.
- Presented “Growing Our Faith, Creating Connections, and Building Community,” for a Spiritual Spa Retreat, at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Montclair, NJ, on January 25, 2025. Sixty-seven people attended.

- Presented “The Marian Spirituality of St. Titus Brandsma and St. Edith Stein,” at the City-Wide Communion Breakfast, sponsored by Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich Parish, Bayonne, NJ, and held at the Chandelier Restaurant, Bayonne, on April 6, 2025. Approximately 75 people attended.
- Delivered the Commencement Address at St. Joseph Seminary (Dunwoodie), Yonkers, NY, on May 9, 2025. Approximately 200 people attended.
- Delivered a lecture, “Following Mary’s Example of Faithful Discipleship,” at St. Philip Parish, Saddle Brook, NJ, on May 15, 2025. Approximately 60 people attended.
- Delivered a lecture, “Eucharistic Spirituality: Hope and Love in the Journey and Ministry of Dorothy Day,” at St. Anne Parish, Fair Lawn, NJ, on June 20, 2025. Approximately 50 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:

- As Chair of the *Censores Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, recently reviewed 12 books submitted to the Archbishop of Newark for his certification that they are free from Catholic theological error:
 - *Padre Pio’s Espresso Companion – Miracles* (Italian Feasts).
 - *Antonella: A Saint Francis of Paola Story* (Italian Feasts).
 - *Christmas Kiss: A Saint Catherine of Siena Story* (Italian Feasts).
 - *Holy Macaroni: A Saint Gerard Majella Story* (Italian Feasts).
 - *The Leap: A Saint John the Baptist Story* (Italian Feasts).
 - *In the Light of Justice: Catholic Social Teaching for a New Era* (RENEW International).
 - *Puppy Pio Visits the Fisherman’s Feast of Boston* (Italian Feasts).

- *Puppy Pio Visits the St. Rocco Feast of Fort Lee* (Italian Feasts).
- *Puppy Pio and the Tomato Sauce Day* (Italian Feasts).
- *The Faces of Justice: Stories that Cry Out – A Six-Week Journey into the Human Heart of Catholic Social Teaching* (RENEW International).
- *What Are We Waiting For? An Advent and Christmas Season Faith-Sharing Journey (Cycle A)* (RENEW International).
- *Biscotti Bites, Volume 1: 7 Bite-Sized Stories of Faith and Wonder* (Italian Feasts).
- Delivered to Mass lectors “Discharging the Ministry of the Word, Human and Divine,” a one-hour presentation concerning their ministry. This presentation was part of a lectors’ workshop sponsored by the Office of Divine Worship of the Archdiocese of Newark and conducted at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, NJ, on May 10, 2025. Sixty people attended.

❖ **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, serves part time as a backup organist at his parish, St. Philip and St. James, Phillipsburg, NJ, in the diocese of Metuchen.

❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, was appointed to the Seton Hall University Strategic Plan Working Group on Catholic Mission and Culture, effective September 2024.

❖ **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology, was appointed to the Seton Hall University Strategic Plan Working Group on Transformational Student Experience, effective October 2024.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, was appointed Co-Chair of the Seton Hall University Strategic Plan Committee for Innovation, Research, and Programs, effective November 15, 2024.

- ❖ **Reverend Douglas J. Milewski, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology:
 - Led an Advent retreat day on the theme *Waiting for Jesus with Mary*, for Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, NJ, on December 7, 2024. 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.
 - Led a tour of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, NJ, for the SHU Honors Program, on April 2, 2025. Twenty-one students and one additional faculty member attended.
 - Served as student marshal for Seton Hall University baccalaureate commencement exercises at the Prudential Center, Newark, NJ, on May 19, 2025.

- ❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, served as a guest speaker, presenting “Thomas Merton: The Life of Prayer as the Modern Christian Desert” for a young adult group at the Salesian house in Orange, NJ, on February 23, 2025. Eighteen people attended.

- ❖ **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, presented a *Theology on Tap* talk to the Essex County Catholic young adult group *Verso Christo*. The talk,

on “Praying the Mass,” was held at St. Philomena Parish, Livingston, NJ, on March 14, 2025. Approximately 50 people attended.

❖ **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:

- As *Censor Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, reviewed *Through Lent with John’s People*, by Thomas Barry. Summit, NJ: DNS Publications, 2025.
- Presented “Transitioning to Major Seminary: Academic Life,” a one-hour presentation delivered to the senior class of St. Andrew’s College Seminary, at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on March 25, 2025.

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

- Facilitated a Men’s Morning of Recollection on the theme *The Holy Spirit: The Power of God’s Love*, at St. Joseph Shrine, Stirling, NJ, on June 7, 2025. Approximately 150 people attended.
- Facilitated Fatima Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA, on June 13, 2025. Father Koch served as celebrant and homilist at Mass and led an outdoor Rosary procession. More than 200 people attended.
- Delivered a talk on the theme “Call to Holiness,” at St. Nicholas Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church, Dunellen, NJ, on June 24, 2025. Father Koch also served as a confessor and concelebrated the Divine Liturgy. Approximately 25 people attended.

New Courses Developed

❖ **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology, developed two new courses in AY 2024-2025:

- CETH 6105: *Fundamental Moral Theology* (Spanish)

Father Tomczyk taught this course in Spanish to Cohort 6 of the Newark Permanent Diaconate Program in Fall 2024. Though this course had been taught before in English, Father Tomczyk rebuilt the course for Spanish speakers, using Spanish sources.

Course description: This course delves into the foundations of Roman Catholic moral theology. It understands the human person as a rational being capable, through God's gifts, of pursuing one's ultimate end: life eternal with God. The course examines this ultimate end (beatitude), the person as a moral agent, the nature of human action and sources of morality. It includes those interior dispositions that dispose one to act either well (virtues and gifts) or poorly (vice and sin). It also encompasses God's law and grace and a reading of *Veritatis Splendor* while discussing contemporary interpretations of morality in the context of that encyclical. (3 credits).

- CETH 6109: *Special Topic: Specialized Morals* (English & Spanish)

Father Tomczyk developed this course from scratch, in both English and Spanish. He taught this course in Spanish to Cohort 6 of the Newark Permanent Diaconate Program in Spring 2025 and will teach this course in English to Cohort 4 of the Paterson Permanent Diaconate Program in Fall 2025.

Course description: Building on the knowledge in Fundamental Moral Theology, this course confronts particular topics in the three principal areas of applied moral theology: sexual, bioethical, and social. While not comprehensive, the course includes: the proper understanding of human sexuality, the virtue of chastity and sins opposed to it, beginning-of-

life and end-of-life issues, the principles of Catholic social teaching, and familial and political topics. The course is taught in fidelity to the Magisterium, while giving proper attention to the pastoral context of the contemporary Church. (3 credits; prerequisite *Fundamental Moral Theology*).

- ❖ **Gregory Y. Glazov, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, Professor and Chair of Biblical Studies, in AY 2024-2025, developed the course BIBL/PTHO/STHO 6559: *Special Topic: Scripture and Hospitality* to support ICSST's Lilly-funded Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program. In June 2025, Dr. Glazov co-taught this course with **Reverend Dominic Ciriaco, D.Min.**, Director of ICSST's Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program. This course aimed to help preachers understand the scriptural roots of the Christian theology of hospitality and to gain skills in becoming ministers of Christ-inspired guest-host relationships.

Course Taught Outside Seton Hall

- ❖ **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, taught a four-day seminar to 25 high school students at the Agathon Institute, Rochester, NY, on the relationship between theology and technology, from June 30 to July 3, 2025.

Conferences, Meetings, Panel Discussions, and Symposia

- ❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, as part of Seton Hall University's annual Petersheim Academic Exposition, presented at the session *Mission-Related Faculty Development Committee*, organized by **Mary Balkun, Ph.D.**, Professor of English, Director of Faculty Development, and Director of Undergraduate Literature Studies, on April

24, 2025. As participants in the 2024-2025 Mission Partners Program, Dr. Anderson and his collaborator, **Thomas W. Seat II**, Teaching Fellow, University CORE, presented on their project, “Thomism and Justice in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.” Seven people attended the presentation.

❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology:

- As part of Seton Hall University’s annual Petersheim Academic Exposition, presented at the session *Mission-Related Faculty Development Committee*, organized by **Mary Balkun, Ph.D.**, Professor of English, Director of Faculty Development, and Director of Undergraduate Literature Studies, on April 24, 2025. As participants in the 2024-2025 Mission Partners Program, Dr. Scully and her collaborator, **Erin Zoutendam, Ph.D.**, Teaching Fellow, University CORE, presented on their project, “Development of a CORE III Course on Contemplative Service.” Nine people attended the presentation.
- Delivered a plenary lecture, “Preserving the Memory of the Creed for the Identity of the Church,” at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Catholic Theology, held at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, DC, from May 20 to May 22, 2025. Dr. Scully delivered her lecture on May 20, 2025, to an audience of approximately 80 people.
- At the North American Patristics Society 2025 Annual Meeting, in Chicago, IL:
 - Served as a respondent for the panel discussion on Cyril of Alexandria’s *Thesaurus*, on May 23, 2025. Approximately 25 people attended the panel discussion.
 - Introduced and chaired the Presidential Address (the plenary lecture given by the President of the Society), at the North American Patristics Society, on May 23, 2025, to an audience of approximately 220 people.

❖ **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology:

- Attended the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Catholic Theology, held at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, DC, from May 20 to 22, 2025. The theme of this year's meeting was *The Creed*.
- Presented "The Post-Tridentine Context of Vatican II." Paper, at the 2025 conference of The *Sacra Doctrina* Project: *A Dialogue Renewed: Scholasticism and the Ressourcement Movement on the Nature of Catholic Theology*, held at The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, from June 12 to 14, 2025. Dr. Johnston presented his paper on June 14, 2025, to an audience of approximately 12 people.

❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, presented "Human Dignity and the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: A Framework for Responsible Design and Use from the Perspective of Catholic Social Teaching." Paper, at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Symposium on Ethics in Engineering, Science, and Technology (ETHICS), sponsored by the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT), and held at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, on June 7, 2025. Approximately 40 people attended Father Laracy's presentation.

❖ **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, delivered a presentation to the 2025 Hildebrand Society Summer Residency in Gaming, Austria (June 12 to 18, 2025), on the role of artificial intelligence in higher education, incorporating elements of the social doctrine of the Church since *Rerum Novarum*, as well as the works of several philosophers within or adjacent to the Catholic intellectual tradition. Dr. Rice presented and discussed his ideas over the course of the residency to an audience of approximately 40

people. Dr. Rice's participation in the Hildebrand Society's Summer Residency is underwritten by the Hildebrand Project.

- ❖ **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, at the annual conference of the [Foundation for Excellence in Higher Education](#), held in Princeton, NJ, from June 23 to 25, 2025, served as moderator of a panel on the future of higher education. Approximately 80 people attended the panel discussion, which was held on June 24, 2025.
- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, participated online in sessions of the National Newman Conference, *Newman the Priest*, sponsored by The Saint John Henry Newman Association and held at Christ the King Retreat Center: King's House, Buffalo, MN, from July 24 to 26, 2025.

Other Scholarly and Professional Activity

- ❖ **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, serves as a peer reviewer of articles for *Science and Christian Belief* (a Cambridge, UK-based journal).
- ❖ **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:
 - Has begun service as an appointed member of the Board of Control of the *New American Bible*.
 - Served as chair of the focused visit of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) to Missio Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA. The visit took place on April 22, 2025.

- Continues service as Vice Chair and Treasurer of the Board of Commissioners of ATS, with *ex officio* membership on the Audit Committee. Father Ciccarino participated in a Board of Commissioners meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, from June 1 to 4, 2025.

- ❖ **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, reviewed a book-length manuscript for The Catholic University of America Press in Fall 2024.

- ❖ **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, peer reviewed an article for *Blackfriars Review* in March 2025.

- ❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, peer reviewed a book manuscript for T&T Clark in April 2025.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, served as a peer reviewer for the following journals:
 - [*AI & Society: Knowledge, Culture, and Communication*](#), on June 22, 2025.
 - [*Discover Computing*](#), on June 28, 2025.
 - [*Theological Studies*](#), on August 12, 2025.