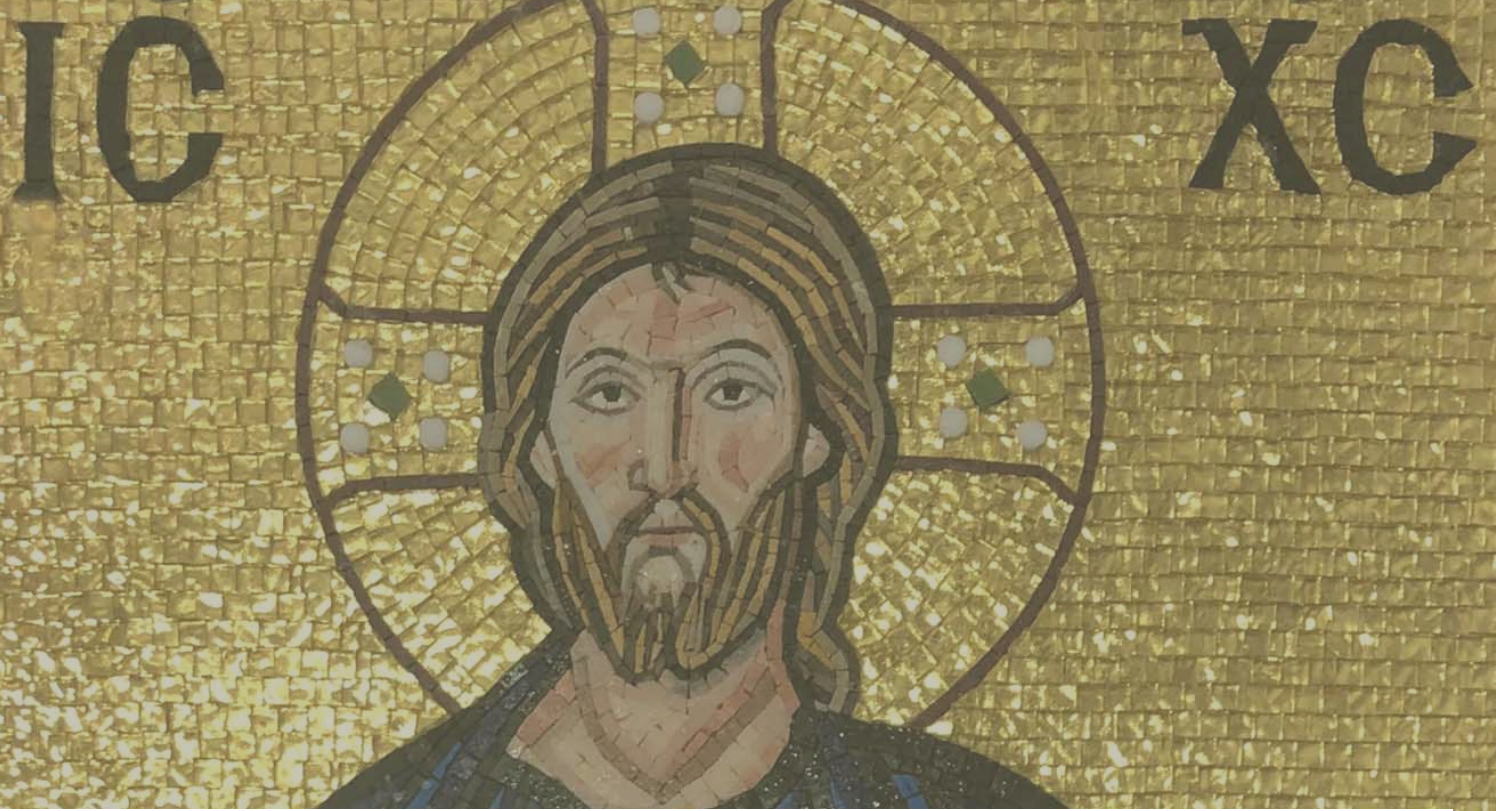




CENTER FOR
CATHOLIC STUDIES

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

2026 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

NOVA ET VETERA

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www.shu.edu/ccs

From the Director

Dear friends,

It is a season of significant changes for Seton Hall University, our country, and the world. Among the various political, economic, and religious stirrings, one of the most momentous is the new reality ushered in by recent advances in Artificial Intelligence. Capable of producing in seconds what might take a human being hours or days, AI is rapidly transforming virtually every aspect of our lives, from education to business, healthcare, and even religion.

Almost a year ago, the Vatican released a document on the relationship between artificial intelligence and human intelligence entitled “Antiqua et Nova” (“Old and New”). The document is an invitation to reflection on the current challenges and opportunities posed by advancements in AI in light of “wisdom both ancient and new (cf. Mt. 13:52).” “Antiqua et Nova” is a good example of the Church fulfilling her mission to discern the “signs of the times” in light of the timeless truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church’s teaching serves as an anchor when so much is becoming unmoored and provides a basis for discerning what innovations will promote human flourishing and what will diminish it.

This is also an apt description of the work of the Center for Catholic Studies, whose mission is to live, share, and deepen Catholic identity at Seton Hall. The university, too, is a realm of constant change. Change often brings new challenges. For example, professors are trying to figure out how to adapt their courses in light of AI’s potential to write students’ papers for them and do many of the professional tasks that students had previously trained for as part of their education.

Some changes are more positive. Seton Hall has just embarked on a new Strategic Plan built upon values embodied in the life of Elizabeth Ann Seton. In embracing these values, our university community is striving to navigate current changes, challenges, and opportunities in the same way that Mother Seton navigated the many challenges she faced in her lifetime - with faith and hope, courage and curiosity, purpose and resilience.



Patrick Manning, Ph.D., Center Director



Advent and Christmas present us with an opportunity to reflect on the foundations of the Catholic faith and correct course as needed. During this season, we celebrate something at once old and new. We remember God's coming into the world as one of us over 2,000 years ago, but we are also reminded that the Incarnation is ongoing. God continues to enter the world in new ways, not least of all through the efforts of those who strive to raise their children, educate their students, or develop new technology in ways that are consistent with God's hopes for humanity. We hope that the Center for Catholic Studies is counted among these, and we hope that you will continue partnering with us in this mission ever ancient and ever new.

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and New Year,

Patrick Manning, Ph.D.

Patrick Manning, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Catholic Studies

2025 Mission Metrics

While numbers don't tell the whole story, they help to illustrate our impact.

Global Engagement

Over 15 countries reached in North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa
High engagement in USA, Brazil, and Italy

Digital Outreach

Approximately 1,779,301 people across all platforms
16 podcast episodes; with 729 listens
2,014 followers on social media from over 10 countries

Programs

30+ events
500+ attendees
106 faculty members

Supporters

115 gifts
59 new donors

Bernard J. Lonergan Institute

Jonathan Heaps, Ph.D., Director



Since our last newsletter, the Roman Catholic Church has received a new pontiff, Pope Leo XIV. The Holy Father's recent Apostolic Exhortation, *Delexi te*, draws from the deep scriptural, theological, and moral traditions of the faith to inspire new ways of loving the poor among us. Fr. Lonergan, for his part, found inspiration in the words of a previous Pope Leo—Leo XIII—for his own service to God's Church. From the 1869 Apostolic Letter *Aeterni Patris*, Lonergan took a leonine exhortation to "enlarge and enrich the old by means of the new" as something like a guiding slogan. This past year, as Director of the Bernard J. Lonergan Institute, I have had the privilege of helping to extend Fr. Lonergan's legacy of "enlarging and perfecting" in exciting ways, some old and some new:

- **The Way to Nicaea Symposium:** in honor of the Council of Nicaea's 1700th anniversary, presenters from Seton Hall, Whitworth College, Boston College, and the University of Notre Dame reflected on Lonergan's account of the Church's earliest doctrinal developments. The livestream is still available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8JsukohLVI&t=5476s>
- **The Way to Nicaea Reading Group:** a small group met over eight weeks, from late-August to mid-October, to read and discuss Lonergan's *The Way to Nicea* in preparation for the Symposium.
- **The Lonergan Review, Vol. XIV:** our latest issue of the Institute's journal contains articles on topics ranging from Lonergan's early philosophical sources to the ethics of artificial intelligence to the question of our eternal density.
- **The Lonergan Institute Podcast:** two episodes of the Institute's new podcast have appeared (with more to come soon) containing discussions with interesting people whose lives, faith, and careers have been shaped by their encounters with Lonergan's work. You can find the podcast at the Lonergan Institute website or in your favorite pod-catcher.
- **Looking Ahead:** watch out for more information about a partnership with the Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies Conference at Villanova University and a look at Lonergan's influence on 20th-century theologies of mysticism.

If you are interested in staying up to date on the latest happenings at the Lonergan Institute, please sign up for our quarterly newsletter at:
<https://www.shu.edu/lonergan/join-the-lonergan-institute-mailing-list.html>



G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture

Gloria Garafulich-Grabois, DHS, Director

It is with commitment and enthusiasm that we began this year, which marked the start of our second half-century, that continues the work began by Father Ian Boyd, in 1974, as a pioneer Chestertonian who had a key role in the worldwide Chesterton revival.

This year, an important part of our work was of course, to continue our 50th anniversary celebration, with the publication of two double issues of *The Chesterton Review*, which were exceedingly well received by our subscribers, friends and supporters. We organized and participated in lectures and programs. Taking advantage of today's technology, we continue producing new episodes of our podcast "Speaking about Chesterton" which has proven to be an excellent way to reach so many Chestertonians all over the world; as well as through our blog "Paradox, Wit & Wonder." Both, the podcast and blog, as well as our Facebook page have very active and engaging followers, for which we are grateful.

One important project I worked on this year with the editor of *The Chesterton Review*, Professor Dermot Quinn, was one that honors Father Boyd and his legacy. The Institute published a collection of essays by Father Boyd, entitled *An Earthly Story with a Heavenly Meaning*, edited by Professor Quinn, with a preface by Dr. Patrick Manning. This publication was possible with the support of Seton Hall University.

We express our gratitude to Seton Hall University for their continued commitment to the work of the Institute, as we look to the future "Imagining a World with Leaders Rooted in Chestertonian Ideals." We thank you for your friendship and support that help us advance our work, as we continue the Institute's valuable research, writing and publications on important topics like global Christian traditions and Catholic social teaching for years to come. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year, we invite you to join us on this journey, as we look forward to the future.

Gloria Garafulich-Grabois, DHS
Director, G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture

Outreach: 48 countries | **Blog:** 1.9 million views | **Podcast:** 800+ listens | **Facebook:** 2,600+ followers

*If you are interested in staying up to date on the latest happenings at the
G.K. Chesterton Institute, please join our mailing list by visiting:
<https://www.shu.edu/chesterton/join-our-mailing-list.html>*

2025 Highlights



Annual Faculty Retreat

Seton Hall faculty gathered at San Alfonso Retreat Center for the annual Summer Faculty Retreat, reflecting on *Laudato Si'* through prayer, discussion, and community.



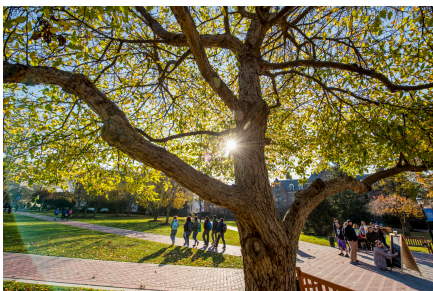
Monsignor Edward Ciuba Fellowship

Seton Hall named Prof. Mary Landriau as the first recipient of the Monsignor Edward Ciuba Fellowship, honoring the late priest's legacy of scholarship and ministry. Her project will revive a parish women's ministry in Plainfield, fostering community, mentorship, and outreach.



AI Workshop for Clergy

Seton Hall professor Ruth Tsuria and industry expert Taylor Black facilitated a workshop on the impact of AI on parish ministry as part of a new collaboration between the Center and the Archdiocesan Office of Clergy Personnel.



Laudato Si' Campus

The Center for Catholic Studies led several initiatives inviting the Seton Hall community to reflect on themes from Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home and apply them across the University.



AI and Education

The Center for Catholic Studies hosted a virtual webinar for educators with Princeton's D. Graham Burnett on Artificial Intelligence and its impact on Catholic education.



Catholic Studies Consortium

The Catholic Studies Consortium gathered at Providence College for its sixth annual conference, which was made possible by Seton Hall's leadership and a generous grant from the Porticus Foundation.



Help Us Make an Impact



There are several ways you can partner with us in our mission and make a lasting impact on living, sharing, and deepening Catholic Identity at Seton Hall.

Your gift to the Center also supports Seton Hall's "For All, Forever" capital campaign.

CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES ENDOWMENT

A gift to the Center Endowment ensures our programs and operations can continue at Seton Hall in perpetuity, allowing us to offer opportunities dedicated to Catholic mission that form faculty and students and serve the local Church.

TOTH-LONERGAN ENDOWMENT

The Toth-Loneragan Endowment supports Seton Hall's commitment to a robust Catholic Identity by bringing an expert in Bernard Lonergan's thought to campus each year to engage faculty, students, and staff with Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

INSTITUTE FUNDS

Loneragan Institute Fund: Supports the publication of *The Lonergan Review* and allows for lecture series and faculty reading groups.

Chesterton Institute Fund: Supports the publication of *The Chesterton Review* and annual programming integrating Chestertonian ideas and culture.

MONSIGNOR EDWARD CIUBA FELLOWSHIP

Honoring Monsignor Edward Ciuba ('55), this fellowship supports Seton Hall faculty and graduate students who build bridges between the University and local Catholic communities.



The Center for Catholic Studies supports Seton Hall's Catholic mission as an Archdiocesan University. We live, share, and deepen Catholic identity through our initiatives that help students, faculty, and the local Church encounter all that is True, Good, and Beautiful.

Patrick Manning, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Catholic Studies

Samuel McDonald
Programs Manager

Gloria Garafulich-Grabois, DHS
Director, G.K. Chesterton Institute
Managing Editor, *The Chesterton Review*
Managing Editor, *The Lonergan Review*

Jonathan Heaps, Ph.D.
Director, Lonergan Institute
Editor, *The Lonergan Review*

Dermot Quinn, D.Phil.
Editor of *The Chesterton Review*

Walter Kennedy, M.B.A.
Director, Micah Institute