



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

## *Faculty & Administration News (FAN)*

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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.

### **Awards, Honors and Appointments**

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.M., S.T.L.**, Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, was one of 15 recipients of a grant awarded by the Planning Team of Science in Seminaries Initiative at John Carroll University and funded by the John Templeton Foundation in a national competition. He was awarded this grant for his course "Creation and Science," which launched in January 2016 and is scheduled to run for at least three semesters during the next three years. The course is currently open to all graduate students, and there are plans to extend the course to advanced undergraduates in future semesters.
  
- ❖ **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, and Director, Institute for Christian Spirituality, was inducted into the Hall of Fame of her *alma mater*, Immaculate Conception High School, Lodi, NJ, on October 22, 2015.

❖ **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, Rector/Dean:

- Was selected as an honoree among the 2015 *Irish Education 100*. Sponsored by *The Irish Voice*, the honor was conferred by the Irish Consul General in Manhattan, NYC, on December 9, 2015.
- Has been named a Missionary of Mercy by His Holiness, Pope Francis. The Missionaries of Mercy are priests from around the world who are to be living signs of the Father's welcome to all those in search of His forgiveness. At the invitation of diocesan bishops, the Missionaries of Mercy will give missions or facilitate specific initiatives organized for the Jubilee Year of Mercy with particular attention given to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Holy Father will grant the Missionaries of Mercy the authority to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See. In Rome, Italy, on Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016, the Missionaries of Mercy received the mandate from Pope Francis to be preachers of mercy and heralds of the joy of forgiveness.

## Speaking Engagements

❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Moral Theology:

- Was interviewed via phone twice for *Relevant Radio* (1430 AM):
  - Regarding Pope Francis's recent visit to the U.S. and the topic of religious liberty, on "Morning Air," on October 21, 2015.
  - Regarding the current Syrian refugee crisis and the USCCB's response regarding what is the right thing to do, on "Morning Air," on November 17, 2015.

- Presented the following:
  - “Jesus, Justice, and Modern-Day America.” Lecture, for *The Avila Lecture Series*, at St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, NJ, on November 11, 2015.
  - “Deadly Decisions: A Practical Catholic Guide to End-of-Life Decision-Making.” Lecture and Q & A, at St. Philomena Parish, Livingston, NJ, on November 23, 2015.
  
- ❖ **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Undergraduate Theology, presented his paper “Grace Makes Nature Interesting” and led discussion at a faculty seminar for Columbia University faculty, at Columbia University, NYC, on November 11, 2015.
  
- ❖ **Reverend Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor of Systematic Theology:
  - Was featured in an interview by Timothy George regarding a book they co-edited: *Evangelicals and Catholics Together at Twenty: Vital Statements on Contested Topics* (Brazos Press, 2015). The interview was conducted by Samford University’s Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, AL, and [the podcast of the interview](#) became available online on November 17, 2015. Father Guarino serves as co-chairman of the ecumenical initiative Evangelicals and Catholics Together (ECT).
  - Was interviewed by *Relevant Radio* (1430 AM), on January 26, 2016. The topic was “Ecumenism Today,” featuring his co-authored and co-edited book, *Evangelicals and Catholics Together at Twenty: Vital Statements on Contested Topics* (Brazos Press, 2015).
  - Presented a lecture, followed by a book-signing, in celebration of the publication of his new book, *Evangelicals and Catholic Together at Twenty: Vital Statements on Contested Topics*, at ICSST’s Lewis Hall, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on January 27, 2016.

- Was interviewed for the WSOU (89.5 FM) radio program *The Kinship of Catholics and Jews*, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on February 10, 2016. The subject of the interview was Father Guarino's new book, *Evangelicals and Catholics Together at Twenty: Vital Statements on Contested Topics*.

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, was interviewed about his story of conversion to Catholicism for the EWTN program *The Journey Home*. Marcus Grodi conducted this interview in Columbus, OH, on February 9, 2016. The show will air on television on February 29, 2016, at 8 p.m. EST; on March 1, 2016, at 1 a.m. EST; and on March 4, 2016, at 1 p.m. EST.

## Special Events

- ❖ Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology sponsored the following:
  - “Pope Saint John Paul II and Pope Francis on an Authentically Human Economy.” Lecture, by Michael Novak, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on November 16, 2015. ICSST was proud to welcome Novak, a highly-acclaimed Catholic author, professor, former U.S. ambassador and 1994 recipient of the Templeton Prize, for this exploration of the economic visions of Pope Saint John Paul II and Pope Francis. Copies of Novak's book, *Social Justice Isn't What You Think It Is*, released this November, were available for purchase and book signing at this event.
  - From December 2015 through November 2016, in celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy declared by Pope Francis, Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology is offering a series of retreats titled **70 x 7: Faith, Family, and Forgiveness, Part III: Developing a Heart of Mercy**. Held at Immaculate Conception Seminary

School of Theology, on Seton Hall University's South Orange, NJ, campus, the retreats consider the power of forgiveness through the inspiring lens of Scripture, great books and music. Through prayer and conversation, each of the seven days is designed to lead retreatants in a spirit of compassion and charity, as the retreatants strive to, as Pope Francis encourages, "contemplate the Face of Mercy," Jesus Christ. Thus far, ICSST has offered the following retreats in this series:

- "Cooking up a Merciful Heart: A Recipe from Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*." By **Gregory Y. Glazov, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, Professor of Biblical Studies, on December 17, 2015.
- "The Holy Spirit: Living Fountain of Merciful Love." By **Reverend Frederick L. Miller, S.T.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, on January 30, 2016.

## Mission and Service

### ❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Moral Theology:

- Serves as director of *Amplificemus*: ICSST Faculty Collaborative Working Group.

*Amplificemus* is an informal, scholarly faculty collaborative group, which aims to "enlarge," "extend" and "develop" ICSST faculty members' own intellectual and scholarly development, meeting bi-semesterly in ICSST's Lewis Hall. In this group, faculty members take turns presenting their current research, in progress or completed, to fellow faculty from a variety of scholarly backgrounds. This task is one of the greatest services the faculty can render to God, one another and the Church, to which an alternative denotation of the Latin "*amplificemus*" also bears witness when its meaning becomes "to praise loudly."

- Co-organized the annual men’s retreat for The People of Hope, a private association of the faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark. At this retreat, in Plainfield, NJ, on September 18, 2015, Dr. Anderson presented the talk “A Time for Mercy,” the first in a series of talks originally developed (by himself and others) for The People of Hope. This talk introduced in a retreat setting every person’s need for mercy.
- Co-organized the annual women’s retreat for The People of Hope, a private association of the faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark. At this retreat, in Pittstown, NJ, on October 2, 2015, Dr. Anderson presented the talk “A Time for Mercy,” the first in a series of talks originally developed (by himself and others) for The People of Hope. This talk introduced in a retreat setting every person’s need for mercy.
- Presented the following:
  - Two lectures and Q & A sessions for the ongoing formation of permanent deacons of the Archdiocese of Newark, at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, NJ:
    - “Gay Marriage & Catholic Church.” October 15, 2015.
    - “End-of-Life Decision-Making.” Co-presented with Michael Giuliano, M.D. November 12, 2015.
  - “Mercy & Community: The Marvelous Exchanges of a Prodigal Father.” Retreat, for the *Heart of the University* Faculty Retreat Series, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on November 19, 2015.

❖ **Stella F. Wilkins, M.A., M.L.S.**, Seminary Librarian, began service as a committee member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, in January 2016.

❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, presented the following:

- Two lectures for Seton Hall University Campus Ministry's RCIA Retreat, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on February 6, 2016:
  - "Seeking the Face of God: Striving for Holiness in Ordinary Life."
  - "Reconciliation: The Sacrament of Joy and Mercy."
- "Penance." Lecture on Confession, for parents of children in the CCD program, at Church of the Assumption, Roselle Park, NJ, on February 7, 2016.

## Off-Campus Courses

❖ **Julie V. Burkey, D.Min.**, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology, presented the following for the Aspirancy Formation Program of ICSST's Center for Diaconal Formation:  
"Discovering Your God-Given Gifts," with *Lectio Divina*, for aspirants from the Archdiocese of Newark, at Church of the Annunciation, Paramus, NJ, on January 9, 2016.

❖ **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, and Director, Institute for Christian Spirituality, presented the following for the Aspirancy Formation Program of ICSST's Center for Diaconal Formation: "Prayer and Spirituality," with *Lectio Divina* and reflections on Father Walter Cizek's *He Leadeth Me*:  

- For aspirants from the Diocese of Paterson, at St. Paul Inside the Walls: The Catholic Center for Evangelization at Bayley-Ellard, Madison, NJ, on January 16, 2016.

- For aspirants from the Archdiocese of Newark, at Church of the Annunciation, Paramus, NJ, on February 6, 2016.

## Publications

### ❖ Reverend Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D., Professor of Systematic Theology:

- With Timothy George:
  - Co-authored and co-edited a book: *Evangelicals and Catholics Together at Twenty: Vital Statements on Contested Topics*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2015. This volume introduces, explains and collects the nine statements issued over 20 years by Evangelicals and Catholics Together (a bi-lateral ecumenical initiative founded by Father Richard John Neuhaus and Chuck Colson). The volume was released in November 2015.
  - Co-authored an article on the website of the journal *First Things*: [“ECT at Twenty: Vital Statements on Contested Topics.”](#) (November 16, 2015).
- Published an article on the website of the journal *First Things*: [“Richard John Neuhaus and the Church of Christ.”](#) (February 5, 2016).

### ❖ Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, published the following:

- [A book review of: \*New Inscriptions and Seals Relating to the Biblical World\*](#), co-edited by Meir Lubetski and Edith Lubetski. *Review of Biblical Literature* (December 2015).
- A book: *Three Skeptics and the Bible: La Peyrère, Hobbes, Spinoza, and the Reception of Modern Biblical Criticism*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2016.



- A book review of: *Isaac on Jewish and Christian Altars: Polemic and Exegesis in Rasbi and the Glossa Ordinaria*, by Devorah Schoenfield. *Review of Biblical Literature* (January 2016).

## Conferences, Meetings, and Symposia

### ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology:

- Presented “The Kingdom of God and the Church: A Look at Loisy’s Ecclesiology in *L’Évangile et L’Église*.” Invited paper, at the conference of *La Société Internationale d’Études sur Alfred Loisy*, in Atlanta, GA, on November 22, 2015.
- Participated in the following:
  - American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, in Atlanta, GA, from November 20-24, 2015.
  - Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, in Atlanta, GA, from November 20-24, 2015.
  - Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar, co-sponsored by the Paideia Centre and the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, in Atlanta, GA, from November 20-21, 2015.
  - “50 Years After Vatican II: Catholic Changes (1965-2015) & the Future of the Church.” Online conference, from December 28, 2015-January 12, 2016. Dr. Morrow contributed to conference general discussion over email list serve.

### ❖ **Reverend Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor of Systematic Theology, co-chaired a meeting of Evangelicals and Catholics Together, in New York City, on December 15, 2015. The theme of the meeting was “Christian Identity Today.”

## Other Scholarly and Professional Activity

- ❖ **Reverend Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor of Systematic Theology, peer-reviewed a manuscript for *The Thomist*, during fall 2015.
  
- ❖ **Stella F. Wilkins, M.A., M.L.S.**, Seminary Librarian, reviewed two pre-publications edited by George T. Kurian and Mark A. Lamport, for Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, in January 2016:
  - *The Encyclopedia of Christianity in the Global South.*
  - *Encyclopedia of Martin Luther and the Reformation.*