



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.

Awards, Grants, and Honors

- ❖ In October 2023, ICSST was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1.25 million from the Lilly Endowment, based on a proposal written by **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, titled *Preaching as Hospitality*. A multi-faceted, five-year formation program, *Preaching as Hospitality* seeks to help participants invite and welcome the Word of God into their lives, so that in encountering the Lord, they may encourage their listeners to draw closer to Christ. The first two years of this program will encourage the entire campus community to meditate on Scripture, to come together to consider Christ's hospitality, and to forge bonds of friendship. These years also will launch our University Parish Mission, including three evenings of prayer, fellowship, and presentations centered on the meaning of Christian hospitality in Scripture and tradition. ICSST students also will have opportunities to pray with and preach on the same Scriptural passages throughout the academic year.

Beginning in Year One, and through Year Five, ICSST will be inviting deacons and priests who have been ordained at least 40 years to share their stories of praying with Scripture, and their understanding of Preaching as Hospitality. ICSST will create a digital resource of their reflections for use in Seminary formation. In Years Three through Five, ICSST will offer Pauline Preaching Clinics that will provide opportunities for prayerful contemplation of Scripture, mentoring guidance, and practice homilies and presentations.

- ❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, and **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, were honored by Seton Hall University for exceptional teaching, scholarship, and service in AY 2022-2023, each earning a faculty merit award bestowed at SHU's Faculty Convocation on September 22, 2023.

Special Events

- ❖ With jubilant and grateful hearts, members of the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology and Seton Hall University community gathered with ICSST alumni and friends to celebrate the installation of **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, as the Twenty-Third Rector of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, at a Mass in Seton Hall University's Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, on Sunday, September 10, 2023. **Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., D.D.**, Archbishop of Newark, presided. The celebration continued at a reception in Immaculate Conception Seminary's Lewis Hall. A news story, including a recording of the Mass of Installation and a gallery of photos from the Mass and reception, is

available at <https://www.shu.edu/theology/news/monsignor-gerard-mccarren-installed-as-seminarys-rector.html>

- ❖ With the Archdiocese of Newark, ICSST's Center for Diaconal Formation co-sponsored the following events featuring presentations by ICSST faculty and administrators. These events were held at St. Andrew Church, Westwood, NJ:
 - Session for men inquiring into the permanent diaconate and for their wives, on July 29, 2023. **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation, delivered a presentation on "History of the Diaconate." Approximately 60 people attended.
 - Session for men inquiring into the permanent diaconate and for their wives, on August 12, 2023. **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, delivered a presentation on "Prayer." Approximately 50 people attended.
 - Aspirancy formation event for permanent diaconate aspirants and their wives, on October 21, 2023. **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, delivered a presentation on Father Walter Ciszek's *He Ledeth Me*, in the context of prayer and spirituality. Approximately 75 people attended.

Publications

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, published the following:
 - An article in a book: “Gianni Vattimo: Nihilismo y verdad.” In [*Ratzinger y Los Filósofos: De Platón a Vattimo*](#), co-edited by Alejandro Sada, Rudy Albino de Assunção, and Tracey Rowland, 499-516. Madrid, Spain: Ediciones Encuentro, 2023.
 - A letter in a journal: “What Pope Benedict Meant.” *First Things*, no. 336 (October 2023): 7. The letter is available online at <https://www.firstthings.com/article/2023/10/letters>

- ❖ **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, published a journal article: [*“St. Paul VI and the Joy of the Gospel: From *Humanae Vitae* to Pope Francis.”*](#) *Irish Theological Quarterly* 88, no. 3 (August 2023): 227-47.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor John A. Radano, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, published a journal article: [*“Solidarity and Ecumenism.”*](#) *The Journal of Social Encounters* 7, no. 2 (2023): 135-48.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, published an article in the Proceedings of Seton Hall University’s 2023 Faculty Summer Seminar – Science & Religion: History, Myths, & Insights: “History as a Key Mediating Discipline in the Science-Religion Interaction.” [*Integratio 2*](#) (September 13, 2023): 22-28.

❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology, published two book reviews:

- [Review of Alfred Loisy and the Making of History of Religion: A Study of the Development of Comparative Religion in the Early 20th Century](#), by Annelies Lannoy. *Theological Studies* 83, no. 1 (2022): 160-61.
- [Review of Paul, Politics, and New Creation: Reconsidering Paul and Empire](#), by Najeeb T. Haddad. *Journal of Moral Theology* 11, no. 2 (2022): 173-74.

Media Contributions

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

- Was interviewed six times regarding books of the Old Testament, for the radio show [“Son Rise Morning Show,”](#) Sacred Heart Radio, Cincinnati, OH:
 - Live interview on 2 Kings (aired September 19, 2023).
 - Interview on 1 Chronicles (recorded September 19, 2023; aired September 26, 2023).
 - Interview on 2 Chronicles (recorded September 19, 2023; aired October 3, 2023).
 - Interview on Ezra (recorded October 10, 2023; aired October 13).
 - Interview on Nehemiah (recorded October 10, 2023; aired October 17, 2023).
 - Interview on Tobit (recorded October 10, 2023; aired October 24, 2023).
- Was interviewed live by Bishop Robert Reed and Jay Fadden on The Catholic TV Network, on the program “This Is The Day,” on October 27, 2023. The topic of the interview was Dr. Morrow’s recently published co-authored book, [*A Catholic Guide to the Old Testament*](#). A recording of the interview is available at <https://www.catholictv.org/this-is-the-day/catholic-guide-to-the-old-testament.html> (from the 5:58 minute mark to the 10:28 minute mark).

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor C. Anthony Ziccardi, S.S.L, S.T.D.**, ICSST’s Coordinator for Undergraduate Admissions and Retention, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, served as a guest speaker on the topic “Salvation Is from the Jews,” on the half-hour [“Kinship of Catholics and Jews”](#) show, hosted by **Reverend Lawrence E. Frizzell, S.T.L., S.S.L., D.Phil.**, Director and Associate Professor, Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program, on Seton Hall University’s radio station (WSOU 89.5 FM). The show aired on WSOU 89.5 FM on a Sunday in September 2023.

Teaching Outside Seton Hall

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor C. Anthony Ziccardi, S.S.L, S.T.D.**, ICSST’s Coordinator for Undergraduate Admissions and Retention, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, taught “*Nuestra Señora en el Nuevo Testamento* (Our Lady in the New Testament),” a six-hour course given in Spanish to 21 Spanish-speaking catechists on behalf of the Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of Newark, at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, NJ, on August 21 and 23, 2023.

Mission and Service

- ❖ **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation, and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology:
 - As *Censor Librorum* for the Diocese of Paterson, reviewed the following future publications seeking Imprimatur (ensuring freedom from doctrinal or moral errors):
 - *The Holy Rosary*, Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, on June 2, 2023.

- *The Love of Eternal Wisdom* with Reading Guide, by Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort, Catholic Book Publishing, Corporation, on August 21, 2023.
 - Delivered “The Gift of Reverence in Marriage.” Presentation for married couples, as part of Catholic Circles Ministry, conducted online, on June 3, 2023. Approximately ten people attended virtually.

- ❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, was named Co-Chair of Seton Hall University’s Committee on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition (CIT), for academic year 2023-2024. In this role, Dr. Anderson is serving with Co-Chair **Reverend Brian K. Muzás, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Diplomacy and International Relations. Since its inception in Fall 2021, when then-Provost **Katia Passerini, Ph.D.**, convened the committee in support of Goal 1 of SHU’s Strategic Plan, the CIT has been working on, articulating, and communicating the Catholic identity and mission of the University; working to better understand the CIT; studying the relevance of this tradition to broader study at SHU; and working on the ecumenical and interreligious vision of the University community.

- ❖ **Reverend Mariusz Eugene R. Koch, C.F.R., M.Div., M.A.**, Spiritual Director:
 - Is facilitating a formation group of seminarians at the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Andrew’s Hall, at SHU, throughout the Fall 2023 semester. The group is focused on reflecting on the Sacraments.
 - With Theresa Bonapartis of Lumina post-abortion ministry and referral network, Deacon Jim Matthias, and priests of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI, facilitated a two-hour interactive online post-abortion ministry training workshop for priests,

deacons, and seminarians of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, on September 28, 2023. The program also was filmed for distribution to the priests of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, served as a consultant on the Consultation on the Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians, Institute for Priestly Formation, Omaha, NE (online, via Zoom), on September 13, 2023, together with approximately 12 other seminary personnel.

- ❖ **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L., S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, presented two *In the Footsteps of St. Paul* lecture series. Approximately 40 people attended each lecture.
 - Seven-part series, at Immaculate Conception Parish, Montclair, NJ:
 - “Meeting Saul of Tarsus: The Life of St. Paul,” on September 20, 2023.
 - “Paul and the Thessalonians,” on September 27, 2023.
 - “Paul and the Corinthians,” on October 4, 2023.
 - “Paul and the Romans,” on October 11, 2023.
 - “Paul and the Churches,” on October 25, 2023.
 - “Paul and his Disciples,” scheduled for November 8, 2023.
 - “The Achievement of St. Paul,” scheduled for November 15, 2023.
 - Six-part series, at St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, NJ:
 - “Meeting Saul of Tarsus: The Life of St. Paul,” on September 22, 2023.
 - “Paul and the Thessalonians,” on September 29, 2023.
 - “Paul and the Corinthians,” on October 6, 2023.

- “Paul and the Romans,” on October 13, 2023.
- “Paul and the Churches,” on October 20, 2023.
- “Paul and his Disciples,” on October 27, 2023.

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

- Presented three talks to The Forge, a club for boys in middle school, in Boonton, NJ.
 - Talk on “The Purpose of Creation,” on September 22, 2023. Approximately 15 boys, along with several parents, attended.
 - Talk on “God’s Self-Revelation,” on October 6, 2023. Approximately 15 boys, along with several parents, attended.
 - Talk on the Bible, on October 27, 2023. Twenty-two boys attended.
- Presented “Secular Humanism.” Lecture for The Grade, a program for high school men, at Murray Hill Place Conference Center, New York City, NY, on October 21, 2023. Ten people attended.

❖ **Reverend Monsignor C. Anthony Ziccardi, S.S.L, S.T.D.**, ICSST’s Coordinator for Undergraduate Admissions and Retention, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies:

- Over six weeks in the Fall 2023 semester, for two hours each week, is teaching and leading Seton Hall’s *University Seminar on Mission*, conducted online via Microsoft Teams, from September 26 to November 7, 2023. Thirteen people from the faculty and administration of Seton Hall University are participating in this seminar.
- 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 October 21, 2023. Twenty-five people attended.

- ❖ **Reverend Renato J. Bautista, M.Div., M.A.**, Director of Formation and Director of Seminary Records, presided at Mass at the chapter meeting of Couples for Christ, held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sub Parish, San Marcelino Street, Señora Isidora, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines, on October 6, 2023. At the meeting, Father Bautista also served as guest speaker on the topic “Generosity: A Grateful Heart Makes a Cheerful Giver.” Approximately 40 people attended.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology:
 - Presented three reflections on the theme “The Challenges and Joys of the Priesthood Today,” at the Convocation of Priests of the Camden Diocese, held in Avalon, NJ, from October 16 to 17, 2023. Approximately 130 priests attended.
 - At [*Lost and Found: 16th-Century Manuscript Meets 21st-Century Church Reform*](#), a program sponsored by [The Charles and Joan Alberto Italian Studies Institute](#) at Seton Hall University, discussed with **William Connell, Ph.D.**, Professor of History and La Motta Endowed Chair in Italian Studies, the significance of the priceless codex, *Of the Ecclesiastical Republic (Della Repubblica Ecclesiastica)*, which Dr. Connell discovered. Monsignor Guarino spoke on the topic “Tendencies in Church Reform in the 20th and 21st Centuries.” The event was held on Seton Hall’s South Orange campus, on October 30, 2023. Approximately 70 people attended.

- ❖ **Reverend Robert K. Suszko, M.B.A., M.Div.**, Vice Rector and Business Manager, served as principal celebrant at Seton Hall University’s Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints, on November 1, 2023.

Conferences, Meetings, Panel Discussions, and Symposia

- ❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology:
 - Presented “Truth, Objective Morality, and Conversion.” Invited lecture, at the seminar *Veritatis Splendor and the Pastor’s Task*, sponsored by and held at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis, MO, from August 21 to 22, 2023. Approximately 60 people attended Dr. Anderson’s presentation.
 - Is working on a scholarly co-edited book with Dr. Matthew Levering and Reverend Aaron Pidel, S.J., on *Jesuit Commentators of the Secunda Pars*. An academic, invited, international conference on this topic was sponsored by The Center for Scriptural Exegesis, Philosophy, and Doctrine, and held at the University of St. Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein IL, from September 7 to 9, 2023. Dr. Anderson co-organized the conference and served as emcee. He presented an invited paper: “Parvity of Matter in Sexual Sins: Contemporary Misgivings, Aquinas, & the Early Modern Jesuit Moral Tradition.” Approximately 15 people attended Dr. Anderson’s presentation. A co-edited volume will follow, with accepted papers.
 - Presented and participated in a roundtable discussion on *Diversity: A Catholic Understanding*, for Princeton Initiative in Catholic Thought, at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, on October 13, 2023. Approximately 12 people attended.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology:
 - Presented “The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in the Era of Generative AI.” Plenary keynote address, delivered on September 14, 2023, at the 27th World Multi-Conference on Systemics, Cybernetics, and Informatics: WMSCI 2023, sponsored by the International Institute of Informatics and Systemics, and conducted virtually from September 12 to 15, 2023. Seventeen people attended Father Laracy’s presentation.
 - Presented “Catholicism and Care for Creation.” Lecture, at Seton Hall University’s Faculty Seminar on Climate Change, conducted online via Microsoft Teams, on October 26, 2023. Thirty-seven people attended.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, participated in the National Association of Catholic Theological Schools (NACTS) annual conference, in Schaumburg, IL, from September 29 to 30, 2023. The theme of this year’s conference was *To Serve and to Prepare*. Approximately 75 rectors, vice-rectors, academic deans, and pastoral field education directors attended.

Other Scholarly and Professional Activity

- ❖ **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation, and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology, completed an intensive Spanish-language Summer course (80 hours), at La Casa del Español, a private school in Valladolid, Spain. La Casa del Español is accredited by Instituto Cervantes.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor C. Anthony Ziccardi, S.S.L, S.T.D.**, ICSST's Coordinator for Undergraduate Admissions and Retention, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, attended a Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Workshop, a presentation and discussion of the opportunities and challenges of AI, sponsored by SHU's Center for Faculty Development, and conducted online, on August 21, 2023.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology:
 - Served as a reviewer for the 55th Association for Computing Machinery Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE 2023 Conference), in October 2023.
 - Served as a reviewer for *Systems Journal*, on October 27, 2023.

- ❖ **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L., S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, served as a committee member for the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada's comprehensive reaffirmation visit of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary, Waymart, PA. The visit took place from October 16 to 19, 2023.