



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, Honors and Appointments

- ❖ **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Philosophical Theology, was honored as Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology's Teacher of the Year, at the University's annual Research Luncheon, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on March 28, 2017.

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, was honored as Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology's Researcher of the Year, at the University's annual Research Luncheon, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on March 28, 2017.

- ❖ **Reverend Robert K. Suszko, M.B.A., M.Div.**, Vice Rector and Business Manager, was honored at the 14th Annual *Notes of Distinction* benefit concert, sponsored by the College

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Andrew's Hall, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 20, 2017. Father Suszko is the recipient of the 2017 Saint Andrew's Achievement Award.

Speaking Engagements

- ❖ **Reverend James P. Platania, S.S.L.**, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, presented the following:
 - “The Joy of the Priesthood.” Talk, for the members of the local Serra Club, at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on September 9, 2016.
 - “Abraham, Our Father in Faith.” Inter-Religious dialogue in which an imam, a rabbi, and Father Platania discussed the common theme of Abraham as a shared father of their monotheistic faiths, at the Islamic Center of Morris County, Rockaway, NJ, on February 22, 2017.

- ❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, offered a presentation on the recent publication of her book, [*Physicalist Soteriology in Hilary of Poitiers*](#), to colleagues in Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology's faculty scholarly collaborative group, *Amplificamus*, in ICSST's Lewis Hall, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on March 30, 2017.

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, presented a lecture followed by a book-signing, in celebration of the publication of one of his new books:

Three Skeptics and the Bible: La Peyrère, Hobbes, Spinoza, and the Reception of Modern Biblical

Criticism, in Immaculate Conception Seminary's Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 25, 2017.

Special Events

- ❖ Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology co-sponsored a lecture titled "Pope Francis' Diplomacy" with the School of Diplomacy and International Relations, on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017, in the Chancellor's Suite, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ. His Excellency, The Most Reverend Bernardito C. Auza, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN, offered his experience as a Vatican diplomat and commented on the diplomatic priorities of Pope Francis. The lecture explored the role of the long tradition of the Vatican's diplomatic efforts around the world and its effect in the modern world in the spirit of Pope Francis. In addition to the main event, a Lenten dinner was offered in the University Center. This Lenten dinner consisted of simple soup and bread in the spirit of Lenten sacrifice. Donations were collected on behalf of the Division of Volunteer Efforts to benefit Syrian refugees in the area.

- ❖ Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, with the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, the Institute for Judeo-Christian Studies, the Center for Catholic Studies, and the Department of Religion, co-sponsored "Towards Unity: Ecumenical Dialogue 500 Years after the Reformation," a presentation of essays in honor of **Reverend Monsignor John A. Radano, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology. The presentation, by Archbishop Donald Bolen, Archbishop of Regina, Canada, was held in

Immaculate Conception Seminary's Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on March 16, 2017.

- ❖ Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology sponsored “Jesus Christ the Way and the Goal: Accompaniment and Discernment in Christ.” Lecture, by visiting scholar **Reverend Robert Imbelli, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, in Immaculate Conception Seminary's Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 6, 2017.

Mission and Service

- ❖ Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology faculty and administrators presented the following workshops for the Permanent Diaconate programs of ICSST's Center for Diaconal Formation:
 - “Critical Conversations.” Workshop, presented by **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Director, Center for Diaconal Formation, for the Diocese of Paterson Permanent Diaconate program, at St. Paul Inside the Walls: The Catholic Center for Evangelization at Bayley-Ellard, Madison, NJ, on September 19, 2016.
 - *Prayerfully Speaking*. Workshops, presented by **Diane M. Carr, M.A. '07**, Coordinator of Graduate and International Services and Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology:
 - At St. Paul Inside the Walls: The Catholic Center for Evangelization at Bayley-Ellard, Madison, NJ, for the Diocese of Paterson Permanent Diaconate program:
 - *Part I*. February 11, 2017.
 - *Part II*. March 18, 2017.

- At Church of the Annunciation, Paramus, NJ, for the Archdiocese of Newark Permanent Diaconate program:
 - *Part I.* February 25, 2017.
 - *Part II.* March 25, 2017.

❖ **Reverend James P. Platania, S.S.L.**, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies:

- Presented two lectures for parents of first communicants, at St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, Randolph, NJ:
 - “The Gift of the Sacrament of Confession.” September 25, 2016.
 - “The Eucharist as the Source and Summit of Christian Life.” February 12, 2017.
- Served as a guest lecturer on the theme of numbers in the Bible, for Reverend Joseph R. Laracy’s undergraduate mathematics students, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on November 2, 2016.
- Presented “Science and Religion: A Journey toward Truth.” Lecture on the Catholic understanding of the compatibility of faith and science, given to 100 high school students, at St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, Randolph, NJ, on December 11, 2016.
- Presented “The Desert Wanderings of the Israelites as a Paradigm for Our Lenten Journey.” Lenten conference for a parish men’s group, at St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, Randolph, NJ, on February 25, 2017.
- Preached “Water from the Rock: Trusting in Divine Providence.” Parish Mission, in which Father Platania preached on a Lenten theme at the Masses, at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, Morristown, NJ, on March 18 and 19, 2017.
- Began service as a member of the Morris County Police Critical Incident Debriefing Team, Morris County, NJ, on April 1, 2017.

- Presented “The Suffering Servant and the Message of Good Friday.” Lecture, at the Carmelite Convent, Flemington, NJ, on April 12, 2017.

- ❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, served as a guest lecturer for Dr. Gregory Floyd’s undergraduate-level course CORE 2101: *Christianity and Culture in Dialogue*, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on February 27, 2017. Dr. Manning lectured on Thomas Aquinas’s *Summa Contra Gentiles* and *Summa Theologica*.

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, presented “The Eucharist and Confession.” Lecture, for parents of children in the CCD program, at Church of the Assumption, Roselle Park, NJ, on March 5, 2017.

- ❖ **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:
 - Women’s Day of Spirituality: “Women at the Well,” at St. Anastasia Parish, Teaneck, NJ, on April 1, 2017.
 - Three-day Parish Mission: “Surveying the Conditions with a Vigilant Eye: How Mary Helps Us to See and Respond to Our Suffering Neighbor,” at St. Elizabeth Parish, Bristol, RI, from March 27-29, 2017.
 - Conference for Carmelite Sisters: “Community: Cana and the Cross,” in Barrington, RI, on March 28, 2017.

- Keynote address at the 2017 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Charter Day Convocation:
“Looking Up and Facing the Wind: The Visionary Determination of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,” at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 19, 2017.

❖ **Reverend Lawrence B. Porter, K.H.S., Ph.D.**, Professor of Systematic Theology and Director, Turro Seminary Library, delivered the invocation at the 2017 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Charter Day Convocation, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 19, 2017.

Publications

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, published the following:
 - A book: [*Jesus' Resurrection: A Jewish Convert Examines the Evidence*](#). Toledo, OH: Principium Institute, 2017.
 - A 60-page booklet: *Speaking with God: A Short Primer on Mental Prayer*. Toledo, OH: Principium Institute, 2017.
 - A book chapter: “The Fate of Catholic Biblical Interpretation in America.” In [*Weaving the American Catholic Tapestry: Essays in Honor of William L. Portier*](#), edited by Derek C. Hatch and Timothy R. Gabrielli, 41-59. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2017.
 - A journal article: “The Acid of History: La Peyrère, Hobbes, Spinoza, and the Separation of Faith and Reason in Modern Biblical Studies.” *Heythrop Journal* 58, no. 2 (2017): 169-80.

- An online magazine article: [“Explaining Bias and the History of Modern Biblical Scholarship: A Response to Thomas L. Thompson.”](#) *The Bible and Interpretation* (March 2017).
- Three book reviews:
 - Review of *Explorations in the Theology of Benedict XVI*, by John C. Cavadini. *The Thomist* 80, no. 3 (2016): 493-97.
 - [Review of *The Birth of the Trinity: Jesus, God, and Spirit in New Testament and Early Christian Interpretation of the Old Testament*](#), by Matthew W. Bates. *Reading Religion* (March 2017).
 - Review of *The Nocturnal Side of Science in Friedrich Strauss’s Life of Jesus Critically Examined*, by Thomas Fabisiak. *Review of Biblical Literature* (March 2017).

- ❖ **Victor Velarde-Mayol, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, published a book: [Being and Object \(Ser y Objeto: Estudios sobre la Teoría del Objeto en Meinong\)](#). Madrid, Spain: *Editorial Síntesis*, 2016.

- ❖ **Kimberly A. Mailley**, Assistant Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation and Coordinator of Seminary’s Theological Education for Parish Services (STEPS), published a magazine article: “A Special Occasion for New Jersey’s Deacons.” *Deacon Digest* 43, no. 2 (March 2017): 28-29. This news story, co-authored by Marcia Romanansky, was published in response to the November 2016 National Diaconate Convocation hosted by Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology’s Center for Diaconal Formation.

Conferences, Meetings, and Symposia

- ❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, participated in *The Future of the Catholic Literary Imagination*, an international conference sponsored by the Curran Center for American Catholic Studies, at Fordham University, New York City, on April 28, 2017.
- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor of Systematic Theology, participated in “Judaism and the Body of Christ,” a seminar sponsored by *First Things* magazine, in New York City, on May 1, 2017.

Other Scholarly and Professional Activity

- ❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, reviewed part of a book as an appointed *Censor Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, in January 2017.