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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.

Administrative Appointment

- ❖ **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, was appointed Interim Director of the Monsignor James C. Turro Seminary Library, effective November 15, 2023.

Publications

- ❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, with Father Thomas Berg, a visiting scholar at the University of Notre Dame's McGrath Institute for Church Life, and Dr. Timothy Lock, Director of Psychological Services at Saint Joseph's Seminary and College in New York, published a white paper: [“Fully Equipped for Every Good Work: A Proposal of Twelve Core Competencies in Ministering to Survivors of Sexual Abuse for Seminary Formation Programs.”](#) The paper, released in October 2023 by the University of

Notre Dame's McGrath Institute for Church Life, seeks to better prepare priests and seminarians to minister to abuse survivors using principles of trauma-informed care. The report was highlighted by the well-known, global Catholic media outlet, *Cruce*, on November 10, 2023, in an article written by John Lavenburg. The feature article in *Cruce* is titled "[ND program aims to help priests, seminarians minister to abuse survivors.](#)" Additionally, Seton Hall University published a [news story](#) about Dr. Anderson's work on this project.

- ❖ **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, published a book translation: [Meditaciones Diarias con el Espíritu Santo](#). Totowa, NJ: Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, 2023. Translation from English into Spanish of a book by Reverend Jude Winkler, O.F.M.Conv., *Daily Meditations with the Holy Spirit*. Totowa, NJ: Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, 2008. This translation became available in November 2023.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, published the following:
 - A book chapter: "Gianni Vattimo: Nihilism and Truth." In [Joseph Ratzinger in Dialogue with Philosophical Traditions: From Plato to Vattimo](#), edited by Alejandro Sada, Tracey Rowland, and Rudy Albino de Assunção, 358-70. London, England: T & T Clark, 2024.
 - Two articles on the website of the journal *First Things*:
 - ["What Pope Francis Could Learn from Fides et Ratio,"](#) in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's encyclical *Fides et Ratio* (*Faith and Reason*) (November 17, 2023).

- [“Remembering Avery Dulles”](#) (December 12, 2023).
- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology, published the following:
- A journal article: “Alfred Loisy’s Use of St. John Henry Newman: Newman’s Contested Modernist Legacy.” *Newman Studies Journal* 20, no. 2 (December 2023): 68-84.
 - A book review of *Bridging Scripture and Moral Theology: Essays in Dialogue with Yiu Sing Lúcas Chan, S.J.*, edited by Michael B. Cover, John Thiede, S.J., and Joshua Ezra Burns. *Review of Biblical Literature* (December 2023).
- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, with Vassilka D. Kirova (Nokia Bell Labs), Cyril S. Ku (Department of Computer Science, William Paterson University), and Thomas J. Marlowe (Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Seton Hall University), published a journal article: [“The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in the Era of Generative AI.”](#) *Journal of Systemics, Cybernetics, and Informatics* 21, no. 4 (December 31, 2023): 42-50.

Media Contributions

- ❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology, and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, was interviewed about his work, faith, and life by *Millennial Journal* editor Robert Christian, on July 27, 2023. [Dr. Manning’s interview](#) was part of the *Millennial Catholic Interviews* series, which features *Millennial* writers and guest writers, as the journal enters its second decade as a publication.

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology:
 - Was interviewed twelve times regarding books of the Old Testament, for the radio show [“Son Rise Morning Show,”](#) Sacred Heart Radio, Cincinnati, OH:
 - Interview on Judith (recorded October 31, 2023; aired November 2, 2023).
 - Interview on Esther (recorded October 31, 2023; aired November 9, 2023).
 - Interview on 1 Maccabees (recorded October 31, 2023; aired November 14, 2023).
 - Live interview on 2 Maccabees (aired November 21, 2023).
 - Interview on Job (recorded November 21, 2023; aired November 28, 2023).
 - Interview on Psalms (recorded November 21, 2023; aired December 5, 2023).
 - Interview on Proverbs (recorded December 12, 2023; aired December 12, 2023).
 - Interview on Ecclesiastes (recorded December 12, 2023; aired December 21, 2023).
 - Interview on Song of Solomon (recorded December 12, 2023; aired January 2, 2024).
 - Live interview on Jeremiah (aired January 30, 2024).
 - Interview on Lamentations (recorded January 30, 2024; aired February 6, 2024).
 - Interview on Baruch (recorded January 30, 2024; aired February 13, 2024).
 - Was interviewed for and quoted in an online magazine article: [“The Flagship Document of Pope Francis’s Papacy: *Evangelii Gaudium* at Ten,”](#) by J.J. Ziegler, in *The Catholic World Report* (November 25, 2023).
 - Participated in a live podcast roundtable discussion with fellow Catholic Bible scholars Nathan Mastnjak and Nathan Schmiedicke. The discussion was moderated by John DeRosa, for an episode of *The Classical Theism Podcast*, on January 29, 2024. The topic of the podcast episode was “The Pentateuch: Theology and Authorship: Roundtable with Three Catholic Bible Scholars.” A recording of the discussion will be made available at <https://www.classicaltheism.com/episodes/>

- ❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, was interviewed by host Paul Scarfone for episode 36 of the [Catholic Money Talk](#) podcast. Dr. Anderson discussed the intersection of the virtues of prudence and hope in relation to financial decision making. The interview was conducted on November 27, 2023, and aired on December 4, 2023. As of mid-February 2024, the podcast interview has been downloaded 74 times by audience members in the United States and around the globe.

- ❖ **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation, on January 9, 2024, was interviewed by the religion reporter at *Slate*, an online general interest magazine, regarding actor Shia LaBeouf, who recently played the title role in the movie [Padre Pio](#). LaBeouf's experience resulted in his confirmation in the Catholic Faith and his interest in one day becoming a deacon. This led the *Slate* editors to wonder what that means for LaBeouf. In his interview, Deacon Saunders provided background understanding of the permanent diaconate and its lifestyle implications. Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology was mentioned in [the article](#), and Deacon Saunders was thanked for his participation in the interview.

Special Events

- ❖ Fifteen members of the ICSST administration and staff gathered for a retreat day, convened by **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, and **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology. **Reverend Mariusz Eugene R. Koch, C.F.R., M.Div., M.A.**, Spiritual Director, facilitated

the retreat on the theme “The Treasure of Christ Present in the Eucharist.” The retreat was held at Villa Pauline, Mallinckrodt Convent, Mendham, NJ, on November 3, 2023. The day included reflections by Father Koch on the life of Servant of God, Father Walter Ciszek, S.J.; a healing procession with the Most Blessed Sacrament; Mass; and time together for prayer and discussion.

- ❖ ICSST hosted a lecture and book-signing by **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, in celebration of the recent publication of her co-edited book, [*New Narratives for Old: The Historical Method of Reading Early Christian Theology: Essays in Honor of Michel René Barnes*](#) (The Catholic University of America Press, 2022). Dr. Scully also authored one chapter and co-authored another chapter of this book. In her lecture, Dr. Scully discussed best practices for reading and understanding historical texts about God and other non-historical, eternal truths, and explained why it is essential that the academic discipline of historical theology not ignore the historicity of these texts and their continuing ability to teach eternal truths. A light reception in the Seminary Refectory followed Dr. Scully’s lecture, and copies of her book were available for purchase. Twenty-three people attended the lecture, which was held in the Seminary’s Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, on November 29, 2023.

- ❖ Since 2019, Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology has offered reflection series during the Advent and Lenten seasons, uniting in prayer during these key liturgical seasons more than 2,400 Seton Hall students, faculty, staff, administrators, and other community members from near and far. In Advent 2023, ICSST was pleased to sponsor a series of reflections titled *The Hospitality of Advent*. This series explored and considered how Mary,

Joseph, Elizabeth, and other great figures of the Gospels and Church tradition welcomed Jesus into their hearts. In preparation for the coming of our Lord at Christmas, ICSST encouraged the audience of the series to reflect on questions including: How might Jesus be beckoning us this Advent to a greater understanding and appreciation of God's desire to come to us, dwell, within us, and be welcomed into our homes and hearts? How might this year's Advent be a journey of an 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 3, 2023, and continuing through Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023. **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, was responsible for overseeing the series and authored one of the meditations. Among the other 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.**, Vice Provost for Academics and Catholic Identity; **Gregory Y. Glazov, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, Professor and Chair of Biblical Studies; **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology; **Reverend Douglas J. Milewski, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology; **Diane M. Carr, M.A. '07**, Coordinator of Graduate and International Services; **Gregory C. Floyd, M.A. '04**, Assistant Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation; and **Michael F. Burt**, Senior Director of Seminary Advancement. The reflections are available at

<https://www.shu.edu/theology/the-hospitality-of-advent-daily-meditations.html>

- ❖ On February 8, 2024, at The Madison Hotel, Morristown, NJ, the Diaconal Leaders Forum convened a two-day meeting of diaconal formators from across New Jersey, along with leaders

from Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, as part of ICSST's *Pathways 4:12* initiative funded by the Lilly Endowment. The forum was designed and led by **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation, with facilitation by **John Potter, M.A.**, Co-Director of the *Pathways 4:12* Grant Initiative. Presentations were given by diaconal leaders, as well as by **Raymond Mancison**, a current ICSST graduate student and a Catholic entrepreneur. The conference focused on the ministry readiness of deacons in the 21st century, as well as on the formation necessary for those men preparing for the permanent diaconate.

Participants from the Seminary leadership were **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology; **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L., S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, and Interim Director of the Seminary Library; and **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, and Co-Director of the *Pathways 4:12* Grant Initiative.

Joining them were **Gregory C. Floyd, M.A. '04**, Assistant Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation, and **Alyssa V. Carolan, M.A. '20**, Coordinator of Programs for the *Pathways 4:12* Grant Initiative, along with five diaconal formators from the (Arch)dioceses of Newark, Paterson, Metuchen, and Trenton.

In addition to analysis of the current formation program and the results of a recent survey conducted by ICSST's Center for Diaconal Formation, the meeting included time for prayer and fellowship among participants. This led to much fruitful discussion regarding possible changes to the diaconal formation program to make the program more responsive to the ever-changing needs of contemporary society. The dialogue was genuine, frank, and respectful, a

microcosm of the Church at her best, with clergy and laity, men and women working together to create an even more finely tuned program to enable future deacons truly to be “all things to all people” (1 Corinthians 9:22).

Mission and Service

- ❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, served as an invited member of a panel on Promotion and Contract Renewal, at Seton Hall University New Faculty Orientation, held at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on August 15, 2023. Forty-seven new faculty members attended.

- ❖ **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology:
 - For [Communion and Liberation](#), a lay movement within the Catholic Church, was appointed a group leader for the Our Lady of Sorrows, South Orange, NJ, School of Community, effective September 2023.
 - Presented a formation talk on the topic “Holiness and the Laity,” for all resident seminarians of the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew’s Hall, SHU, South Orange, NJ, on October 22, 2023.

- ❖ **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L., S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, and Interim Director of the Seminary Library:
 - Was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of Assumption College for Sisters, Mendham, NJ, on October 18, 2023.

- Presented three Advent evening reflections for the Parish Mission, *In the Footsteps of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph: An Advent Pilgrimage with the Holy Family*, at Immaculate Conception Parish, Secaucus, NJ. Approximately 40 people attended each reflection:
 - “Jesus: The Gift of the Father,” on December 5, 2023.
 - “Mary: A Disciple Like Us,” on December 6, 2023.
 - “Joseph: A Guide on Our Journey,” on December 7, 2023.

- ❖ The Archdiocese of Newark Office of Evangelization and The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart presented an Array of Hope event: *BEHOLD A Eucharistic Revival – A Live Three-Night Encounter*, from November 2 to 4, 2023. The nights included talks, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, music provided by Array of Hope Music, and Mass. **David C. Hajduk, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Moral Theology at ICSST and Director of Theology for Array of Hope, served as a speaker during the three-night Mission. **Reverend Mariusz Eugene R. Koch, C.F.R., M.Div., M.A.**, Spiritual Director, served at a healing Eucharistic service with a reflection on Jesus as Healer, on November 2, 2023. **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, served as the minister of Eucharistic Exposition and as a confessor, on November 3, 2023. More than 500 people attended.

- ❖ **David C. Hajduk, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Moral Theology, presented the following:
 - Newark Archdiocesan catechist convocation, on the topic *Gender Ideology*, at Paramus Catholic High School, Paramus, NJ, on November 4, 2023. Approximately 75 people attended.

- *BEHOLD A Eucharistic Revival – A Live Three-Night Encounter*, at St. Lawrence Parish, Chester, NJ, from December 4 to 6, 2023. Approximately 750 people attended.
- Faculty retreat for St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Edison, NJ, on the topic *Living the Mission of a Catholic School*. The retreat was held at St. James Parish, Woodbridge, NJ, on December 8, 2023. Approximately 90 people attended.
- “God Comes Close: Reflections on the Eucharist.” Presentation at a men’s breakfast, at Little Flower Parish, Berkeley Heights, NJ, on December 9, 2023. Approximately 75 people attended.

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

- For the introduction to *Forty Hours of Eucharistic Devotion*, preached on the theme “True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist,” at 5 p.m. Mass at St. Benedict Church, Holmdel, NJ, on November 5, 2023. Several hundred people attended.
- Facilitated a morning of recollection for priests who work in the Polish apostolate, at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Linden, NJ, on November 30, 2023. The morning included exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; a conference on the life of Father Walter Ciszek, author of the book *With God in Russia*; and celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Twenty priests attended.
- Facilitated an Advent day of recollection on the theme “The Joy of the Gospel,” for the Filipino community Missionary Families of Christ (MFC). The day was held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lyndhurst, NJ, on December 2, 2023. Father Koch celebrated Mass and served as homilist, delivered two talks followed by Q&A, presided at Holy Hour with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Approximately 80 people from throughout New Jersey attended.

- Facilitated a Christmas season retreat for the Poor Clare Sisters, at Our Lady of Solitude Monastery, Phoenix, AZ, from December 26 to 31, 2023. In addition to celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Father Koch celebrated daily Mass, offering a Gospel-based spiritual reflection at each Mass. Six Sisters attended the retreat.
- Is facilitating a formation group of seminarians at the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Andrew's Hall, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, throughout the Spring 2024 semester. The group is focused on reflecting on the Psalms.
- Facilitated a three-day retreat on the theme *Becoming a Disciple of Jesus* for lay missionaries serving the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in the Bronx, NY. The retreat was held at Blue Army Shrine, Washington NJ, from January 26 to 28, 2024. Father Koch delivered two talks per day, served as celebrant and homilist at daily Mass, and celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Six people attended.
- Facilitated a morning retreat for the associates and friends of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, at St. Michael Convent and Church, Atlantic City, NJ, on February 3, 2024. The retreat included Mass, a healing procession with the Blessed Sacrament, blessing of throats for the feast of St. Blaise, and celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The theme of Father Koch's homily was "Reparations for Sins Against Jesus and Mary." Approximately 150 people attended.
- Delivered a conference on the theme "Franciscan Discernment" for a small group of associates of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, at St. Michael Convent and Church, Atlantic City, NJ, on February 3, 2024. Fifteen people attended.
- Served at an Ash Wednesday penance service, celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, at Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ, on February 14, 2024.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, served as Mass celebrant and homilist at the annual Gold Mass honoring the relationship between the sciences and the Catholic Faith. The Mass was sponsored by the Seton Hall University chapter of the [Society of Catholic Scientists](#) and held in the University’s Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on the feast day of St. Albert the Great, patron saint of scientists, November 15, 2023. Fifty-three people attended.

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology, presented the following:
 - “Relativism.” Lecture for The Grade, a program for high school men, at Murray Hill Place Conference Center, New York City, NY, on November 18, 2023. Ten people attended.
 - [“Murmuring Against Moses: Debate on the Authorship of the Pentateuch among Jewish and Christian Scholars.”](#) Lecture sponsored by the Aquinas Institute at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, on November 29, 2023. Approximately 40 people attended.
 - Talk on the topic of Faith, for The Forge, a club for boys in middle school, in Boonton, NJ, on December 1, 2023. Approximately 20 boys attended.
 - Three lectures for the series *Advent and Scripture: How the Old Testament Prepares for the Coming of Christ at Christmas*, at Our Lady of Peace Parish, New Providence, NJ:
 - [Part 1](#), on December 4, 2023. Approximately 20 people attended.
 - [Part 2](#), on December 11, 2023. Approximately 20 people attended.
 - [Part 3](#), on December 18, 2023. Approximately 15 people attended.

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

- “Mary’s *Fiat* Gave us our Redemption.” Presentation, for the parish event *Advent by Candlelight*, at St. Anthony Parish, Hawthorne, NJ, on December 3, 2023. The event was a gift for women to gather for a time of spiritual reflection on the significance and beauty of the Advent season. Approximately 250 women attended.
- Morning of recollection on *The Hospitality of St. Priscilla: Wife, Friend, and Woman of Faith*, at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Jersey City, NJ, on January 27, 2024. Approximately 90 women attended.

Conferences, Meetings, Panel Discussions, and Symposia

❖ Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D., Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology:

- Presented “Science and Faith: Past, Present, and Future.” Closing keynote address, at the second annual Faculty Development Day for Catholic School Teachers, sponsored by Seton Hall University’s Center for Catholic Studies in partnership with the University of Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute for Church Life, and held at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on November 3, 2023. More than 50 teachers, administrators, and educators representing 20 Catholic schools across four dioceses gathered for a full day of talks, discussion, and dialogue on this year’s program theme, [*Science and Faith: Exploring the Relationship*](#). Father Laracy’s presentation addressed the roots of the faith-science conflict hypothesis and the arguments, both realist and metaphysical, that dispel it.
- Co-presented with **Thomas J. Marlowe, Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus in the Seton Hall University Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, “Ethics in the Era of Artificial Intelligence—Personal, Professional, and Societal.” Lecture, as part of the day-long conference [*Civilizational Prospects: Engaging “Wicked Problems,”*](#) sponsored by Seton Hall University’s Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership and the Center for

Catholic Studies, at SHU, on November 17, 2023. Approximately 25 people attended the presentation.

Other Scholarly and Professional Activity

- ❖ **David C. Hajduk, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Moral Theology, as previously reported, published a book: [*Healing the Culture and the Family According to John Paul II*](#). Waterloo, Ontario, Canada: Arouca Press, 2022. Reverend Gerald E. Murray published [a review of this book](#) in the October 2023 issue of *Homiletic and Pastoral Review*.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, served as a reviewer for:
 - *Applied Sciences* journal, on November 20, 2023.
 - *Religions* journal, on January 3, 2024.