A CATHOLIC VISION OF LIFE

All of us live by some philosophy, whether we know it or not. These four lectures will present a Catholic vision of life inspired by the work of Bernard Lonergan, S. J. (1904–1984) and his writings on human consciousness. Lonergan was a Canadian Jesuit theologian whose works have had a worldwide influence. His work itself was rooted in the Christian doctrines of the Trinity, Christ and grace as well as in classic philosophy, John Henry Newman and the contemporary sciences. Participants will be asked to identify the elements of a Catholic and catholic - wholistic - vision in their own experiences.

These lectures are open to all. For more information, email Msgr. Richard Liddy at liddyric@shu.edu

About the Lecturer: Monsignor Richard M. Liddy, Ph.D., is the University Professor of Catholic Thought, and Culture and the director of the Center for Catholic Studies at Seton Hall University.

The audience I envision for these lectures are the people who get off the train each day from New York City in South Orange and surrounding towns and who are involved in various professions: business, law, etc. They are open to such philosophical questions as: Who am I? What are we for? What is the meaning and purpose of our lives? Is there a God? Is there “grace” that heals and redeems us?
Monsignor Liddy is currently a faculty member of the Religious Studies Department and previously served as spiritual director and rector/dean of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology. In addition, he served as acting chancellor of the University in 1990. He also was spiritual director of the North American College in Rome from 1980 to 1984. Monsignor Liddy’s doctoral dissertation examined the work of the American philosopher of art, Susanne K. Langer. In 1978 he published a book of poetry, *In God’s Gentle Arms*. In 1993 he published a work on the Jesuit philosopher-theologian, Bernard J. Lonergan (1904-84), entitled *Transforming Light: Intellectual Conversion in the Early Lonergan*. His next book, “*Startling Strangeness*: Reading Lonergan’s *Insight*,” was published in November 2006. This latest work treats his own encounter with Lonergan as the philosopher’s student in Rome in the 1960s. Also in 2006, the Bernard J. Lonergan Institute at Seton Hall was inaugurated, under the direction of Monsignor Liddy. The Institute functions as a research center containing all significant primary and secondary literature on Lonergan, and will serve to implement his vision of integrating Catholic theology with modern culture. Monsignor Liddy has written articles in national periodicals on the thought of Cardinal Newman as well as on art, education, formation and Church leadership. Recently he has written on method and methodological distinctions between the disciplines. For recreation, he enjoys playing golf.

Founded at Seton Hall University in 1997, The Center for Catholic Studies ([www.shu.edu/go/ccs](http://www.shu.edu/go/ccs)) is dedicated to fostering a dialogue between the Catholic intellectual tradition and all areas of study and contemporary culture, through scholarly research and publications and ongoing programs for faculty, students, and the general public. In 2001, the Center conducted the annual faculty summer seminar, “The Core of the Core,” which originated the present University Core Curriculum. The Center also developed the undergraduate degree program in Catholic Studies with its major, minor and certificate, which in 2012 became the Department of Catholic Studies ([www.shu.edu/go/dcs](http://www.shu.edu/go/dcs)). The Center continues to support the Department with scholarship aid and its ongoing program of co-curricular activities.

Focusing on the central role of the faculty, the Center is the sponsor of regular Faculty Development programs, including lectures, seminars and retreats. The Center also administers two national faculty development programs: *Collegium: A Colloquy on Faith and Intellectual Life*, and *The Lilly Fellows Program*. The Center has also helped to establish the Toth/Lonergan Endowed Chair in Interdisciplinary Studies to honor the memory and legacy of Bill Toth by bringing exceptional scholars and outstanding contemporary thinkers to the university to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue and studies.

The Center maintains a global focus in international scholarship and is the home of the G.K Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture, as well as the Bernard J. Lonergan Institute. The Institutes offer opportunities for study and research, as well as ongoing programs related to faith and culture. In addition, the Micah Institute for Business and Economics concentrates on communicating Catholic Social Teaching and ethics to business education at Seton Hall and the wider business community. The Center also publishes the prestigious *Chesterton Review* and *The Lonergan Review*. For further information about the Center for Catholic Studies please contact (973) 275-2525 or Richard.liddy@shu.edu