Dear Friends,

Warm greetings as we prepare again to welcome in our hearts the holy child welcomed in a stable. What a strange entrance by God into our loud and distracted humanity? Like a single light suddenly struck in the darkness, the long-awaited child is born unsuspected.

For many of us this year has chastened us—a global pandemic, an exhausted nation, the meanness of our political discourse, and the daily challenges of our communities, our families, and those of our own hearts. Yet, the beauty of Christmas recasts our weary world in the soft glow of its warm incandescence and reminds us that nothing exists which cannot be redeemed. The Magi and the Shepherds both stooped to learn that God not only created a world but also entered into it. In the child in the manger, the God who created us in his image, in an act of unimaginable tenderness, takes our image as his own in order to restore it.

In the Liturgy of the Hours for Christmas morning, Pope Leo the Great reminds us that the Incarnation is a mystery that stretches from Bethlehem to Calvary. Our common humanity redisCOVERS its infinite worth in the birth and death of Christ: “Christian, remember your dignity... for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.”
The first moments of the incarnation already contain all that they would unfold: darkness and light, death and life, poverty and abundance, fear and joy, humanity and divinity, silence and the first human cries of divine love.

In response to such a mystery, those gathered in Bethlehem provide us two models for joy. There are the exuberant proclamations of the Angels in glory and also the quieter interior joy of Mary, a young woman and a new mother, holding many things in her heart and the Son of God in her hands.

May this Christmas bring each of you a measure of that deep interior joy, conceived in faith and quickened by hope, which keeps vigil all through the night. And may we take as our example Mary of Nazareth, who “conceived Christ in her heart before her womb” (St. Augustine). She reminds us that the Savior comes knocking gently at the door of each heart so that we, through our yes, might also bring him to birth in the world.

In peace and with goodwill to all,

Gregory P. Floyd, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Catholic Studies

2020 has been a year of transition for everyone, and the Center for Catholic Studies is no exception. On July 1st, Monsignor Richard Liddy retired from his role of twenty-three years as director of the Center. For over two decades, Msgr. Liddy has grown the Center and used it to promote the Catholic identity of Seton Hall in the lives of countless students, faculty, staff, and administrators. I look forward to securing and developing his legacy of spiritual and intellectual enrichment.

The Center is tasked with fostering a dialogue with the university and contemporary culture. Despite the many changes and challenges of doing so in a pandemic, we have continued to thrive. We remain committed to ongoing faculty development which was a hallmark of Msgr. Liddy’s tenure. We presently support both the University’s Seminars on Mission and the Praxis Program which together have over 100 faculty reading, discussing, and appropriating the Catholic tradition. We are also engaging new sectors of our campus and community. We launched our new Faith in the Public Square series this September with a four-night symposium on “Faith and Racial Justice.” It was a huge success with almost 400 attendees! This spring we will launch another series on science and religion. We hope this will engage our many students, faculty, and community members studying and working in the field of healthcare. The light of the Gospel and its joy leave no corner of human life untouched, and the university is a privileged place to pursue this call to transformation.

We are also thrilled to welcome Dr. Mike Stebbins for a second year as the holder of the Toth-Lonergan Endowed Chair in Interdisciplinary Studies. The Toth-Lonergan Chair brings a prominent Catholic intellectual to campus to work directly with our students and faculty to build a deeper awareness of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and the life of faith. The Chair is essential to the work we do, and it was a signal achievement of Msgr. Liddy and an act of love for two great Catholic men and scholars: Fr. Bernard Lonergan and Deacon William Toth. We are working hard to establish that achievement for the future and we are deeply grateful for your generosity and support.

Times of difficulty can often be times of clarity. This past year has shown us the importance of community and the transforming power of religious faith, which gives us hope, teaches us to forgive, and invites us to build. At the Center, we continue to build and extend the Catholic mission of Seton Hall University by engaging things old and new, sacred and secular, in view of the full breadth and depth of human life and culture. It is a demanding task but a joyful one which invites us all to remain open to the Spirit and attentive to the particular currents of grace and inspiration at work in a university community.
In August 2020, after 46 years of outstanding service, Father Ian Boyd, C.S.B., announced his retirement as editor of *The Chesterton Review*, the journal he founded in Canada in 1974.

He has been succeeded as editor by Professor Dermot Quinn, his colleague and friend of many years at the G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture at Seton Hall University. Father Boyd, who will continue to serve as Founder and President Emeritus of the Institute, hopes to return to Seton Hall for the fiftieth birthday of the *Review* in four years’ time. In the meantime, a plaque and permanent exhibition have been placed in Walsh Library to honor Father Boyd’s twenty years at Seton Hall and the work of the Chesterton Institute in Canada and the United States since 1974.

Father Boyd’s retirement brings to a close one of the longest editorships of any literary journal in the English-speaking world. Only Robert Silvers of *The New York Review of Books* has enjoyed a longer tenure. It also marks the culmination of a career of exceptional achievement. “There really is nothing like *The Chesterton Review*,” Professor Philip Jenkins has written, “and if there ever was, it existed in a bygone Golden Age of journals and magazines.”

By the same token, there is no-one like Father Boyd. A scholar of international reputation, he has been the leading figure in the world-wide revival of interest in Chesterton that has taken place over the last fifty years. Beginning with the publication of his ground-breaking monograph *The Novels of G.K. Chesterton* and continuing with his work as editor of *The Chesterton Review*, he has promoted serious academic study of Chesterton and his circle and of the intellectual tradition that they represent. In addition, he has travelled the globe to speak at Chesterton conferences and seminars, an instantly recognizable and much-loved figure in universities across the world, captivating audiences with his trademark erudition, wit, and humor. Like Chesterton’s Father Brown, Father Boyd has a way of appearing in unusual places and solving unusual problems, a scholar’s scholar but also a priest’s priest, gentle, firm, wise, insightful, and benign. Chesterton could have had no better representative for the last five decades.

“I have, almost literally, very large shoes to fill,” said Professor Dermot Quinn, paying tribute to Father Boyd’s work as editor of *The Chesterton Review*. “Everything he did for the journal was marked by his wonderfully sharp and penetrating intelligence, his extraordinary breadth of reading, his creative editorial imagination, and his marvelous gift for anecdote and apposite quotation. He also insisted that good writing should be at the heart of the *Review*, that its prose should be worthy of its subject. I hope to continue that tradition.”

A graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and New College, Oxford, Professor Quinn has been a member of the History Department at Seton Hall since 1990. The author of three books and many articles, he has written and spoken extensively on Chestertonian themes for over thirty years.

For more information about our work please visit: www.shu.edu/go/chesterton or contact us by email: chestertoninstitute@shu.edu

Father Ian Boyd, C.S.B.: President Emeritus & Founding Editor of *The Chesterton Review*

Dermot Quinn: Editor, *The Chesterton Review*

Gloria Garafulich-Grabois: Director, G. K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture & Managing Editor of *The Chesterton Review*
Msgr. Liddy first came to Seton Hall in September of 1952, attending Seton Hall Preparatory School.

In 1956 he entered Seton Hall University and graduated with the class of 1960.

A desire for Catholic priesthood led him to Immaculate Conception Seminary and eventually, to the North American College in Rome where he was ordained a priest on December 18, 1963.

Msgr. Liddy has the extraordinary way of touching the hearts of every person he encounters. I’m blessed to say that my life has personally been impacted by the kindness Monsignor Liddy radiates, a kindness that is so seldom found in today’s world. Monsignor Liddy truly emulates the love that Christ would want us to show one another. As the current Graduate Assistant for the Center for Catholic Studies, I had the privilege of working closely with Monsignor. I’m truly blessed for our time together.

— Ashley Banks, B.S. ’19, M.A./Ed.S. ’22, Graduate Assistant for the Center for Catholic Studies 2019-2021

It’s an honor to have this opportunity to celebrate Msgr. Liddy’s career at Seton Hall. As a sophomore, I took his Catholicism and Art course, which inspired me to change my major to Catholic Studies. His guidance and kindness over the years have helped me discover and follow a vocational path— one that has led me full circle to my current work teaching for the Seton Hall Catholic Studies Program. Msgr. Liddy has shown a rare combination of insightful scholarship and humble, every-day sanctity. His is a generous, other-centered spirit. Similar to a good parent, Msgr. Liddy is attentive to the concrete needs of students. I will always remember how he chose to live in the Xavier dormitory amongst the students, opened his door each evening for night prayer, fed us, shared his books, offered fellowship and counsel, and checked in to cheer our successes long after graduation. It was clear that he cared for our human, spiritual, and intellectual development. His presence in the lives of students at Seton Hall will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

— Amy Giuliano, B.A. Catholic Studies, ’09, M.A. Yale University, Director, VADIS VR
Father Bernard Lonergan once wrote that divine revelation is “God's entry into man's making of man,” that is, God “wanting to have a say” in what we do with our lives and the worlds we humans create. So, it is not surprising that in our times Catholic Studies Centers and programs have emerged treating topics such as Catholicism and nursing, Catholicism and art, Catholicism and science, politics, sports, etc. It has been for me a great grace to have been in on this great project for the last twenty-three years and to have helped in creating the conditions for this to take place at Seton Hall University. I am grateful to all my sisters and brothers in Christ who have in any way joined in on this great project. Thank you!

“Richard M. Liddy

On November 10th, friends and colleagues gathered from around the globe for a virtual event celebrating Msgr. Richard Liddy’s legacy and honoring him for his service to the University and the Center for Catholic Studies. Speakers, both live and by video, included the University Provost, Dr. Katia Passerini; Fr. John Dennehy, University Chaplain; Mrs. Kathleen Toth, speaking about Bill Toth, her husband; Prof. Michael Ambrosio of Seton Hall Law School; J. Michael Stebbins, current Toth-Lonergan Visiting Professor; Gregory Floyd, Director of the Center for Catholic Studies; Msgr. Gerard McCarren, Associate Professor and Spiritual Director, Immaculate Conception Seminary; several student tributes and Msgr. Liddy himself. Msgr. Liddy's nearly seventy years associated with Seton Hall were highlighted, culminating with his work at the Center for Catholic Studies. In 1997, at the incentive of Msgr. Robert Sheeran, then the President of Seton Hall, he founded the Center, and presided there until this past summer of 2020, when the reigns were handed to Dr. Gregory Floyd, a firm stake in the Center’s sustainability. A second stake in the Center’s sustainability, the Toth-Lonergan Endowed Chair was also highlighted, including tributes to Deacon William Toth, and to his spirit that continues to inspires us. Thanks to the support of our donors over the years, this Chair provides an ongoing Visiting Professorship that is a centerpiece of the continuity and scholarship of the Center. https://www.shu.edu/catholic-studies-center/toth-lonergan-endowed-chair.cfm

HONORING MSGR. LIDDY— A VIRTUAL GATHERING

Msgr. Liddy’s contributions to the “Idea of the University” center around a humanistic view of the education of the whole person, for the world and for God. Here the meaning of the mission of the university transcends to focus on fostering the formation and transformation of body, mind and spirit, as the University mission says, through “academic and ethical development” and a “values centered curricula.” Msgr. Liddy’s many contributions have been not only spiritual in nature, and at the heart of the mission of the university, but also quantifiable, material, and manifest. For example, the ongoing work of the Center includes foundational contributions to the development of the CORE program; ongoing mission driven faculty development; the development of an academic degree program, the B.A. in Catholic Studies, now thriving in the hands of Dr. Ines Murzaku and graduating hundreds of students over the years. The Center also includes the work of several Institutes— the G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture, the Bernard J. Lonergan Institute, and Micah Institute for Business and Economics, and two journals, The Lonergan Review and The Chesterton Review, as well as several endowed funds, an endowed chair, a solidly operating center, and a future that is bright with hope. Tributes from all over the world were recorded as we gathered to honor Msgr. Liddy’s for his friendship and good works, for being at the center of Catholic initiatives at Seton Hall, and for his hand in fulfilling the promise of a Catholic education.

For more information about how you can support Msgr. Liddy’s legacy and the work of the Center, please visit www.shu.edu/go/ccc
We recently marked the passing of The Most Reverend John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D., Archbishop Emeritus of Newark, and Seton Hall University has special reasons to continue to celebrate his life and his contributions to the life of the Church of Newark and beyond.

From 2001 through 2016, Archbishop Myers served as Chair of the Seton Hall University Board of Trustees and as President of the University’s Board of Regents. Under Archbishop Myers’ leadership, these governing bodies established the Departments of Catholic Studies and Core Curriculum, both of which are designed to encourage students to ask the “big questions” of the ages and seek the Truth.

Dr. Ines Murzaku, Director of the Catholic Studies Program, recalls Archbishop Myers presenting the Apostolic Blessing that Pope Francis had bestowed upon the newly established Department of Catholic Studies in 2013. She also notes, “Catholic Studies’ Archbishop John J. Myers Lecture Series on Law, Society & Faith, was named in recognition of his faithful and steadfast promotion of our Catholic mission and the leadership and guidance he gave to Seton Hall University.”

More more information on the Catholic Studies Program, visit https://www.shu.edu/catholic-studies-department/index.cfm

Tributes from Catholic Studies alumni include:

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Archbishop Myers: a man whose unwavering zeal for souls and unrelenting love for the Church made it possible to reinforce the Catholic identity of Seton Hall by affording students an opportunity to delve deeper into their Catholic faith across the different academic disciplines. Thank you for unapologetically furthering the Church’s mission and contributing to the integral development of the human person as outlined by the rich Catholic intellectual tradition throughout the history of Christianity.
—Rev. Cesar D. Jaramillo, JCL ‘13
Diocese of Paterson

At the bedrock of our Catholic university is our Catholic Studies Department. Without it, we are little more than tax-dodging landowners. But even beyond the University’s obligation to the principles it has publicly assumed, a strong Catholic Studies presence is an asset to each student around it. I’ve not found, nor been recommended, a program as intellectually challenging and spiritually fulfilling as Catholic Studies. I commend Archbishop Myers, and any leader, secular or ordained, for their steadfast efforts in its preservation.
—Christian Zeron, ’16
Founder—President Theo & Harris
2020 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

On FEBRUARY 4, guest lecturer Paul St. Amour, Ph.D., St. Joseph’s University, delivered the talk “Is Globalization Good: A Critical Analysis” with a response from J. Michael Stebbins, Toth-Lonergan Visiting Professor. This presentation focused on the philosophical and economic writings of Bernard Lonergan, who provided an explanatory and powerful heuristic for the critical analysis of globalization. Lonergan distinguished natural, technical, economic, political, and cultural “schemes of recurrence” and clarified how these are related.

On MAY 28 AND 29, Msgr. Gerard McCarren hosted the twenty-second annual Faculty Summer Seminar, “Discerning the Spirit.” The seminar explored in depth St. Ignatius of Loyola’s “Rules for the Discernment of Spirit” in his Spiritual Exercises, which provide a way of detecting the presence and action of God’s Holy Spirit in our lives. With Msgr. McCarren’s guidance, the faculty examined the rules to evaluate how they may help facilitate teaching and scholarly work as well as provide direction throughout daily life.

On SEPTEMBER 21–24, the Center for Catholic Studies hosted a campus wide teach-in on “Faith and Racial Justice.” This event was the inaugural symposium for an ongoing series on Faith in the Public Square. The symposium offered Seton Hall students, faculty, and administrators an opportunity to discuss racial issues in the context of our university and from the perspective of its Catholic identity, and how religious faith might assist and inspire the pursuit of racial justice. Speakers included Gloria Purvis, Shawn Copeland, Andrew Prevot and Kelly Harris.

On OCTOBER 15, The Bernard Lonergan Institute presented its Annual Fall Lecture with Jeremy Wilkins, Ph.D. of Boston College on “Politics and The Cross: Friendship and Responsibility in an Age of Dysfunction.” The lecture aimed to address questions such as how we approach civic responsibility at a time of cultural conflict, declining trust, and political dysfunction. Prof. Wilkins established that to be responsible today, we have to ask not what side we should take, but how we can foster genuine civil conversation. To be a true friend to others — and to oneself — requires us to remember that the worst harm that could befall us is the mutilation of our own moral being.

Toth-Lonergan Endowed Professorship

We are very pleased to announce that J. Michael Stebbins, Ph.D. was re-appointed as the Toth-Lonergan Endowed Visiting Professor for the 2020-2021 academic year. Prof. Stebbins’ areas of expertise include systematic theology, ethics, human cognition and decision making, and the theological and philosophical work of Bernard Lonergan. He will continue to teach in the Honors Program, conduct faculty development in the Praxis Program of the Advanced Seminar on Mission, and present periodic lectures, among other activities.

On December 8th, Dr. Stebbins gave the annual Toth-Lonergan lecture, “Eternal Life: What is it? Why does it matter? What can we hope for?”

Lonergan Review New Issue Dec. 2020

The newest volume of The Lonergan Review, Vol. XI: At the Level of Our Time, shows the enduring relevance of Lonergan’s thought for our civic self-understanding, contemporary theology, and our professional vocations. Be sure to add it to your holiday reading.

For more information and to subscribe, please visit pdcnet.org/lonerganreview/The-Lonergan-Review

Dr. Ines Murzaku’s Upcoming Book

Dr. Ines Angeli Murzaku, Professor of Religion and Director of Catholic Studies Program, was interviewed by Voice of America, the largest U.S. international broadcaster, providing news and information in more than 40 languages to an estimated weekly audience of more than 280 million people, on her new and upcoming book entitled Mother Teresa, Saint of the Peripheries. Dr. Murzaku explained the focus of her upcoming book, and how it connects and applies Pope Francis’ theology of the peripheries in the life and mission of the most celebrated woman of the twentieth century, St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata.
For the past eight years, faculty and administrators at Seton Hall have participated in the ongoing Praxis Program of the Advanced Seminar on Mission, sponsored by the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership and co-sponsored by the Center for Catholic Studies, in order to enhance their fulfillment of the Catholic mission of the university. The program directors chose the theologian philosopher Bernard Lonergan, S.J.’s Generalized Empirical Method (GEM) as a model to help graduates of two previous mission seminars to employ a uniquely personalized approach in applying pedagogical principles and practices with Seton Hall’s mission in mind.

The program commenced in 2013 with an initial cohort of 15 faculty and administrators and has continued up to the present with a new cohort every two years, now numbering over 80. Discussions and readings focused, for the most part, on Lonergan's cognitional structure (language for thinking, questioning, and knowing) and transcendental precepts regarding intelligence, reasonableness, and responsibility that open up to the question of God. Each cohort member, after the first year of study, subsequently prepares an Application of the Method (ATM) in order to examine and revise some aspect or aspects of their or her academic life. In subsequent years, each participant submits updates that described the progress of his or her ATM.

The GEM process has resulted in new courses, interdisciplinary collaborations, and curricular changes that contribute to student formation and critical thinking. New academic techniques, pedagogies, and redesigned courses have helped students to understand their own learning process and to seek their own authenticity in their academic and personal lives. Thus, pedagogical inclusion of the method has resulted in students’ greater understanding of themselves, their human subjects, and in their analysis of the subjects they study.

In addition to the readings, discussions have helped participants inform new pedagogies and self-understanding. A profound personal development, reflection, and a deeper understanding of their own authenticity are all indications that they have internalized Lonergan’s GEM method. Through the process of creating the ATMs and assuring their follow through, our faculty and administrators almost universally have experienced significant interior development that parallels the restructuring of their courses and pedagogies.

In these extremely challenging times that we all face today, university education has worked hard to change and adapt to the times. Countless hours have been spent by faculty, administrators and students learning new skills and methods to transmit knowledge and to discern new paths to communicate empathy and wisdom. There is no doubt that while university education has changed, it will endure, and, like a family, in good times and in hard times, we endure together. Our Center’s work has survived and grown over the years, in large part, thanks to your thoughtfulness and generosity, as described in these pages. Please be sure that your support will help to secure the promise of a Catholic education and also help to continue our work to foster the Catholic mission of the university from a firm foundation.