



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 and Grants

- ❖ Three ICSST faculty members were recognized at Seton Hall University's Faculty Convocation, on September 12, 2025. **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Chair of Undergraduate Theology, was recognized for having been promoted to the rank of Full Professor, effective as of the beginning of the Fall 2025 semester. Additionally, Dr. Scully, **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology, and **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, were honored by Seton Hall University for exceptional teaching, scholarship, and service in AY 2024-2025, each earning a faculty merit award.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, and **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall

University Center for Catholic Studies, with two colleagues from SHU's College of Arts & Sciences (**Jose L. Lopez, Ph.D.**, and **Reverend Gerald J. Buonopane, Ph.D.**), received from the Office of the Provost \$30,000, to be spent through FY 27 to found the [Stanley Jaki Academy for Theology and Science](#), a collaborative initiative of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, the College of Arts & Sciences, and the Center for Catholic Studies at Seton Hall University. The Academy seeks to renew and expand the [Catholic Intellectual Tradition's](#) engagement with the sciences by fostering research, teaching, and public dialogue at the intersection of theology and scientific inquiry. Named in honor of the late Reverend Stanley L. Jaki, O.S.B., S.T.D., Ph.D., a Templeton Prize laureate, theologian, and physicist who taught at Seton Hall, the Academy affirms the University's legacy as a home for significant and impactful scholarship in the dialogue between faith and reason, with an international scope.

Degree Earned

- ❖ **Reverend Peter H. Cho, Ph.D., S.T.D.**, Rector of The College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew's Hall and Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, earned a doctorate in Sacred Theology from The Pontifical Gregorian University in October 2025. His dissertation is titled *The Reception of Vatican II on the Priesthood in the United States (1965-2015)*.

New Administrative Staff Roles

- ❖ **Reverend Juan Gabriel Rojas-Hernandez, S.T.L.**, Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies, was appointed Vice Rector of The College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew's Hall, effective July 1, 2025.

- ❖ On September 4, 2025, ICSST welcomed **Andrew M. Brenycz '99, M.L.I.S.**, as ICSST Librarian. Andrew is no stranger to the Monsignor James C. Turro Seminary Library. After working part-time there beginning in 1995 when he was a Seton Hall undergraduate, Andrew took a full-time Seminary Library position in 2002 and continued there until 2020, assisting students and faculty in their use of library resources, providing the technical services essential for library operations, developing special expertise in the increasingly important digital aspects of library science, strengthening the library web presence, and assisting with the promotion of our library's role on the broader University campus.

In 2021, he took a position as a Metadata Collections Assistant in Walsh Library, expanding his acquaintance with library science and the Seton Hall Library system. During this time, then-Rector/Dean, Monsignor Joseph Reilly, together with Dean John Buschman of the Seton Hall University Libraries, worked with Andrew to plan for the future care of the Turro Seminary Library: Andrew began online studies at Southern Connecticut State University, leading to his Master of Library and Information Science degree.

Andrew returned to ICSST, filling for four years the full-time Academic Resource Specialist post. In this capacity, he supported our students and worked closely with our faculty. Even after assuming the role of Seminary Librarian, Andrew continued, in his characteristic generosity, to serve as Academic Resource Specialist until this position was filled on September 23, 2025. ICSST is blessed that Andrew's new role as Seminary Librarian gives him a more public face in our Seminary community.

- ❖ On September 23, 2025, ICSST welcomed **Elizabeth M. Vacchiano, M.A. '20**, home as she began her new role as ICSST's Academic Resource Specialist. Most of her time in this role advances the work of ICSST's Associate Deans, Father Ciccarino and Dr. Traflet, especially

in facilitating the Mission of our faculty. Elizabeth has returned to ICSST after serving Seton Hall University as Executive Assistant to the President, a role that also included service to the Senior Executive Vice President and Provost. Elizabeth originally came to join the ICSST team through her study for ICSST's Certificate in Catholic Evangelization at St. Paul Inside the Walls in Madison, NJ. After beginning in her position on the South Orange campus to advance ICSST's Mission, she completed her Master of Arts in Theology degree with a concentration in Systematic Theology. Elizabeth served ICSST from November 2016 to June 2024, first as Secretary for Finance and Administration, then as Secretary for Student Support Services, and most recently as Coordinator of Student and Administration Support Services. In these roles, Elizabeth has worked closely with many members of the ICSST community, who very much appreciate her collegiality and prayerful presence.

Publications

- ❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, published a book: [*Be Still and Know: Contemplative Practices for Christian Schools and Educators*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, October 7, 2025.
- ❖ **Rafael X. Gonzalez, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, published a book: [*Anthropological Optimism vs. Anthropological Pessimism: And We Need to Recuperate the Latter*](#). Independently published, September 23, 2025.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, published four journal articles:
 - [“Creation as Gift: Stewardship and Sustainability in Catholic Theology.”](#) *Theology and Science* 23, no. 4 (September 1, 2025).
 - [“Ecology and Theology in Dialogue: Toward an Integral Vision of Creation.”](#) *Theology and Science* 23, no. 4 (September 16, 2025).
 - [“The Cosmic Hierarchy of Richard J. Pendergast, S.J.: A Thomistic Evaluation.”](#) *Religions* 16, no. 11 (October 22, 2025).
 - With Samantha R. Mattheiss, Ph.D.: [“Discernment through Consecration.”](#) *The Person and the Challenges* 15, no. 1 (October 2025): 67-83.

- ❖ **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, published a journal article: [“What Do You Have That You Did Not Receive? Creation as Gift in Theology and Ecology.”](#) *Theology and Science* (September 15, 2025).

- ❖ **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology, published a journal article: “God’s Action in the World: Imagining Conscience as an Act of Friendship.” *Salamanticensis* 72, no. 1 (2025): 101-26. Available at <https://revistas.upsa.es/index.php/salmanticensis/article/download/1603/1118>

- ❖ **Reverend Thomas P. Shubeck, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology, published a journal article: [“The Near Elimination and Subsequent Restoration of the Married Presbyterate in the Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Church in America.”](#) *Religions* 16, no. 6 (June 11, 2025): 752.

- ❖ **Filipe Domingues, Ph.D.**, friend of ICSST, on August 19, 2025, had published in the magazine *America: The Jesuit Review* his reflection on the first 100 days of Pope Leo XIV's pontificate: ["How Will Pope Leo Lead the Church? Clues from his First 100 Days."](#) This reflection is based on the talk Dr. Domingues delivered at the Evangelization and Catechesis conference sponsored by ICSST and The Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas (Rome, Italy), in collaboration with St. Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center (Diocese of Paterson), and held on SHU's South Orange campus on July 31, 2025. Dr. Domingues is Director of The Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas; Lecturer at The Pontifical Gregorian University; Brazilian journalist; and author of *Selflessness in the Age of Selfies*.

Special Events and Initiatives

- ❖ As previously reported, in 2023, ICSST received a \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., to support the establishment of the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program. This five-year, multi-faceted effort seeks to form preachers who will grow in their self-confidence as they prayerfully encounter God in Scripture and experience the power of Christian hospitality in inviting, welcoming, and sharing the Word of God. Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program events and initiatives this quarter have included the following:
 - The *Wisdom Figures of Preaching* series is a digital resource consisting of interviews with priests and deacons ordained 30 years or more, which will be used and shared in preaching courses and other formation programs. These video interviews will be made available on the University YouTube channel and ICSST's website for public viewing so that this knowledge is preserved and accessible. The Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program seeks to form seminarians, diaconal students, and religious and lay ICSST graduate students of theology to be compelling preachers who will offer hospitality of the heart as

they break open the Word of God. The Program intends to form preachers who will understand and embrace preaching as hospitality — a ministry of inviting, welcoming, sharing, and offering compassion. Newly ordained priests and deacons and newly appointed pastors (fewer than five years) will be invited to begin this journey with the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program, and to reimagine their preaching through the lens of Christian hospitality. Thus far in the Fall 2025 semester, the Preaching as Hospitality team has conducted video interviews of three priests for the series: **Reverend Monsignor William J. Reilly, M.Div., M.A.**, Pastor Emeritus of Most Holy Name Parish, Garfield, NJ, on August 22, 2025; **Reverend Monsignor Richard M. Liddy, Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Seton Hall University, and former Rector/Dean of ICSST, on October 7, 2025; and **Reverend Monsignor Robert F. Coleman, J.C.D.**, former Rector/Dean of ICSST, on October 21, 2025. Additional interviews for *Wisdom Figures of Preaching* will be scheduled for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026. In the coming weeks, additional information about the interviews of Monsignor Reilly, Monsignor Liddy, and Monsignor Coleman will be available on

<https://www.shu.edu/theology/preaching-as-hospitality.html>

- The Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program continued its *Many Faces of Hospitality* series, sponsoring its first event of the Fall 2025 semester at Immaculate Conception Seminary for the Seton Hall University and broader communities: *The Life and Preaching of St. Paul*, on September 17, 2025. This event included Evening Prayer in the Seminary's Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, dinner in the Seminary refectory, and a presentation by **Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, S.T.D., S.S.L., D.D.**, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Paterson, NJ, and Adjunct Professor of Sacred Scripture at ICSST, in the

Seminary's Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd. Seventy-eight people attended. Additional information about the event can be found [here](#).

- The Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program hosted *lectio divina* sessions on October 1, 8, and 15, 2025, in the Seminary's third-floor Eucharistic Chapel. The first two sessions were hosted by **Reverend Dominic Ciriaco, D.Min.**, Director of ICSST's Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program, and the last was hosted by **Sister Letty Guadalupe** of SHU Campus Ministry. These sessions were held in conjunction with the *Many Faces of Hospitality* series, which includes a *lectio divina* aspect. Each *lectio divina* session featured specific Scripture passages, which participants analyzed using various techniques. Fourteen people attended each night.
- The Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program welcomed members of SHU Campus Ministry and St. Paul's Outreach (SPO) to the Seminary for coffee and discussions on September 9 and 15, 2025. The goal of these meetings was to familiarize these groups with the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program and invite them to future events sponsored by the program. On October 20, 2025, the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program leadership welcomed seven Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) and SPO missionaries and students from SHU Campus Ministry to the Seminary for Mass and dinner. At dinner, the guests interacted with seminarians, resident priests, and members of the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program. Following dinner, the group discussed the upcoming [University Parish Mission](#), which the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program will be sponsoring on November 17, 18, and 19, 2025. The group also shared their experiences of welcoming and being welcomed, and the importance of hospitality in our ministries.

- **Alyssa V. Carolan, M.A. '20**, Administrative Assistant for the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program, has begun preparations for the Advent 2025 reflection series. *Charity and Hospitality: Praying Through Advent with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton* has been established as the theme of this year's Advent reflection series, and writers have been contacted. In keeping with tradition, this series will feature reflections written by members of the ICSST community and beyond, to be sent via email to subscribers. These reflections also will be archived on the Seminary website.
- **Michael J. Morano, B.A. '23**, Web Editor and Writer for the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program, together with several ICSST colleagues, attended Seton Hall University's Brand and Writing for the Web workshop on October 21, 2025. This professional development workshop provided strategies and guidelines for writing for the Seton Hall website and integrating brand messaging.
- ❖ Recent strategic diaconate initiatives under ICSST's [*The 4:12 Pathway for Pastoral Leadership*](#) project, funded by a \$989,384 grant from the Lilly Endowment, have included the following:
 - **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Co-Director, *4:12 Pathway for Pastoral Leadership* Grant, and **Deacon Peter A. Cistaro, M.B.A.**, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology and former Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Paterson, attended the *Pathways for Tomorrow* coordination event in Indianapolis, IN, from June 23 to 25, 2025. The goal of the event was to help ATS member schools advance toward new phases in their grants by emphasizing peer conversations to share learnings and collaborative problem solving. Deacon Saunders was invited by the ATS organizers at the coordination event to share a story in a large group format. He discussed his collaboration with SHU's

Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center on the approval of a [blog site](#) to support the Digital Hub Resource Database.

- Deacon Saunders was interviewed via Zoom on August 4, 2025, by a representative of ATS regarding his experience and learnings at the *Pathways for Tomorrow* coordination event. In a follow-up communication, the interviewer wrote: “We’re so grateful for the clarity and depth you brought to the conversation. Your story will be a meaningful part of how we communicate the value of this initiative to current grantees as well as to future participants and the broader theological education community.”
- At a forum held at ICSST on August 27, 2025, Deacons Saunders and Cistaro shared with ICSST’s Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program leaders key learnings and conference takeaways—the importance of collaboration, strategic communication, and the use of non-degree programming to increase revenue.
- On September 11, 2025, *Diaconal Formation and Leadership Today* announced a new [leadership podcast series](#) hosted by Deacon Saunders. The podcast series will cover leadership topics critical to the diaconate and successful diaconal ministry. The first guest to be featured is Deacon Cistaro.
- As part of a Saturday formation event for Diocese of Paterson deacon aspirants and wives, Deacon Saunders presented “Spirituality of the Diaconate,” at St. Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center, Madison, NJ, on September 20, 2025. Thirty-two deacons, wives, and formators attended.
- In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Newark, Deacon Saunders presented “The Diaconate: Past, Present, and Future” to approximately 30 deacons and their wives, at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, Newark, NJ, on September 30, 2025. In his talk, Deacon Saunders explored the ancient roots of

- the diaconate and its early history, as well as the current situation of the diaconate in the US and worldwide. He then offered a vision for the future. Deacon Saunders also highlighted his recent pilgrimage to Rome and his participation in the Jubilee of Deacons celebration. The pilgrimage featured discussions on the diaconate by senior Vatican officials, most notably Cardinal Robert Prevost, who only a few months later became Pope Leo XIV.
- On September 30, 2025, *Diaconal Formation and Leadership Today* announced a new [video series on the diaconate](#) hosted by Deacon Saunders with **Deacon Ray Duplechain**, Director of the Diaconate for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. The series was filmed in New Orleans at the Old Ursuline Convent, the National World War II Museum, and the Basilica of St. Stephen.
 - On October 2, 2025, Deacon Saunders welcomed to ICSST **Thomas McGee**, Senior Digital Media Specialist in SHU's Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center. McGee is guiding ICSST in the development of the *Diaconal Formation and Leadership Today* [blog site](#).
 - Deacon Saunders delivered to the deacons of the Diocese of Metuchen a presentation on the strategic diaconate initiatives currently underway at ICSST. The presentation was held at St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway, NJ, on October 25, 2025. Approximately 70 people attended.
- ❖ The [Stanley Jaki Academy for Theology and Science](#), described above in this report, recently sponsored the following events:
- [“The Error of Beginnings and the Beginning of Errors: Creation and the Origin of the Universe,”](#) a lecture by **William E. Carroll, Ph.D.**, a European intellectual historian and historian of science. Dr. Carroll recently retired from the Aquinas Institute, Blackfriars

Hall, University of Oxford. He currently serves as Distinguished Visiting Professor, School of Philosophy, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law in China. He writes and speaks extensively on the ways in which medieval discussions of the natural sciences, philosophy and theology can be useful in questions arising from contemporary biology and cosmology. This lecture, held at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on September 4, 2025, was sponsored by the SHU Society of Catholic Scientists in collaboration with the Stanley Jaki Academy for Theology and Science, the Department of Physics, Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, the Center for Catholic Studies, the CORE Curriculum Program, and the Program in Catholic Studies. **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, served as principal organizer. Approximately 40 people attended.

- *AI and the Future of Catholic Education*, a virtual webinar presented by **D. Graham Burnett, Ph.D.**, the Henry Charles Lea Professor of History at Princeton University. This webinar served as a means through which educators in Catholic institutions could learn about and discuss major questions surrounding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on our work and the lives of our students. As a historian of science, an innovative educator and a practitioner engaged in the wider community, Dr. Burnett has been at the forefront of reflecting on how technology shapes education, our lives, and our humanity. He provided webinar participants with insights into how AI really works and shared experiences of engaging AI with students as well as reflections on what this technology may mean for how we approach our work in Catholic educational institutions. This event, conducted on September 10, 2025, was sponsored by Seton Hall's Center for Catholic Studies, Center for Faculty Development, and the Stanley Jaki Academy for Theology and Science.

Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of

the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, served as event coordinator. Approximately 110 people attended.

❖ **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, continues as facilitator of the Theology and Science Reading Group, a group that he established in the Spring 2025 semester. Open to Seton Hall faculty and graduate students, this group meets monthly to discuss foundational questions at the intersection of theology and science. The first meeting of the Fall 2025 semester was held in ICSST's Faculty Conference Room in Lewis Hall on October 30, 2025. At this meeting, the group discussed Chapter 1 of Father Stanley Jaki's [*The Savior of Science*](#) (Gateway Books, 1989). Father Jaki was one of the leading figures in the theology and science field in the 20th century. He served on Seton Hall's Physics faculty from 1965 to 2009. He published more than 50 books and received the Templeton Prize in 1987. Two additional meetings are planned for the Fall 2025 semester. Information about the group can be found [here](#).

❖ ICSST sponsored a lecture and book-signing by **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, in celebration of the recent publication of his book, [*Be Still and Know: Contemplative Practices for Christian Schools and Educators*](#) (Eerdmans 2025). Dr. Manning's lecture was held in SHU's Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on October 7, 2025. A light reception in the Seminary Refectory followed Dr. Manning's lecture, and copies of his book were available for purchase. Approximately 40 people attended the lecture. This event was supported by the *Scholars' Forum in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition*, co-sponsored by the SHU CORE, Center for Catholic Studies, Catholic Studies Program, and ICSST.

- ❖ On October 20, 2025, ICSST welcomed **David Hyman, M.A.**, a visiting lecturer from Israel and an expert in archaeology and geography, back to SHU's South Orange campus for his lecture, "Making Glad the City of God" (Psalm 46:4)...Water in Ancient Jerusalem." His lecture provided an experience that deepened understanding of Jerusalem's rich history, focusing on remarkable engineering discoveries of 2,600 years ago to divert water to the region. Hyman took his 44 audience members (from the SHU community and beyond) on a journey through the water challenges of ancient Jerusalem. He shared insight on significant structures such as Hezekiah's Tunnel; the Pool of Bethesda; and the city's upper and lower aqueducts, including an exciting overview of the newly revealed section of the upper aqueduct. Additionally, he highlighted the recent excavations at the Pool of Siloam, shedding light on the historical importance of these sites. With a B.A. in Archaeology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an M.A. in Geography and Tourism from Haifa University, Hyman also has extensive experience as a licensed independent tour guide and educator for the Israel Ministry of Tourism. He has skillfully and graciously led Immaculate Conception Seminary's pilgrimages in the past and served as ICSST's visiting scholar in the Fall 2015 semester.

Mission and Service

- ❖ **Reverend Mariusz Eugene R. Koch, C.F.R., M.Div., M.A.**, Spiritual Director:
 - Helped to organize and attended an approximately 60-mile walking pilgrimage from Great Meadows, NJ, to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA, from August 7 to 10, 2025. Father Koch was responsible for the English-speaking group. Each day, he celebrated Mass, celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and delivered homilies. More than 1,000 people attended the pilgrimage.

- Under the auspices of the post-abortion healing ministry program *Entering Canaan: A Sacramental Journey to an Inheritance of Mercy*, led women in an online, international recitation of a penitential Rosary and delivered a talk on Hope, on September 4, 2025.
- Served at a women's silent retreat sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal and held at Loyola Jesuit Center, Morristown, NJ, from September 5 to 7, 2025. *Hope Will Not Disappoint* was the theme of this retreat, which was held in celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope. At this retreat, Father Koch celebrated two Masses, celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and delivered two conferences on "Reflections of Hope." Approximately 70 women attended.
- Facilitated a day of recollection for the Pauline Fathers and Brothers, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA, on October 17, 2025. The theme was *The Power of Prayer*. Father Koch delivered two conferences and celebrated Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Twenty people attended.

❖ **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology:

- Delivered the following presentations:
 - "Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching," to aspirants in the permanent diaconate program for the Diocese of Paterson, at St. Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center, Madison, NJ, on August 9, 2025. Approximately 15 people attended.
 - "Ongoing Human Formation of Permanent Deacons," at the Jubilee of Deacons for the Diocese of Paterson, at Saint Elizabeth University, Convent Station, NJ, on August 9, 2025. Approximately 80 people attended.

- “It Was Not So From the Beginning: Human Sexuality and Theology of the Body,” at St. Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center, Madison, NJ, on September 30, 2025. Approximately 40 people attended.
- “Mary as the First Disciple,” at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Pompton Plains, NJ, on October 7, 2025. Approximately 60 people attended.
- “Death with Dignity: The Catholic Perspective,” at St. Cecilia Church, Rockaway, NJ, on October 17, 2025. Approximately 50 people attended.
- Served as a panelist on the topic of IVF and Healthcare Ethics, at the Respect Life Conference sponsored by the Diocese of Paterson, at St. Peter the Apostle Church, Parsippany, NJ, on October 25, 2025. Approximately 70 people attended the discussion.
- In October 2025, was appointed as Co-Chair of the Seton Hall University Strategic Plan Implementation Committee for Goal 2.3. (Priority 2: Embracing Community, Catholic Mission, and Culture; Objective 3: Expand Opportunities for Engagement and Encounter).
- In October 2025, was appointed as a member of the Priestly Life Committee for the Diocese of Paterson.

❖ **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.,** Rector/Dean and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology:

- Delivered two presentations on “Saint John Henry Newman, Newest Doctor of the Church,” at St. Philomena Church, Livingston, NJ. Each talk was followed by a Q&A session and discussion. Approximately 20 people attended each presentation:
 - Part 1: “Life,” on September 13, 2025.
 - Part 2: “Teachings,” on September 20, 2025.

- Delivered an in-service talk for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors, at the Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity, Westfield, NJ, on September 27, 2025. Approximately 20 people attended.
 - On October 8, 2025, accepted an invitation to serve on a Seton Hall University Strategic Plan Implementation Committee on Priority 2/Objective 1, which is focused on promoting a deeper appreciation for the University's Catholic Mission and Identity.
- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, presented “Faith and Reason in the Mystery of Creation,” a guest lecture for Dr. Anthony Carlino’s class, CAST 3031/CORE 3768: *Catholicism, Healthcare, and the Human Condition*, at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on September 24, 2025. Approximately 12 students attended.
- ❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, presented [*A Catholic Philosophy of Education: The Challenge - What Are We Doing Here?*](#), a retreat for the *Heart of the University* Faculty Retreat Series, sponsored by the Office of Mission and Ministry and the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership, at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on October 2, 2025. Approximately 30 people attended.
- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor C. Anthony Ziccardi, S.S.L, S.T.D.**, ICSST’s Coordinator of Undergraduate Admissions and Retention, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, as Chair of the *Censores Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, recently reviewed two books submitted to the Archbishop of Newark for his certification that they are free from Catholic theological error:

- *Rekindle, Season 1: Encountering Christ and His Kingdom* (Renew International).
- *Rekindle, Season 2* (Renew International).

New Course Developed

- ❖ **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, developed a new graduate course, STHO 6589: *Catholicism, Science, and Technology*, which will be offered in Spring 2026. This course explores the relationship among Catholicism, science, and technology with a focus on theological, philosophical, and historical perspectives. It examines Catholic engagements with science in the form of significant interventions by Popes, Church Doctors, and modern theologians. Further, this course considers ways in which Catholic theology has interacted with key developments in modern science and technology, including evolution, ecology, bioethics, physics, cosmology, astrobiology, artificial intelligence, and neuroscience.

Conferences, Meetings, Panel Discussions, and Symposia

- ❖ **Reverend W. Jerome Bracken, C.P., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor Emeritus of Moral Theology, attended the 47th Convention of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars: *Eucharist, Society, and Culture*. The convention was held in Arlington, VA, from September 26 to 28, 2025.
- ❖ **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 October 3 to 4, 2025. Approximately 100 seminary administrative personnel attended.

Other Scholarly and Professional Activity

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor C. Anthony Ziccardi, S.S.L, S.T.D.**, ICSST's Coordinator of Undergraduate Admissions and Retention, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, as an Editorial Review Board member for *Biblical Theology Bulletin*, in October 2025, peer reviewed an article for publication.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, on October 27, 2025, was appointed to the Board of Advisors of [The Two Books Network: A Global Forum for Engaging Creation in the Heart of the Church.](#)