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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.

New Administrative Staff Role

- ❖ In December 2025, ICSST welcomed to its team of administrative staff **Angelica K. Bullock, M.A.**, part-time Digital Biographer for the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program. Angelica documents the insights of priests and deacons whose preaching has helped form us in the faith over the years. A public historian and archivist, she is currently a doctoral candidate in African American History at the University of Louisville. Angelica is passionate about making diverse histories more accessible to the general public; most recently, she was an archivist for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace in Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

Honor

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, in December 2025, was named a member of the [Stanley Jaki Society](#) by Hungarian Archabbot Cirill.

Degree Earned

- ❖ **Antonio Rios, M.A.**, Coordinator of Daily Operations for the Center for Diaconal Formation, earned a master's degree in higher education from Caldwell University in December 2025.

Publications

- ❖ **David C. Hajduk, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Moral Theology, published a revised edition of his book originally published in 2009: [*Protecting Your Purity: Help from St. Thomas Aquinas and the Angelic Warfare Confraternity*](#). New Hope, KY: New Hope Publications, 2025.
- ❖ **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L. S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, Interim Director of the Seminary Library, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, published a book review of *Wisdom of Solomon*, by Mark Giszczak. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 87, no. 4 (October 2025): 738-39.
- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, published the following:
 - Two articles on the website of the journal *First Things*:
 - [“Vatican II at Sixty”](#) (October 24, 2025).
 - [“The Mediatrix Question”](#) (November 25, 2025).
 - A book chapter: “A House Divided: The Dallas Charter’s Role in Fracturing Priest-Bishop Relations.” In [*Rebuilding Trust: Clergy Morale in the Wake of the Abuse Crisis*](#), edited

by Brandon Vaidyanathan, Sara Perla, and Stephen White, 137-56. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, November 21, 2025.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, with **Ziyuan Meng, Ph.D.** (Quincy University), **Vassilka D. Kirova, Ph.D.** (New Jersey Institute of Technology), **Cyril S. Ku, Ph.D.** (William Paterson University), and **Thomas J. Marlowe, Ph.D.** (Seton Hall University), published a journal article: [“Software Quality Assurance and AI: A Systems-Theoretic Approach to Reliability, Safety, and Security.”](#) *Software* 4, no. 4, 30 (November 13, 2025).

- ❖ **Gregory Y. Glazov, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, Professor and Chair of Biblical Studies, published a book chapter: [“Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger—Benedict XVI on the Symphonic Relationship of the Old and New Testaments.”](#) In *The Oxford Handbook of Joseph Ratzinger – Benedict XVI*, edited by Francesca Aran Murphy and Tracey Rowland, 71-86. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, December 4, 2025.

- ❖ **Reverend W. Jerome Bracken, C.P., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor Emeritus of Moral Theology, published a journal article: [“Aquinas on Christ’s Passion: Redemption as Human Achievement and More Than Satisfactory.”](#) *Wrocław Theological Review* 33, no. 2 (2025): 125-49.

Media Contributions

- ❖ **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology, was interviewed on *The London Lyceum* philosophical podcast, on the topic of his recently published book, *On the Nature of Human Sexual Difference: A Symposium*, on July 9, 2025. In [this conversation](#), Matt Ntiros and Ryan Modisette talk with Dr. Fortin about the complexities of sexual difference and gender from philosophical, biological, and theological perspectives. Dr. Fortin explores the historical context of these concepts, particularly through the lenses of Thomas Aquinas and Simone de Beauvoir, while also addressing contemporary views on gender identity. The discussion delves into the evolutionary basis for sexual difference and its implications for understanding masculinity and femininity, ultimately connecting these ideas to a broader theological framework.
- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, was interviewed as a new member of the Stanley Jaki Society. [The interview](#) was conducted by **András Tóth, Ph.D.**, President of the Stanley Jaki Society, and was published on the website of the Society on December 11, 2025.

Special Events and Initiatives

- ❖ Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology co-sponsored with Seton Hall University's Department of Catholic Studies two lectures held at SHU, South Orange, NJ. **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, initiated the invitations to the speakers and served as emcee at both events. Prior to each lecture, invited faculty from ICSST and from across the University gathered for a luncheon with the speaker.

- **LTC Joshua Lehman, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the United States Military Academy at West Point, presented [“Augustine and Aquinas on War,”](#) on September 17, 2025. Approximately 60 people attended the lecture. Dr. Lehman’s lecture highlighted Saints Augustine and Thomas Aquinas as important sources for the just war tradition. Dr. Lehman demonstrated not only that these Doctors of the Church ground the tradition, but also that recovering their thought opens new paths for thinking about contemporary justice in war.
- **Reverend Grzegorz Hołub, Ph.D.**, Professor of Philosophy at The Pontifical University of John Paul II, Krakow, Poland, presented [“The Person as Transcendence,”](#) on February 4, 2026. **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, offered an opening prayer before Father Holub’s presentation. Approximately 50 people attended the lecture. Father Holub’s rich engagement with Karol Wojtyła’s personalist philosophy offered a compelling exploration of the human person, transcendence, and the enduring question of human uniqueness—especially in dialogue with contemporary developments such as artificial intelligence. The depth, clarity, and intellectual generosity of his presentation sparked meaningful reflection and discussion among all in attendance.
- ❖ 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 Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program continued its *Many Faces of Hospitality* series. During the November 2025 to February 2026 quarter, two *Many Faces of Hospitality* events were held on Seton Hall University's South Orange campus for the SHU and broader communities:
 - *St. Paul the Evangelizer*, on November 5, 2025. This event included light refreshments and fellowship in the Seminary Refectory, as well as a presentation by **Most Reverend Michael A. Saporito, D.D.**, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark. Eighty-three people attended. Additional information about the event can be found [here](#).
 - *Diakonos and Hospitality in the Early Church and Today*, on December 13, 2025. Held in Bethany Hall, this Advent Morning of Reflection included Mass, breakfast, fellowship, and reflections on St. Stephen and others as models for the Church's service, past and present. Although the focus was on the diaconate through the lens of St. Stephen, the event also emphasized the role of the deacon in empowering and animating the laity, using examples from Scripture. **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, offered reflection talks. Fifty-two people attended. Additional information about the event will be made available.
- From November 17 to 19, 2025, the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program was pleased to sponsor Seton Hall University's First Annual University Parish Mission, on the theme *Gratitude and Hospitality: Communicating the Gospel Message in the 21st Century*. Each evening included 5 p.m. Mass, a witness talk, and the opportunity to receive the Sacrament

of Reconciliation in the University's Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, followed by light refreshments and fellowship in the Seminary Refectory. The Mission was headlined by **Reverend Agustino Torres, C.F.R.**, a Seton Hall alumnus of the Class of 1999 and co-founder of [*Corazón Puro*](#), a Bronx-based ministry dedicated to faith formation in areas in need. In addition to Father Torres, speakers included *Corazón Puro* missionaries

Holly Wright and **Lisette Barretto**. Priests who served as confessors were:

- **Reverend Agustino Torres, C.F.R., Reverend Mariusz Eugene R. Koch, C.F.R., M.Div., M.A.**, Spiritual Director;
- **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology;
- **Reverend Nicholas C. Sertich '15, S.T.L.**, Director of Campus Ministry;
- **Reverend Monsignor Robert T. Sheeran S.T.D.**, former President of Seton Hall University; and
- **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology.

Approximately 50 people attended each night. Additional information about the Parish Mission can be found [here](#). Video recordings of the three nights of the Parish Mission are available on the [Preaching as Hospitality playlist](#) on Seton Hall University's YouTube channel, as well as on ICSST's website. This playlist also includes video recordings of all current *Wisdom Figures of Preaching* interviews and *Many Faces of Hospitality* events, edited and uploaded by **Michael J. Morano, B.A. '23**, Web Editor and Writer for the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program.

- Since 2019, ICSST has offered reflection series during the Advent and Lenten seasons, uniting in prayer during these key liturgical seasons Seton Hall students, faculty, staff,

administrators, and other community members from near and far. These reflections reach an audience of more than 3,300 subscribers, and the number of subscribers continues to grow. Beginning with Advent 2024, the reflection series have been offered through ICSST's Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program. **Alyssa V. Carolan, M.A. '20**, Administrative Assistant for the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program, prepared the Advent 2025 and Lent 2026 reflection series. She coordinated with writers and assembled each reflection for distribution. **Michael J. Morano, B.A. '23**, Web Editor and Writer for the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program, collaborated with SHU PR & Marketing to set up and launch the Advent 2025 and Lent 2026 reflection series webpages. He has updated the reflections archives on the Seminary website with each day's reflection.

- In Advent 2025, ICSST was pleased to sponsor a series of reflections titled [*Charity and Hospitality: Praying Through Advent with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*](#). The reflections were inspired by the Scripture of the day, daily quotes from the letters, journals, and conversations of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and Setonian imagery from Seton Hall's South Orange campus. Authored by ICSST and SHU faculty, administrators, alumni, and graduate students, daily reflections were delivered via email, starting on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025, and continuing through Christmas day, December 25, 2025. Among the 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 Dominic Ciriaco, D.Min.**, Director of ICSST's Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program;

- **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology;
 - **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology;
 - **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology;
 - **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology;
 - **Michael F. Burt**, Senior Director of Seminary Advancement;
 - **Katherine N. Lizzo, M.A.**, Coordinator of Student and Administration Support Services;
 - **Alyssa V. Carolan, M.A. '20**, Administrative Assistant for the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program;
 - **Sister Lety Guadalupe Sanchez Beltran, C.S.J.**, Campus Minister;
 - **Sister Anne Dukart, C.S.J.**, Campus Minister;
 - **Deacon Richard Ferreira, M.A. '22, M.S.W.**, Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation;
 - **Reverend Roberto Ortiz, S.T.L., S.T.D. (Cand.)**, Vice Rector, Acting Business Manager, Director of Liturgy, and Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology; and
 - **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, President of Seton Hall University.
- The Lent 2026 reflection series, [*Welcoming and Embracing the Stranger: Lenten Reflections with the Artwork of James Tissot*](#), is underway. This series features meditations written by ICSST and SHU administrators, faculty, staff, and seminarians, and *visio divina* with

religious artwork by French painter James Tissot (1836-1902). Further information about this series will be provided in a future report.

- 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 are available for public viewing on the [Preaching as Hospitality playlist](#) on Seton Hall University's YouTube channel, as well as on ICSST's website, 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 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) are invited to begin this journey with the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program and to reimagine their preaching through the lens of Christian hospitality. During the November 2025 to February 2026 quarter, the Preaching as Hospitality team has conducted video interviews of two priests for the series. **Angelica K. Bullock, M.A.**, Digital Biographer for the Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program, interviewed:
 - **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at ICSST, on January 21, 2026; and
 - **Reverend Monsignor Robert E. Harahan, S.T.D.**, former Rector/Dean of ICSST and Pastor Emeritus of St. Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills, NJ, on February 12, 2026.

Additional *Wisdom Figures of Preaching* interviews will be scheduled for Spring 2026 and beyond. Additional information about the interviews of Monsignor McCarren and Monsignor Harahan will be released in the coming weeks.

❖ **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L. S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, Interim Director of the Seminary Library, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, presented *A Holy Year Pilgrimage with Our Blessed Mother*, a six-part lecture series, at Immaculate Conception Church, Montclair, NJ. This series was co-sponsored by Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology. Father Ciccarino delivered each presentation twice on the given date—once in the afternoon and once in the evening. Approximately 25 people attended each afternoon and approximately 20 people attended each evening:

- “The Annunciation: Our Lady at Nazareth,” on October 16, 2025.
- “The Visitation: Our Lady at Ein Kerem,” on October 23, 2025.
- “The Nativity: Our Lady at Bethlehem,” on October 30, 2025.
- “The Presentation & the Finding: Our Lady at Pentecost,” on November 6, 2025.
- “Pentecost & Assumption: Our Lady at Jerusalem,” on November 13, 2025.
- “Our Lady of the Catacombs,” on November 20, 2025.

❖ **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 in ICSST’s Faculty Conference Room in Lewis Hall to discuss foundational questions at the intersection of theology and science. Thus far during AY 2025-2026, the group has met three

times, on October 30, November 20, and December 3, 2025. Additional meetings will be held in the Spring 2026 semester. The average attendance at each meeting is ten people, including faculty and graduate students from a range of disciplinary perspectives across the University, such as Theology, Physics, Sociology, Economics, and the CORE. This academic year, the group is discussing 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.

- ❖ The Seton Hall University CORE, Center for Catholic Studies, Catholic Studies Program, and Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology are co-sponsoring a *Scholars' Forum in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition*, conducted online via Microsoft Teams. As part of this forum:
 - **Reverend Brian K. Muzás, Ph.D.**, Minister to the Priest Community and Associate Professor of Diplomacy and International Relations, delivered a talk on his latest book, *Presidents, Religions, and Nuclear Decisions* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2025), on November 4, 2025. Sixteen people attended the live webinar. Additional information about the event can be found [here](#).
 - **Stacy Trasancos, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Catholic Studies, delivered a talk on her latest book, *IVF is Not the Way: The False Promises of Artificial Procreation* (Sophia Institute Press, 2025), on December 9, 2025. Six people attended the live webinar. Additional information about the event can be found [here](#).
 - **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, and **Ines A. Murzaku, Ph.D.**, Professor of Religion and Director of Seton Hall University's Catholic Studies Program, presented their newly released co-edited volume, *An Interdisciplinary*

Pedagogical Model for Catholic Studies: Rooted in Vatican II, Growing Through the 21st Century

(Springer, 2025), on February 18, 2026. Seventeen people attended the live webinar.

Additional information about the event can be found [here](#).

- ❖ The Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, in partnership with the Archdiocese of Newark and Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, hosted *Shepherds of the Digital Age: AI and the Future of Catholic Ministry*, a workshop gathering researchers, industry experts, and clergy to explore how artificial intelligence is reshaping human life and pastoral practice. The session was held at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on December 2, 2025.

Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, served as event moderator. Featured speakers were **Ruth Tsuria, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor in Seton Hall University's Department of Communication, Media, and Arts, and **Taylor Black, J.D.**, Director of AI and Venture Ecosystems at Microsoft and Founding Director of the AI and Emerging Technologies Institute at The Catholic University of America. The presenters examined AI's promise and limits for ministry—highlighting its capacity to streamline research, planning, and administration, while emphasizing that it must remain a supportive tool that never replaces relational or sacramental presence or human judgment. Approximately 30 people attended.

Mission and Service

- ❖ **Justin M Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology:
 - As part of the mentoring program [The Grade](#), teaches a monthly two-hour seminar for young men who are high school seniors. The Grade helps young men to live deep and fulfilling lives by becoming excellent students, friends, citizens, and future fathers. The

- curriculum focuses on topics such as Truth and Relativism, Conscience and Moral Law, et cetera. Sessions are conducted at Murray Hill Place in New York City, NY. Approximately five young men attend each session.
- Annually serves as camp director for a weeklong Catholic summer camp, Camp Hope, held in Tunkhannock, PA, in August. The camp typically has 175 campers and 75 teen and adult volunteers. Dr. Anderson and the team of organizers begin work in January.
 - Delivered a guest lecture online for an M.Div. class at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, regarding St. Augustine of Hippo’s handling of and teaching on scandal, as the class focused on the abuse crisis and healing, on September 19, 2025. Approximately 15 students attended.
 - At the Annual Men’s Retreat of the People of Hope, presented a talk, “Hope and its Loss.” Dr. Anderson’s talk focused on what the theological virtue of hope is and the traditional vices that undermine hope. The retreat was held at Camp Tecumseh, Alexandria Township, NJ, on September 19, 2025. Approximately 50 people attended.
- ❖ **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L. S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, Interim Director of the Seminary Library, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies:
- As *Censor Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, reviewed *Renewed by the Word*, by M. Agustin. Plainfield, NJ: RENEW International, 2025.
 - Presented the following lectures:
 - “Revelation & Faith,” to the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) group at St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Clifton, NJ, on January 13, 2025. Approximately 20 people attended.

- “Preaching the Old Testament,” to recently ordained priests of the Diocese of Metuchen, on January 28, 2025. Approximately 10 people attended.
- “The Scavi Below St. Peter’s,” for SHU Campus Ministry, at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on February 23, 2025. Approximately 20 people attended.
- “Life & Ministry of St. Paul,” to the Benedictine community and Third Order Benedictines, at the Benedictine Abbey in Newark, NJ, on March 8, 2025. Approximately 25 people attended.
- “St. Joseph: Example of Faith,” at St. Joseph Parish, West Orange, NJ, on March 18, 2025. Approximately 40 people attended.
- Presented *Blessed Is She*, a six-part lecture series, at St. Anne Parish, Parsippany, NJ:
 - “Our Lady at Nazareth,” on September 9, 2025. Approximately 90 people attended.
 - “Our Lady at Ein Kerem,” on September 16, 2025. Approximately 80 people attended.
 - “Our Lady at Bethlehem,” on September 23, 2025. Approximately 70 people attended.
 - “Our Lady at Pentecost,” on October 14, 2025. Approximately 70 people attended.
 - “Our Lady at Jerusalem,” on October 21, 2025. Approximately 70 people attended.
 - “Our Lady of the Catacombs,” on October 28, 2025. Approximately 70 people attended.
- Presented *The Parables of Jesus*, a four-part series, at St. John Parish, Leonia, NJ. Approximately 20 people attended each lecture:
 - Part I, on September 22, 2025.
 - Part II, on September 29, 2025.
 - Part III, on October 13, 2025.
 - Part IV, on October 20, 2025.

- Presented *St. Peter in the New Testament: His Life and Example*, a five-part series, at St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, NJ. Approximately 35 people attended each lecture:
 - “The Call of St. Peter: Jesus Chooses Peter (and Us!),” on October 17, 2025.
 - “Peter’s Confession of Faith: What Does it Mean to Live for Jesus?,” on October 24, 2025.
 - “Peter’s Denial: What Happens When We Sin?,” on October 31, 2025.
 - “Peter at Pentecost: Living in Renewed Faith,” on November 7, 2025.
 - “Peter After the Gospels: Being Faithful in a Fallen World,” on November 14, 2025.

❖ **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology:

- Served as guest professor for the Diocese of Paterson’s Certificate Program in the Theology of the Body, at St. Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center, Madison, NJ, on September 2, 2025. Dr. Fortin presented a two-hour lecture, “Philosophical Foundations of the Theology of the Body.” Approximately 20 people attended.
- Offered a six-hour, two-part mini-course, *Philosophy for Deacons*, for permanent deacon candidates of the Diocese of Paterson, at St. Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center, Madison, NJ, on September 20 and October 18, 2025. Approximately 24 people attended each day.
- Delivered a talk, “I am the Door,” a commentary on John 10, for a Day of Recollection for the Salesians of Don Bosco, at the Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling, NJ, on November 14, 2025. Approximately 15 people attended.

❖ **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Co-Director, *4:12 Pathway for Pastoral Leadership*

Grant:

- Has stepped forward to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Diaconate Directors (NADD), representing Region III (New Jersey and Pennsylvania). The mission of the NADD is to support diaconate directors, formation directors, associate directors, and their staffs in their mission to enable deacons, candidates, aspirants, their wives and families to utilize their gifts in service of the Church, following the model of Jesus Christ. Deacon Saunders is no stranger to NADD, having served as the Region III representative from 2014 to 2016 and as the chair of the finance committee. From 2016 to 2018, he was a member of the executive committee of NADD, serving as the Secretary/Treasurer leading up to the Permanent Diaconate 50th anniversary commemoration held in New Orleans, LA.
- Delivered to the Archdiocese of New Orleans's permanent diaconate aspirants, candidates, deacons, and their wives a presentation on the strategic diaconate initiatives underway at ICSST through the *4:12 Pathway for Pastoral Leadership* grant and the *Preaching as Hospitality* grant. This presentation was part of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Diaconate Convocation, held at Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, LA, on January 31, 2026. Approximately 190 people attended, including Most Reverend Gregory Michael Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans.

❖ **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, on October 8, 2025, accepted a nomination to serve on a Seton Hall University Strategic Plan Implementation Committee on Priority 2/Objective 2, which is focused on our commitment to creating a

welcoming community that embraces the dignity of every human person and our commitment to a campus free from harassment and discrimination.

❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology:

- Delivered a lecture, “The Road of Science and the Ways to God,” at Holy Spirit Parish, Pequannock, NJ, on October 30, 2025. Approximately 50 people attended.
- Served as celebrant of the Gold Mass for the New York chapter of the Society of Catholic Scientists, at the Thomas Merton Institute, Columbia University, New York City, NY, on November 15, 2025. Approximately 40 people attended.
- Presented a lecture, “AI, Responsibility, and the Human Person: Insights from Catholic Social Teaching,” at the Thomas Merton Institute, Columbia University, New York City, NY, on November 15, 2025. The Society of Catholic Scientists sponsored the lecture. Approximately 40 people attended.

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

- Delivered a presentation, “Catholic Answers to Approaching the End of Life,” at St. Aloysius Church, Caldwell, NJ, on November 6, 2025. Approximately 35 people attended.
- As *Censor Librorum* for the Diocese of Paterson, reviewed the following future publication seeking imprimatur (ensuring freedom from doctrinal or moral errors):
[*Parenting Day by Day*](#), by Allan Wright, Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, on November 17, 2025.

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

- Facilitated a retreat for college seminarians at The College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew's Hall on November 7 and 8, 2025. The theme of the retreat was *Apart with Jesus*. Father Koch delivered conferences and celebrated Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Celebrated a special Mass for the intention of priests, in honor of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, at St. Hedwig Church, Elizabeth, NJ, on December 6, 2025.
- Facilitated a retreat on the theme *Renewing Our Franciscan Roots*, for the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal Council, in Fort Worth, TX, from January 22 to 28, 2026. Each day, Father Koch served as main celebrant and homilist at Mass, delivered two conferences, and celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Seven Franciscan brothers attended.
- Delivered a conference on the theme *Celibacy*, for college seminarians at The College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew's Hall, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on February 3, 2026.
- Concelebrated Ash Wednesday Mass, distributed ashes, and celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, at Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ, on February 18, 2026.
- Led a Morning of Recollection for the staff of St. James Parish, Springfield, NJ, at the Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling, NJ, on February 21, 2026. On the theme *The Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi*, the morning included exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, two conferences, small group discussion, and celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Approximately 30 people attended.
- Celebrated Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation and delivered a talk on "The Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi," on February 24, 2026, for the Newark Chapter of Legatus, an international organization of Catholic business leaders and executives who have

committed to study, live, and spread the Catholic faith. Following Mass and confessions at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Park Ridge, NJ, the group gathered for a meeting at a restaurant in Tappan, NY, where Father Koch delivered his talk. Approximately 35 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 four works submitted to the Archbishop of Newark for his certification that they are free from Catholic theological error:
 - *In the Light of Justice: Catholic Social Teaching for a New Era, Season Three – The Prophetic Imagination* (Renew International).
 - *Oraciones de Sanación para Cada Día* (Catholic Book Publishing Corporation).
 - *The Little Bella Italian Feast Companion* (Italian Feasts).
 - *The Little Cumpà Italian Feast Companion* (Italian Feasts).
- Delivered to Mass lectors “Discharging the Ministry of the Word, Human and Divine,” a one-hour presentation concerning their ministry. This presentation was part of a lectors’ workshop sponsored by the Office of Divine Worship of the Archdiocese of Newark and conducted at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, NJ, on January 31, 2026. Thirty people attended.
- Delivered “In the Footsteps of Paul,” a half-hour presentation given to Campus Ministry ministers and students going on pilgrimage to Greece. Monsignor Ziccardi delivered this presentation at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on February 15, 2026. Twenty-five people attended.

- ❖ **David C. Hajduk, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Moral Theology:
 - Facilitated a marriage preparation workshop, *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage*, for the Diocese of Paterson, at St. Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center, Madison, NJ, on November 16, 2025. Approximately 50 people attended.
 - For the Diocese of Paterson's Certificate Program in the Theology of the Body, at St. Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center, Madison, NJ, taught the following class sessions on Part II: *The Sacrament*. Approximately 30 people attended each class session:
 - Chapter 1, "The Dimension of Covenant and of Grace," on January 6, 2026.
 - Chapters 2 and 3, "The Dimension of Sign" and "He Gave Them the Law of Life as Their Inheritance," on February 3, 2026.
 - Presented a retreat talk for the resident seminarians of Immaculate Conception Seminary, "The Logic of the Gift," at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on January 13, 2026.

- ❖ **Jamie Boulding, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, led the annual retreat for the staff of St. Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center, Madison, NJ. The retreat, on the theme *Theology of Work*, was held at Villa Pauline, Mendham, NJ, on November 26, 2025. It included presentations by Dr. Boulding, group discussion, and prayer. 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, presented a talk, "St. Andrew: Guidance for our Advent Journey," for the Advent Parish Mission, *Prepare the Way of the Lord*,

at St. Andrew Church, Westwood, NJ, on December 16, 2025. Approximately 65 people attended.

❖ **John D. Nowik, M.M.**, Director of Music, Organist, and Adjunct Professor of Liturgy and Music, presented an online Q&A seminar for The Sacred Music Institute of America, LLC (<https://www.sacredmusicinstitute.org/>), on February 7, 2026. Each seminar is preceded by an online video (created by Professor Nowik) offered to the students several days before the live follow-up Q&A session. In this first of these two-part videos, Professor Nowik presented *The Method of Sight-Singing Gregorian Chant as Taught by Guido of Arezzo*, which offered a rediscovery of Gregorian Chant as a living and teachable art—accessible even to non-musicians. Thirty-eight people joined the discussion. Part two of the seminar will be conducted on March 21, 2026, with a video digging deeper into the theories and methods of Guido of Arezzo (992-1050). The Sacred Music Institute of America, LLC, is an extension of The Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, OH.

❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, delivered a lecture (via Microsoft Teams) titled “Physicalist Soteriology and Ensoulment in Early Christianity,” for the Biblical Studies and Patristics Research Seminar at Durham University, Durham, England, on February 9, 2026. Eighteen faculty and Ph.D. students attended.

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

- Led a Men’s Day of Reflection on the theme *Ignatian Discernment of Spirits*, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 4066, *Regina Pacis*, at Mallinckrodt Convent, Mendham, NJ,

- on February 14, 2026. The day included Mass, breakfast, two presentations by Monsignor McCarren, private reflection, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, lunch, Adoration, recitation of the Rosary, and Benediction. Twenty-two men attended.
- Distributed ashes and celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, at Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ, on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

Conferences, Meetings, Panel Discussions, and Symposia

- ❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology:
 - At the international conference *The Legacies of Nicaea I and Vatican II: An Inheritance Unfolding*, sponsored by Marquette University and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, served as invited respondent to the keynote lecture delivered on September 5, 2025, by Lewis Ayres (Durham University/Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas): “Why Is Nicaea Important?” Approximately 250 people attended the conference, which was held at Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, from September 4 to 7, 2025.
 - Served as a panel moderator at the Annual Business Humanities Conference sponsored by, and held at, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on October 31, 2025. The theme of this year’s conference was *Teaching Business Differently: The Role of the Humanities in Business Education*. Dr. Scully moderated a panel on new courses in business humanities. Approximately 20 people attended the panel discussion.

- ❖ **Justin M Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, presented “Jesuit Manualists on the Right to Conscientious Objection in War.” Invited paper, at the international conference *Twentieth-Century Jesuit Manuals: An Assessment*, sponsored by the Center for Scriptural Exegesis, Philosophy, and Doctrine, at the University of Saint Mary of

the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, IL, on September 6, 2025. Approximately 15 people attended Dr. Anderson's presentation.

- ❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, presented “Contemplative Practices for Integrated Education.” Paper, at the 5th Annual Conference of the Catholic Studies Consortium: *In Him All Things Hold Together: Catholic Studies and Integrated Education*, held at Providence College, Providence, RI, from September 19 to 21, 2025. Dr. Manning presented his paper on September 20, 2025, to an audience of approximately 25 people.

- ❖ **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, presented “Catholic Studies and the Humanistic Finality of the University.” Paper, at the 5th Annual Conference of the Catholic Studies Consortium: *In Him All Things Hold Together: Catholic Studies and Integrated Education*, held at Providence College, Providence, RI, from September 19 to 21, 2025. Dr. Rice presented his paper on September 21, 2025, to an audience of approximately 30 people.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology:
 - Participated in the [Builders Artificial Intelligence Forum](#) hosted by the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, from November 6 to 7, 2025. The forum aims to foster a new interdisciplinary community of practice dedicated to supporting the development of AI products that serve the Church's mission. This gathering brought together companies leading in Catholic AI, venture capital and angel investors, as well as prominent AI thought leaders and researchers. Approximately 250 people attended.

- Participated in the Accountable, Responsible, and Transparent AI ([ART-AI](#)) Ethics and Faith Conference, at Lambeth Palace, London, England, on January 20, 2026. Information about the event can be found at <https://cdt-art-ai.ac.uk/news/art-ai-news/ai-ethics-faith-event-at-lambeth-palace/>
- Presented “Ontological, Anthropological, and Ethical Reflections on Artificial Intelligence in a Thomistic Key.” Lecture, for the [Aquinas Institute](#) Lecture Series, at Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford, England, on January 22, 2026. Approximately 12 people attended Father Laracy’s presentation. This lecture offered a Thomistic retrieval of perennial metaphysical and moral insights for contemporary reflection on artificial intelligence. Drawing on Thomas Aquinas and modern Neo-Thomist interlocutors such as Stanley Jaki, O.S.B., it considered ontological questions concerning the nature of AI, anthropological questions regarding its relation to human intelligence and agency, and ethical questions surrounding its design, use, and governance. It further situated these reflections within the horizon of Catholic Social Teaching, highlighting its resources for evaluating the societal implications of emerging AI technologies.

❖ **Very Reverend Charles Pinyan, M.Div., M.A.**, Vicar for Clergy of the Archdiocese of Newark and Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology, participated in the regional conference for Vicars for Clergy, held in New York City, NY, from November 24 to 25, 2025. The conference was hosted by the Saint John Vianney Center, Downingtown, PA.

❖ **John D. Nowik, M.M.**, Director of Music, Organist, and Adjunct Professor of Liturgy and Music, with his wife, **Martha E. Nowik, CAGO, ChM**, attended the annual meeting of the National Association of Seminary Music Directors, held at Saint Mary’s Seminary, Houston,

TX, from January 21 to 24, 2026. The Association was formed in January 2025 at Saint Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, CA. The group has set about plans to establish national seminary guidelines covering curriculum design, liturgical formation, daily schedules, and faculty expectations—all aimed at enhancing the musical and liturgical training of future priests. At the meeting, the group discussed several important questions: How can we best adapt our liturgical music curricula to align with the new *Program of Priestly Formation*? In what ways does musical formation contribute to the broader scope of human formation in seminaries? How can we effectively advocate for the essential role of musical training within priestly formation? The Association is under the sponsorship and support of The Most Reverend Steven J. Lopes, S.Th.D., Bishop of the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter. The next meeting of the Association will be held at Saint Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, MD, in January 2027.

Other Scholarly and Professional Activity

- ❖ **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L. S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, Interim Director of the Seminary Library, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies:
 - Served as an invited presenter regarding progress on the review of two topics of the 2020 Standards of Accreditation of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS): “Digital Learning” and “Standard 4: The M.Div. Degree Program.” Father Ciccarino presented on these topics as part of a webinar conducted by ATS on June 20, 2025. Approximately 160 people attended.
 - Served as chair of the Association of Theological Schools comprehensive reaffirmation visit to Saint Mary Seminary, Cleveland, OH, from October 6 to 9, 2025.

- During AY 2025-2026, is participating in the SHU Praxis Group on University Mission.

- ❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, served as an anonymous peer reviewer of a book manuscript for Brill Academic Publishers, from September to October 2025.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, participated in a meeting of the bilateral ecumenical initiative Evangelicals and Catholics Together (ECT), in New York City, NY, on December 1, 2025. The topic under discussion was “The Meaning and Possibility of Natural Law.”

- ❖ **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, led a discussion on the new volume [*An Interdisciplinary Pedagogical Model for Catholic Studies: Rooted in Vatican II, Growing Through the 21st Century*](#) (Springer, June 2025), which he co-authored and co-edited with **Ines A. Murzaku, Ph.D.**, Professor of Religion and Director of Seton Hall University’s Catholic Studies Program. The book discussion was sponsored by Seton Hall University’s Catholic Studies Program, in partnership with the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) and Catholic Studies Focus Group, and was conducted online via Microsoft Teams, on December 8, 2025. Approximately 20 people attended in person and more viewed the recording of the event.

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology:
 - As part of his academic year 2025-2026 research sabbatical, is an Academic Visitor at the Faculty of Theology and Religion and Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford, England, for

- the Hilary Term (second trimester), from January 18 to March 14, 2026. Additional information about Father Laracy's sabbatical can be found [here](#).
- Served as a peer reviewer for the journal [*AI Perspectives & Advances*](#), on January 31, 2026.

❖ **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, in February 2026, as a member of the Editorial Review Board of the *Biblical Theology Bulletin*, reviewed one article for publication.