

May 21, 2020

Dear Friends,

I write to you with good news. I am happy to report to you that Dr. Gregory Floyd, Faculty Fellow in the Core Curriculum at Seton Hall University, has been appointed the new Director of the Center for Catholic Studies, effective July 1, 2020. After twenty-three years at the helm of this initiative, I could not be happier that Greg Floyd is succeeding me.

I have known Greg for a number of years. His fine personal and leadership qualities as well as his background in philosophy, theology and the interdisciplinary methodology of Father Bernard Lonergan, S.J., bode well for the future of the Center. The Provost's letter on the appointment and Greg's own words below epitomize the mission of the Center today.

I also want to share the additional good news that our Toth/Lonergan Endowed Visiting Professor for this past year, Dr. J. Michael Stebbins, has been reappointed for the upcoming academic year 2020-21. He will teach in our Honors Program, lecture at our Law School, Medical School and other venues in the University. Dr. Stebbins is an expert in the theology of grace and redemption. We had planned an annual Friends event for him and a public lecture in the Spring – but God had other plans! We will reschedule when possible.

The aim of the Center for Catholic Studies has been to bring about what Cardinal John Henry Newman envisioned as the aim of a university: fostering conversations among people coming from various locations and scholarly disciplines – and to have theology play an integral role in those conversations. All of the Center's units – The G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture, The Bernard Lonergan Institute, The Micah Institute for Business and Economics, and our various partnerships, such as with the undergraduate Program in Catholic Studies and the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership, have maintained a consistent voice on behalf of the Catholic mission of the University. We thank you for your support over the years and hope that you will continue to support and sustain the Center under Dr. Floyd's leadership.

During this time of crisis for the whole world, we pray that this will also be a providential time of great grace and opportunity for all of us. Each day during this time my family has been saying the Rosary together and I have been remembering all of you and your families and friends in my prayers and at the sacrifice of the Mass. I am grateful to the great team at Seton Hall and your support through the years. May the Lord guide all of us along His paths of life!

In Jesus and Mary,



Msgr. Richard M. Liddy, Director

Office of the Provost: Appointment of Dr. Gregory Floyd as Director of Center for Catholic Studies - Wed 5/13/2020 4:39 PM

I am thrilled to announce the appointment of Dr. Gregory Floyd, Faculty Fellow in the Core Curriculum, as the new Director of the Center for Catholic Studies, effective July 1, 2020.

Dr. Floyd brings a rich background to this position. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Notre Dame and was awarded a doctorate in philosophy at Boston College. His dissertation was on Martin Heidegger's early writings on religion. Dr. Floyd specializes in 19th and 20th century European philosophy, especially phenomenology and hermeneutics, as well as the philosophy of religion. He has written about the way in which religious claims and traditions provide an opportunity for philosophy to reflect on its own limits and possibilities. More broadly, his areas of teaching and scholarship include the history of philosophy, philosophy and literature, and the works of Bernard Lonergan. These areas are perfectly congruent with the goals of the Center, which especially are aimed at interdisciplinary initiatives fostering a dialogue between the Catholic intellectual tradition and all areas of study.

Dr. Floyd recently co-edited with Stephani Rumpza *The Catholic Reception of Continental Philosophy* (University of Toronto Press, 2020). Other publications include "*Between Liberale Theologie and Religionsphilosophie: A New Perspective on Heidegger's Phenomenology of Religious Life*," (*Perspektiven mit Heidegger*, Vienna: Verlag Karl Alber, 2017), and "*Between Idealism and Phenomenology: Kierkegaard on Religious Temporality*" (*On Time: Philosophical, Theological, and Literary Investigations*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016).

Dr. Floyd joined Seton Hall University in 2016 as a member of the Core Faculty Fellows. Dr. Enright, the Roman Director of the University Core, says that students in Dr. Floyd's classes are truly and deeply engaged in his classes, whether these are Core I, Core II or Core III. "I have known Greg Floyd for a number of years. His fine personal and leadership qualities as well as his background in interdisciplinary methodology bodes well for the future of the Center. My deepest prayers are with him, the Center and the University," stated Msgr. Richard Liddy.

Dr. Floyd shares his reflections as he embarks on this important position at the University. "I am excited to continue the important work of the Center for Catholic Studies in our life together at Seton Hall. For over two decades, Msgr. Liddy has laid a foundation of generous dialogue, meaningful interdisciplinarity, and intellectual friendships among people from all parts and departments of our University. He has brought the best of the Catholic intellectual tradition into conversation with women and men of goodwill - scholars, teachers, students, staff, and administrators. I look forward to continuing to work with our team to develop that legacy of 'collaborative creativity' in ways that are attentive to the particular currents of insight and grace at work in a University community."

Msgr. Liddy has served as the Director of the Center for Catholic Studies since 1997 where he has linked the intellectual life of the University with the Catholic intellectual tradition. The Center for Catholic Studies has especially devoted itself to interdisciplinary initiatives fostering a dialogue between the Catholic tradition and all areas of study. In 2001, the Center conducted the annual faculty summer seminar, "The Core of the Core," which originated the present University Core Curriculum. The Center has impacted many aspects of faculty, student, administrator and staff experiences here at Seton Hall University.

I recall in my childhood a lesson from Sister Philomena, OP, who urged us always to "check our work three times in honor of the Holy Trinity." Today, I modify slightly that wisdom and recognize Msgr. Liddy a third time for his leadership. I also thank the search committee's professionalism in this search-- Drs. Enright, Haynor and Manning and Dr. Guetti (ex officio). Let us all congratulate Dr. Floyd on this appointment and wish him Godspeed as he commences this important journey for the University.

*Karen E. Boroff, PhD, Interim Provost and Executive Vice
President*