



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

## *Faculty & Administration News (FAN)*

Volume XIV, Issue 2

February 2023

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.

### **Publications**

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology, published the following:
  - Book, co-authored with John S. Bergsma: [\*Murmuring Against Moses: The Contentious History and Contested Future of Pentateuchal Studies\*](#). Steubenville, OH: Emmaus Academic, 2023.
  - Book chapter: "Lives of Jesus and Historico-Critical Skepticism." In [\*The Cambridge History of Atheism. Vol. 1, Atheism from Antiquity to Modernity\*](#), co-edited by Michael Ruse and Stephen Bullivant, 308-25. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 2021.
  - Essay in a book: "Newman: Biblical Exegete and Teacher." In [\*A Guide to John Henry Newman: His Life and Thought\*](#), edited by Reverend Juan R. Vélez, 105-21. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2022.
  - Journal article: "The 'Great Love Affair' with God." [\*The Chesterton Review\* 48, nos. 3 & 4 \(Fall/Winter 2022\)](#): 429-38.

- Book review of *Pesber: L'interpretazione della Parola per la fine dei giorni: Studio sul genere letterario dei Pesbarym*, by Nicolò Rizzolo. *Review of Biblical Literature* (December 2022).
  
- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor C. Anthony Ziccardi, S.S.L, S.T.D.**, ICSST's Coordinator for Undergraduate Admissions and Retention, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, published a book translation: [Padre Pio's Devotion to Mary](#). Totowa, NJ: Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, 2023. Translation from Italian into English of a book by Luciano Regolo, *"O Maria, Mamma Dolcissima": Padre Pio e la Madonna*. Milano, Italy: Edizioni San Paolo, 2020.
  
- ❖ **Gregory Y. Glazov, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, Professor and Chair of Biblical Studies, published a journal article: "The Christian Journey of a Russian-Jewish Dissident Couple in the Soviet Union." [The Chesterton Review 48, nos. 3 & 4 \(Fall/Winter 2022\)](#): 385-414.
  
- ❖ **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*:
    - ["Bishops as Bureaucrats?"](#) (November 15, 2022).
    - ["Benedict XVI, Disciple"](#) (January 3, 2023).
  - Article on the website of the online magazine *Catholic World Report*: ["The National Survey of Priests Suggests a Deep Crisis in Catholic Theology"](#) (December 28, 2022).

- ❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Pastoral Theology, published a journal article: “Finding Meaning in Christian Classics: An Approach for Engaging the Catholic Intellectual Tradition in Postmodern Culture.” *Journal of Catholic Higher Education* 40, no. 2 (2021): 175-90.

## Media Contributions

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology:
  - Was interviewed by Patricia Oedy-Murray on her radio show, *The Virtuous Life*, on [Annunciation Radio](#). The topic of the interview was “Holiness.” The interview was conducted on October 27, 2022, and aired on October 31, 2022. A recording is available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEu\\_k5QQsK4&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEu_k5QQsK4&t=2s)
  - Was quoted in an article, [“Light and Darkness in Catholic Colleges,”](#) by Patti Maguire Armstrong. The article, which illuminates the Catholic Mission at Seton Hall University, was published on the *National Catholic Register* website on December 5, 2022.
  - Was interviewed live by Marcus Peter on Al Kresta’s radio program, *Kresta in the Afternoon*, on Ave Maria Radio, based in Ann Arbor, MI, and syndicated nationwide on EWTN and Sirius XM. The topic of the interview was Dr. Morrow’s conversion to Catholicism. The interview aired on January 20, 2023. A recording is available at <https://avemariaradio.net/kresta-in-the-afternoon-jan-20-2023-hour-1/>

## Special Events

- ❖ Since 2019, Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology has offered reflection series during the Advent and Lenten seasons, uniting in prayer during these key liturgical seasons more than 2,000 Seton Hall students, faculty, staff, administrators, and other community members from near and far. In Advent 2022, ICSST was pleased to sponsor a series of reflections titled *The Eucharist and the Campus: Daily Advent Meditations*, which featured images of the Eucharist as a reflective focal point and invited participants to journey spiritually together through the liturgical season. **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, former Rector/Dean, and **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, offered daily written reflections linked to images of the Blessed Sacrament on the Seton Hall University campus, which were shared with participants via daily email. The 2022 Advent series began on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, and continued through Christmas Eve, December 24. The reflections are available at <https://www.shu.edu/theology/the-eucharist-and-the-campus-daily-advent-meditations.cfm>
- ❖ On November 30, 2022, Immaculate Conception Seminary resumed its tradition of hosting *Fratres in Unum*, a late afternoon and early evening of prayer, conversation, and a shared meal, for recently ordained priest alumni who were ICS residents. *Fratres in Unum* was initiated by **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, former Rector/Dean, a decade ago. COVID had interrupted these events, which took place once per semester. The goal of *Fratres in Unum* is to provide support for priests who have been serving in parishes for up to about eight years by bringing them together at the Seminary. **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Interim Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor

of Systematic Theology, convened the November 30 session and remained present with the group. Once gathered, the priests listened to a reflection by **Reverend Mariusz Eugene R. Koch, C.F.R., M.Div., M.A.**, Spiritual Director, and then spent time in private prayer before discussion time. The priests joined the seminarians for Evening Prayer and then shared a meal. **Reverend Robert K. Suszko, M.B.A., M.Div.**, Vice Rector and Business Manager, also was present with the group. Approximately eight priests attended this session.

❖ **Reverend Mariusz Eugene R. Koch, C.F.R., M.Div., M.A.**, Seminary Spiritual Director, in Immaculate Conception Seminary’s Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, at 6 a.m. on Friday, December 9, 2022, celebrated a *Rorate Coeli* Mass, a liturgy originating in the Middle Ages, honoring the Blessed Mother, who gave her consent to the divine plan of salvation. The title is from Latin, meaning: “Drop down, ye heavens.” The words are from the Book of Isaiah: “Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened and bud forth a Savior” (Isaiah 45:8). The Mass, celebrated before dawn, reminds us of the need for light—indeed, the need for our Savior, the Light of the World. Concelebrants of the Mass were **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, former Rector/Dean, and **Reverend John J. Chadwick, S.T.D.**, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Newark. More than half the resident seminarians participated.

❖ **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L., S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, and **David Hyman**, an Israeli guide who 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, led a group from Immaculate Conception Seminary, including 16 seminarians and

two priest alumni (ordained in Spring 2022), on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, from December 29, 2022-January 9, 2023, lecturing at biblical sites. The pilgrimage featured daily Mass at shrines marking events in the life of Jesus. Priests in the group celebrated these Masses and, along with the transitional deacon in the group, preached at these Masses.

**Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Interim Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, and **Reverend Edward G. Rama**, Vocation Director for the Diocese of Paterson, and Director of Domus Bartimaeus House of Discernment, Boonton, NJ, accompanied the group. Father Ciccarino remained in the Holy Land to lead a pilgrimage of permanent deacon candidates, their families, and parishioners from the Diocese of Paterson. This group of 35, assisted by **Deacon Peter Cistaro**, Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Paterson, remained for nine days there. They chronicled their experiences in a YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcTZaGaWWb0>

- ❖ Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology has formally commenced its Self-Study process in preparation for the Fall 2024 reaccreditation visitation of The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS). ICSST faculty, administrators, and staff gathered with current students, alumni, benefactors, and friends of ICSST for an afternoon of community, mission, and vision, held at the Seminary, on January 26, 2023. The afternoon began with Mass celebrated in the Seminary's Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd by **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Interim Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology. At Mass, **Deacon Bill Ruane**, a graduate of ICSST's diaconate program, preached about St. Paul's charge to St. Timothy. The afternoon continued with further celebration and fellowship at a luncheon in

the Seminary refectory. This gathering also served as an opportunity for participants to hear about the good work underway at ICSST and ICSST's planning for the future. At lunch, **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, invited the ICSST community to accept the Self-Study process as a time of grace, a time of meeting the Lord in this good place that is Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology. Then Research M.A. student **Ray Mancison** shared his journey to and with the Lord, a pivotal part of which has been his study at ICSST. After him **Reverend Patrick Seo**, a Newark priest ICSST graduate (Class of 2017), shared his reflections on the Lord's call to conversion and communion with Him in the context of ICSST's mission. Finally, before the blessing, **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Self-Study Co-Chair, and Associate Professor and Chair of Pastoral Theology, invited the ICSST community to pay attention to certain particulars of the process into which ICSST has now entered. Many contributed to these two hours at the Table of the Lord and ICSST's refectory tables in prayer and reflection together, particularly ICSST's Self-Study Co-Chairs, **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, and Dr. Manning, along with the Steering Committee. The subcommittees began their work during the week following the afternoon of community, mission, and vision, immersing a much larger portion of the ICSST community in the process.

- ❖ Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology was among the co-sponsors of *Inciting Peace from the Inside Out*, a day of presentations and workshops for SHU students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Other co-sponsors were the Department of the Core, the Institute for Communication and Religion, the MLK Scholars Program, the Center for Faculty

Development, and the Lilly Fellows Program. **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Pastoral Theology, served as event coordinator and facilitator and offered closing reflections. **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Interim Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, offered the opening invocation. The event, which was held in the University Center on SHU's South Orange campus, on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., explored the contemplative practices behind extraordinary peacemakers such as Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Howard Thurman, and Thich Nhat Hanh and how these practices might help us transform our communities and ourselves. Approximately 200 people registered to attend. For more information, please visit <https://www.shu.edu/communication-religion/news/peace-workshop-teaches-contemplation-and-community.cfm>.

## Mission and Service

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor C. Anthony Ziccardi, S.S.L., S.T.D.**, ICSST's Coordinator for Undergraduate Admissions and Retention, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies:
  - Over six weeks in the Fall 2022 semester, for two hours each week, taught and led Seton Hall's *University Faculty Seminar on Mission*, conducted online via Microsoft Teams, from September 29-November 3, 2022. Thirteen people from Seton Hall University participated in this faculty development seminar.
  - Delivered to Mass lectors the following one-hour presentations concerning their ministry. These presentations were part of lectors' workshops sponsored by the Office of Divine Worship of the Archdiocese of Newark and conducted at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, NJ:



- “Understand What You Read: The Basics of Biblical Interpretation for Lectors,” on October 22, 2022. Approximately 40 people attended.
- “Discharging the Ministry of the Word, Human and Divine,” on February 4, 2023. Thirty-two people attended.

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

- Served as Mass celebrant and homilist at the Mass offered at a professional development day for science and religion teachers in Catholic schools, at SHU, on November 4, 2022. SHU’s Center for Catholic Studies, in collaboration with the Science and Religion Initiative at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at The University of Notre Dame, sponsored the event. Approximately 90 teachers attended.
- Presented “*VERITAS*: Seeking the Truth of God and Creation through Reason and Revelation.” Lecture, at Koinonia Academy, Plainfield, NJ, on February 11, 2023. Approximately 25 people attended.

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

- Served as a presenter for the video “The Priest’s Role in Post-Abortive Healing: Helping to Heal Grief in Your Parish,” coordinated by the Life and Family Evangelization Office of the Diocese of Rockford, IL, as part of the Project Rachel Priest Formation Program, on November 9, 2022. The video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgFJtxWhdYw>
- Delivered an Advent talk on the theme “Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas,” and celebrated Mass, at Sacred Heart Parish, Wallington, NJ, on December 1, 2022. Approximately 12 people attended.

- Celebrated and preached at a Mass of Anointing of the Sick, at St. James Parish, Springfield, NJ, on December 3, 2022. Approximately 100 people attended.
- Facilitated a retreat on the theme “In the Footsteps of Jesus,” for the Poor Clare Sisters, at Our Lady of Solitude Monastery, Phoenix, AZ, from January 4-11, 2023. In addition to celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Father Koch celebrated daily Mass, offering a Gospel-based spiritual reflection at each Mass. Six Sisters attended the retreat.

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

- Presented “Behold the Lamb of God: Meditations on the Mystery of the Eucharist.” Lecture, conducted online as part of the *Contemporary Issues in Theology* lecture series sponsored by Assumption College for Sisters, Denville, NJ (accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education), on November 9, 2022. Father Tomczyk invited attendees to explore theological and pastoral dimensions of the central mystery of the Catholic faith, the Eucharist. The lecture reviewed the Scriptural foundations of the belief in the Real Presence, explained and affirmed the necessity of the Eucharist to the Christian life, and responded to the most common objections to the Church’s teaching on the obligatory nature of Mass attendance on Sunday. Approximately 15 people virtually attended.
- As *Censor Librorum* for the Diocese of Paterson, reviewed the following future publication seeking Imprimatur (ensuring freedom from doctrinal or moral errors): *Day by Day with the Mass*, by Peter A. Giersch, Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, on December 6, 2022.

- ❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Pastoral Theology:
- Served as guest speaker for the workshop *Evangelizing the Postmodern World*, sponsored by and held at The Evangelization Office at St. Paul Inside the Walls, Madison, NJ, on November 12, 2022. This workshop explored the subtle ways that secularism and postmodernism have come to influence our thinking and culture and what Catholic evangelists and communities can do to counteract these forces and rekindle the love of God in people’s hearts and imaginations. Approximately 50 people attended.
  - Presented “Spiritual Resources for Promoting Mental Health and Meaning in Life.” Virtual session, sponsored by the Montclair Public Library, Montclair, NJ, on January 25, 2023. Few people have been spared some degree of anxiety (or worse) on account of the events of recent years. This session explored some of the more subtle factors contributing to the deterioration of mental health, as well as spiritual practices and resources for promoting wellbeing and a strong sense of meaning in life. Twenty people attended this session.
  - Served as a panelist for *Mission: Catholic Identity and Mission: Don’t MISS It!*, at the *Harvest Our Treasures: Approaching the Homestretch Spring 2023 Mini-Series*. As Seton Hall University enters the third and final year of the implementation of its strategic plan, *Harvest Our Treasures*, through this mini-series conducted throughout the week of February 13, 2023, members of the University community had the opportunity to collectively pause and share and receive updates on the strategic plan’s progress. The session on Mission-related initiatives in the strategic plan was held in the Chancellor’s Suite of the University Center on the South Orange campus, on February 17, 2023. Approximately 20 people attended the session.

- ❖ **Reverend James P. Platania, S.S.L., S.Th.D. (Cand.)**, Director of the Turro Seminary Library, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, presented the following:
  - “Advent with Isaiah.” Lecture, sponsored by the Men of St. Joseph, and conducted online, on December 6, 2022. Approximately 30 people attended.
  - Lecture on the theme “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14), at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, Sparta, NJ, on January 3, 2023. Approximately ten people attended.
  
- ❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, presented a session on “Communicating with ‘Differing Others,’” at the Salesian Day of Recollection, sponsored by the Salesians of Don Bosco, in Orange, NJ, on February 17, 2023. Seventeen people attended.

## Conferences, Meetings, Panel Discussions, and Symposia

- ❖ **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, presented the paper “Heroic Thinking: Karol Wojtyła on the Philosopher’s Calling,” for the satellite session “Karol Wojtyła’s Approach to the Preambles of Faith,” at *The Metaphysical Preambles to the Preambles of Faith*, sponsored by the St. John Paul II Institute of the University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX, as part of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, held in New Orleans, LA, from November 17-20, 2022. Dr. Rice presented this paper on November 18, 2022, to an audience of 23 people.
  
- ❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, served as an invited panelist for *The Role of Theology in the Life of a Jesuit Today*, at the USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus Formation Conference, held at Loyola University Retreat

and Ecology Center, Woodstock, IL, on December 29, 2022. Approximately 80 people attended.

- ❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Pastoral Theology, Presented on a panel of chairs of various schools' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committees, for SHU's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Symposium, conducted virtually and in person at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on January 16, 2023. Approximately 30 people attended the symposium in person and more attended virtually.

## Other Scholarly and Professional Activity

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology:
  - As previously reported, published a book: [\*Theology and Science in the Thought of Ian Barbour: A Thomistic Evaluation for the Catholic Doctrine of Creation\*](#) (New York, NY: Peter Lang, 2021). The following reviews of this book were recently published:
    - Review by Francis Hunter, in *The Lonergan Review* 12 (2021): 207-10.
    - Review by Michelle Baron, in *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* 57, no. 4 (December 2022): 1148-50.
    - [Review by Reverend Christopher Myers](#), in *Homiletic and Pastoral Review* (January 2023).
  - Peer-reviewed the following:
    - Article for *Irish Theological Quarterly*, on November 11, 2022.
    - Article for the journal *Religions*, on January 6, 2023.
  - Was appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of The International Institute of Informatics and Cybernetics (IIIC), based in Orlando, FL, on January 13, 2023.

- ❖ **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, co-authored with **Jon Radwan, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Communication, and Director of Seton Hall University’s Institute for Communication and Religion, the academic paper “*Inter Mirifica* in Context: Mediation, Contact, and Love in Catholic Theology.” Dr. Radwan presented this paper at the conference *Vatican II and Catholic Higher Education: Leading Forward*, sponsored by and held at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT, on October 14, 2022. Approximately 12 people attended the presentation.
  
- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology, served as an external reviewer for the application for promotion to associate professor and for tenure of a faculty member in the Department of Theology at the University of Dallas, Dallas, TX, from October-December 2022.
  
- ❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, provided a solicited review of an article manuscript for *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society* (published by Cambridge University Press), in fall 2022.
  
- ❖ **Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino, K.C.H.S., S.S.L., S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Seminary and Academic Studies, and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, in November 2022, peer-reviewed the article “At the Jordan Christ Deposited for Us the Robe of Glory. Unjustified Hiatus between Literary and Theological Interpretation of the Baptism of Jesus,” for an upcoming volume in the *Catholic Theological Formation Series* published by Saint Paul Seminary Press, St. Paul, MN.

❖ **Reverend Monsignor Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology:

- Co-chaired a meeting of the bilateral ecumenical initiative Evangelicals and Catholics Together (ECT), in New York City, on December 5, 2022. The topic under discussion was “Towards Understanding the Church.”
- Peer-reviewed the following, in winter 2023:
  - Article for *The Thomist*.
  - Manuscript for Peter Lang Publishing.