



2023 Newsletter

A Year of living, sharing, and deepening
Catholic Identity at Seton Hall



CENTER FOR
CATHOLIC STUDIES

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

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From the Director

Patrick Manning, PhD



Dear friends,

Last month when the Center welcomed local Catholic school teachers for a day-long workshop on faith and science, we began the day by invoking the patronage of the three magi. The observations of these magi, who were astronomers of sorts, led them on a journey that ended in a face-to-face encounter with the divine *Logos* made flesh. We should all hope that our own studies and various endeavors yield a similar result.

We at the Center have been on quite a journey of our own this year. We launched new programs, forged new partnerships, and strengthened existing ones. We bade farewell to our former director, Dr. Gregory Floyd, and welcomed a new Director of the Center (yours truly), a new Toth-Lonergan Visiting Professor, and a new Director of the Lonergan Institute. For as much as has happened this past year, we feel that we—like the magi arriving at Jesus’ side—are just getting started. We are excited to see where our guiding Light will lead us next, and we hope you will continue to journey with us.

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and New Year,

Patrick Manning, Ph.D.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Serving Students

through Agape Latte, our monthly faculty-student faith-sharing coffeehouse

Forming Faculty

through our annual faculty seminars and retreats

Cultivating Community

through our professional development day for local Catholic school educators



Center Highlights

INITIATIVES THAT ENRICH THE CATHOLIC IDENTITY OF SETON HALL.

FACULTY

In the summer, our faculty retreat focused on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, upon which a Seton Hall education is built. We welcomed Dr. Lawrence Principe of Johns Hopkins University to facilitate our 25th annual Faculty Seminar, which we run with our friends at the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership.

STUDENTS

Our student-faculty faith sharing coffeehouse, Agape Latte, has met three times this semester, seeing upwards of 70 students attend each month. Our spring series will begin with Seton Hall's Interim President Dr. Katia Passerini as our guest speaker.

LOCAL CHURCH & COMMUNITY

We continue to find ways to serve our local Church and community through enrichment programs like our fall faculty development day for Catholic school teachers and our upcoming Faith and Work Summit for local Catholic professionals. We are also excited to be a founding member of the national Consortium of Catholic Studies.

As it is every year, the fact that we have the opportunity to serve wonderful people at Seton Hall and beyond - the relationships we forge, the community created, the common search for God's Truth - is the true highlight of our year.

New Faces



Francesca Zaccaron

Toth-Lonergan Visiting Professor

Hailing from Trieste, Italy, Francesca Zaccaron, Ph.D. is the fifth Toth-Lonergan professor and the first woman to hold the position. She has been a true blessing to the Seton Hall community, teaching *Journey of Transformation* as part of the University Core and an upcoming Catholic Studies course on the *Philosophy and Theology of Bernard Lonergan*, facilitating the monthly Praxis Program with the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership, and offering semesterly public lectures. See more on page 7.



Jonathan Heaps

Director
Lonergan Institute

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Jonathan Heaps, Ph.D. as Director of the Lonergan Institute and editor of *The Lonergan Review*. A prolific scholar specializing in Catholic philosophy and theology, Heaps has been serving the Seton Hall community and the Lonergan Institute since 2020 as an associate editor. He completed his Ph.D. in Religious Studies, interdisciplinary track: philosophy and systematic theology, at Marquette University in 2019. His first book, *The Ambiguity of Being: Bernard Lonergan and the Problems of the Supernatural*, is forthcoming from the Catholic University of America Press.

Student Spotlight

Kennedy Dierks

B.A. Biology & Catholic Studies, '22, M.A. Health Administration, '25

How do you see Catholic Studies influencing your future career?

Catholic Studies affirmed and added a new perspective to my vocation and my pre-med studies. It's led me to think about how I can be not just a doctor but a doctor who is putting the good of humanity before myself, who is serving God by serving patients. The curriculum has really broadened my horizons for what I can do and how I can think.

Did you study abroad? What was that experience like?

I studied abroad with Catholic Studies' "Italy in the Footsteps of the Saints" in spring 2023. We visited 11 cities in 12 days, and I felt like I was experiencing faith in another world. We got to take a close look at the lives of different saints and leaders in the Church and see our Church's rich history. It reminded me how all-encompassing our Catholic faith is and inspired me to live out that faith of our ancestors.

What did a Catholic Studies scholarship mean to you as a student?

It meant the world! I wouldn't have had the chance to study abroad or to write and share my senior thesis (on the Catholic moral theology on in-vitro fertilization) at the Petersheim Exposition without the support of Catholic Studies scholarships.

What has been your favorite Catholic Studies class?

Definitely "Catholic Theology of Science" with Dr. Stacy Trasancos. I took that in junior year. I was a Biology and Catholic Studies double major, and I feel like that class broke through a lot of common misconceptions I had that the Church and science couldn't coexist.

What's the best part of participating in Catholic Studies?

We come to university to learn and become fuller versions of ourselves. Catholic Studies allows each student to do that not just as an academic but as a person and as a person of faith; we have the ability to dive deep into what makes us human. This has made my studies much more fruitful in and out of the classroom and helped me realize that there is so much more meaning to life and to what we're learning.



“Catholic Studies has made me a better student, a better Catholic and a better person. Overall, I feel like I have another facet or dimension of myself that I would not have explored had I not been a Catholic Studies major.”

Support students like Kennedy through our Student Scholarships!

The Program of Catholic Studies

This summer, the Program of Catholic Studies Director Dr. Ines Murzaku's new book in Albanian translation, *Catholicism, Culture, Conversion: The History of the Jesuits in Albania (1841-1946)*, was presented to Pope Francis at the Vatican on the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis's pontificate.



In October, the Catholic Studies Focus Group of the prestigious International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) met at Seton Hall to discuss the recent National Catholic Studies Consortium Symposium, which Seton Hall co-sponsored. Under the direction of Dr. Ines Murzaku, Seton Hall leads the group in its work of pursuing interdisciplinary and inter-institutional programs to bolster the quality and mission of Catholic higher education worldwide.



Seton Hall's Catholic Social Thought in Action Academy, a joint venture between the Departments of Social Work and Catholic Studies, was featured at the Catholic Studies Consortium Symposium at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut and in a colloquium at St. John's University in New York. The members of the Seton Hall panel shared the impetus and methods of the Academy, which blends classroom and life learning experience in order to create meaningful service opportunities for students.

The Program of Catholic Studies, celebrating its 25th year at Seton Hall, offers so much to the Seton Hall Community throughout the year! Find out more by visiting www.shu.edu/catholic-studies-department.



The Center for Catholic Studies helps provide scholarships for students pursuing a major or minor in Catholic Studies, including those seeking study abroad opportunities with the Catholic Studies Program.

G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture

“The more I considered Christianity,” wrote G.K. Chesterton in *Orthodoxy* in 1908, “the more I found that while it had established a rule and order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild.” The same might be said of the Institute that bears his name. We have our rules and orders, our regular series of happenings, but the purpose of that regularity is to allow good things to run wild. For almost fifty years now, at first in Canada and now for over two decades at Seton Hall, we have published *The Chesterton Review*, the premier journal in its field, rightly hailed for the range of its scholarship and the quality of its writing. Every year, in addition, we produce a full range of conferences and events to stimulate the mind and, we hope, to nourish the soul. Chesterton was a giant of a man, big in every way. To be Chestertonian is to be similarly large in spirit, equally generous in giving, comparably grateful for the gift of existence itself. If our work has the appearance of good things running wild, as I hope it does, Chesterton would surely have approved.

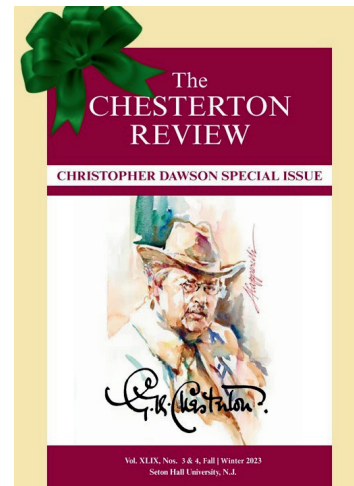
Founded in 1974 by Father Ian Boyd, C. S. B., the G. K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture and its widely recognized journal *The Chesterton Review*, explore the application of Chestertonian ideas in the contemporary world, and promotes the thought of Chesterton and his circle through conferences, lecture series, research, and writing.

G. K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture & *The Chesterton Review*
Our Outreach—Programs and Publications



United States

Argentina | Australia | Austria | Brazil | Canada | Chile | China
| Colombia | Korea | Croatia | France | Germany | India | Italy | Ireland
| Lebanon | Malta | Mauritius | Mexico | Norway | New Zealand | Peru |
Philippines | Portugal | Poland | Sweden | South Africa | Spain | UK |
United Arab Emirates



As we prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of both, the G. K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture and *The Chesterton Review*, we invite you to visit our website, subscribe to our journal and support the work of the institute by visiting: www.shu.edu/chesterton

Lonerган Institute



Since 2006, the Bernard J. Lonerган Institute at Seton Hall University has been dedicated to the study of his ideas and their application in contemporary culture. Besides being a research center with all the significant holdings of the primary and secondary literature on Bernard Lonerган, the Center also serves to implement Lonerган’s vision of Catholic theology integrating all of culture through programs in the natural and human sciences, historical scholarship, and the professions. This year, the Institute published Volume 13 of *The Lonerган Review*, and we are delighted to welcome Jonathan Heaps, Ph.D. as the third Director of the Lonerган Institute.

Toth-Lonerган Chair

The Center is blessed to welcome a visiting scholar to campus each year as the Toth-Lonerган Endowed Chair in Interdisciplinary Studies. Named after the late Deacon William Toth and Bernard Lonerган, S.J., the Chair is made possible through the generosity of long-time benefactors and friends of the Center. This academic year, we are pleased to have Dr. Francesca Zaccaron in this role. Dr. Zaccaron holds a Ph.D. in History, Theories and Methods of Education (LUMSA University, Rome, Italy). Her areas of specialization are Lonerган Studies and the philosophy of education. She has authored a number of articles and reviews and has presented papers at conferences and seminars on the topic of education and Lonerган. She is also a Jacques Maritain specialist and is a member of the American Maritain Association and the Board of Directors of the Jacques Maritain Institute in Trieste, Italy.



**Francesca
Zaccaron**

Toth-Lonerган
Visiting Professor



In addition to teaching for the University Core and Catholic Studies, Dr. Zaccaron facilitates the Praxis Program run by our friends in the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership. She also offers a public lecture each semester. This semester, Dr. Zaccaron offered her expertise and insight into “Communication, Cosmopolis, and Contemporary Education”.

Your generosity makes all of this possible

The Center for Catholic Studies is tasked with carrying out the mission of Seton Hall as an Archdiocesan University. We live, share, and deepen Seton Hall's Catholic identity through our programming and initiatives that directly benefit our students, our faculty, and the local Church. However, this is not possible without your generous support. We thank all of you who have so generously given of your time, talent, and treasure over the years. We ask that you once again consider a gift to the Center so that we can continue this great work. We simply cannot do this without you.

Thank you!



CENTER FOR
CATHOLIC STUDIES

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

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