



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Faculty & Administration News (FAN)

Volume XV, Issue 3

May 2024

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

- ❖ At the 2024 Celebration of Faculty Excellence, sponsored by Seton Hall University's Office of the Provost, at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on April 22, 2024, three outstanding ICSST faculty members were recognized with awards. **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, was honored as ICSST's Researcher of the Year. **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, was honored as ICSST's Teacher of the Year. **Reverend Roberto Ortiz, S.T.L., S.T.D. (Cand.)**, Director of Liturgy, and Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, was honored as ICSST's Adjunct of the Year. Additionally, ICSST received the inaugural award for Outstanding Achievement in Assessment. Additional information is available [here](#).

Publications

- ❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, published the following:
 - Scholarly co-edited book, with Dr. Matthew Levering and Reverend Aaron Pidel, S.J.: [*The Roman School*](#). Jesuit Studies Series, n. 43. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, March 2024.
Dr. Anderson wrote the following chapter of this book:
 - “Philosophical Inquiry according to the Roman School: Perrone, Kleutgen, & Contemporary Thomism on the Role of *Prima Principia*,” 203-24.
 - Book chapter: “Truth, Objective Morality, and Conversion.” In *Veritatis Splendor and the Pastor’s Task*, edited by Deacon James Keating, 5-22. Omaha, NE: Institute for Priestly Formation, 2024.

- ❖ **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 translation, from Italian into English, of an article by Claudio Balzaretti, “Le morti di Antioco IV” (“The Deaths of Antiochus IV”). [*Henoch: Historical and Textual Studies in Ancient and Medieval Judaism and Christianity*](#) 45, no. 1 (February 2024): 9-23.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, published an article on the website of the journal *First Things*: [“The Pope’s Favorite Theologian”](#) (March 11, 2024).

- ❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, published two articles in conference proceedings:
 - With Vassilka D. Kirova (Bell Labs Consulting, Nokia), Cyril S. Ku (Department of Computer Science, William Paterson University), and Thomas J. Marlowe (Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Seton Hall University): [“Software Engineering Education Must Adapt and Evolve for an LLM \(Large Language Model\) Environment.”](#) *Proceedings of the 55th Association for Computing Machinery Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education 1* (March 22, 2024): 666-72.
 - “Catholicism and Care for Creation.” *Proceedings of the Faculty Seminar on Climate Change* (May 10, 2024): 4-12. This article will be made available at <https://scholarship.shu.edu/missionmentors/>

Media Contributions

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology:
 - As previously reported, participated in a live podcast roundtable discussion with fellow Catholic Bible scholars Nathan Mastnjak and Nathan Schmiedicke. The discussion was moderated by John DeRosa, for episode #257 of *The Classical Theism Podcast*, on January 29, 2024. A recording of the podcast episode, [“The Pentateuch: Theology and Authorship: Roundtable with Three Catholic Bible Scholars.”](#) is now available.
 - Was interviewed six additional times regarding books of the Old Testament, for [Son Rise Morning Show](#), Sacred Heart Radio, Cincinnati, OH:
 - Live interview on Ezekiel (aired February 20, 2024).
 - Interview on Daniel (recorded February 20, 2024; aired February 27, 2024).
 - Interview on Hosea (recorded February 20, 2024; aired March 5, 2024).

- Live interview on Joel (aired March 12, 2024).
- Interview on Amos (recorded March 12, 2024; aired March 19, 2024).
- Interview on Obadiah (recorded March 12, 2024; aired March 26, 2024).
- Was interviewed by Matt Sperrazza and Father Sam Kachuba, on the topic [“Jesus’s Resurrection,”](#) for *The Tangent* podcast, Veritas Catholic Network, on March 27, 2024. The interview aired on April 3, 2024.
- Was interviewed on the topic [“Jesus’s Resurrection,”](#) for *The Drew Mariani Show*, Relevant Radio, on April 1, 2024.
- Was interviewed by Ryan Marr and Bo Bonner, on the topic [“The Resurrection and the Historical Scriptures,”](#) for episode # 265 of *The UnCommon Good* podcast, on May 2, 2024.
- Was interviewed by Will Wright, on the topic “Jesus’s Resurrection,” for the *Good Distinctions* podcast, on May 6, 2024.

Teaching Outside Seton Hall

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology, serves as instructor for [Emmaus Academy](#), offered online through the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. As previously reported, from August 14 to 16, 2023, Dr. Morrow filmed an online course on Jesus’s Resurrection. This seven-part course opened on April 1, 2024.
- ❖ **Gregory Y. Glazov, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, Professor and Chair of Biblical Studies, on two occasions, presented a two-part *Spotlight on the Scriptures* catechetical formation course for catechists and religion teachers of the Archdiocese of Newark: “Introduction to the Old Testament,” conducted online.

- On October 23 and 25, 2023. Approximately 12 people participated in each session.
- On January 16 and 17, 2024. Approximately 24 people participated in each session.

Special Events and Initiatives

- ❖ ICSST is pleased to unveil its *Profiles in Faith* series, featuring the voices, stories, and personal testimonies of its diverse student body. This series, an initiative of [The 4:12 Pathway for Pastoral Leadership](#) project, funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, highlights the roles of discernment, encouragement, and accompaniment in the faith and ministry of those at the heart of the Seminary. [View the Profiles in Faith](#) to witness the academic and personal journeys of ICSST’s priests, religious brothers and sisters, seminarians, diaconal candidates, and lay students.
- ❖ With the Archdiocese of Newark, ICSST’s Center for Diaconal Formation co-sponsored the following sessions for permanent diaconate aspirants and their wives:
 - February 24, 2024, session at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, NJ. **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, delivered a presentation to the aspirants and their wives on the topic “Introduction to *The Catechism*.” Approximately 60 people attended.
 - March 23, 2024, session at St. Andrew Parish, Westwood, NJ. **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology, delivered a presentation to the aspirants on the topic “Philosophy for Deacons.” Approximately 50 people attended this presentation. **Diane M. Carr, M.A. ’07**, Coordinator of Graduate and International

- Services, delivered a spiritual morning reflection on prayer to the aspirants' wives. Approximately 35 people attended this presentation.
- April 13, 2024, session at St. Andrew Parish, Westwood, NJ. **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation, and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology, delivered a presentation to the aspirants and their wives on the topic “Catholic Social Teaching: Our Treasure and Responsibility.” Approximately 70 people attended.

 - ❖ The Seton Hall University Core, Catholic Studies Program, Department of Religion, 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, **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology, delivered a lecture on a recent book he co-authored with Jeff Cavins, Biff Rocha, and Andrew Swafford, [*A Catholic Guide to the Old Testament*](#) (Ascension Press, 2023), on February 28, 2024. Approximately 10 people attended the live webinar. Additional information about the event can be found [here](#).

 - ❖ With the Diocese of Paterson, ICSST's Center for Diaconal Formation co-sponsored the following:
 - Session for permanent diaconate candidates for the Diocese of Paterson, held at St. Paul Inside the Walls, Madison, NJ, on March 16, 2024. **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation, delivered presentations on the topics “Critical Conversations: Understanding Boundaries” and “Deacons, Celibacy, and the Church.” Eight candidates and two formators participated in the case studies and attended the presentations.

- Morning of recollection for permanent diaconate candidates and their wives, on the theme *The Moral Life of the Deacon*, at St. Paul Inside the Walls, Madison, NJ, on April 20, 2024. **Reverend Mariusz Eugene R. Koch, C.F.R., M.Div., M.A.**, Spiritual Director, served as facilitator. Eighteen people attended.

- ❖ ICSST hosted a lecture and book-signing by **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology, in celebration of the recent publication of his co-authored book, [*Murmuring Against Moses: The Contentious History and Contested Future of Pentateuchal Studies*](#) (Emmaus Academic, 2023). For much of the history of both Judaism and Christianity, the Pentateuch—first five books of the Bible—was understood to be the unified work of a single inspired author: Moses. Yet the standard view in modern biblical scholarship contends that the Pentateuch is a composite text made up of fragments from diverse and even discrepant sources that originated centuries after the events it purports to describe. In *Murmuring against Moses*, John S. Bergsma and Jeffrey L. Morrow provide a critical narrative of the emergence of modern Pentateuchal studies and challenge the scholarly consensus by highlighting the weaknesses of the modern paradigms and mustering an array of new evidence for the Pentateuch’s antiquity. By shedding light on the past history of research and the present developments in the field, Bergsma and Morrow give fresh voice to a growing scholarly dissatisfaction with standard critical approaches and make an important contribution toward charting a more promising future for Pentateuchal studies. A light reception in the Seminary Refectory followed Dr. Morrow’s lecture, and copies of the book were available for purchase. Twenty people attended the lecture, which was held in the Seminary’s Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, on April 11, 2024.

- ❖ ICSST hosted and participated in a Mass and induction ceremony for [*Theta Alpha Kappa*](#), the National Honor Society for Theology and Religious Studies, on Monday evening, April 15, 2024, in the Seminary’s Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd. After Holy Communion, **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology, offered remarks. Twenty-three students (4 undergraduate and 19 graduate, from ICSST) were inducted and 50 people (inductees, guests, seminarians, formators, religious superiors, and professors) attended the ceremony. **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, announced each inductee’s name and offered congratulatory wishes. Following Mass, inductees and their guests were welcomed for dinner in the Seminary Refectory. **Elizabeth M. Vacchiano, M.A. ’20**, Coordinator of Student and Administration Support Services, organized and supervised the event.

- ❖ [The Seton Hall University chapter of The Society of Catholic Scientists](#) sponsored the lecture [“Galileo, Science, and Scripture.”](#) presented by **Kenneth J. Howell, Ph.D.**, Academic Director of the Eucharist Project and President of the Pontifical Studies Foundation. The lecture was held at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 18, 2024. **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, served as organizer for this event. ICSST was among the co-sponsors. Approximately 30 people attended in person, and more than 100 people viewed the livestream. A recording of the lecture is available [here](#).

- ❖ Seton Hall University’s Departments of Physics and Catholic Studies, Immaculate Seminary School of Theology, Core Curriculum Program, Center for Catholic Studies, and chapter of

the Society of Catholic Scientists, in collaboration with the Stanley Jaki Foundation, sponsored the [2024 Stanley Jaki International Congress](#). This conference marked the centenary of Father Stanley Jaki's birth on August 17, 1924, and was held at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 24, 2024. Approximately 40 people attended in person and approximately 12 people participated remotely. **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, served as program committee chair for this event. Additionally, Father Laracy offered the [opening prayer](#) and presented "[Jaki and Barbour: Pilgrims on Parallel Paths of the Science and Religion Journey](#)." This event follows the successful inaugural *2015 Stanley Jaki International Congress*. A recording of the full *2024 Stanley Jaki International Congress* is available [here](#).

- ❖ Seton Hall University's [Academy For Nature And Nurture: Interdisciplinary Approaches To Resilience](#) and The Institute of Neuroimmune Pharmacology sponsored a [Morning of Healing and Hope: Confronting the Challenge of Addiction](#), at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on April 30, 2024. **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, served as one of the organizers for this event. Featured panelists were **Morgan Thompson**, M.S.W., Chief Executive Officer of Prevention Links, a Union County-based nonprofit focused on substance use prevention and recovery support, and **Reverend Tom Hoar**, S.S.E., Ph.D., President of Enders Island Retreat, based in Mystic, CT. Approximately 30 people attended in person and another 30 viewed the livestream. A recording of the event is available [here](#).

- ❖ ICSST sponsored a screening of the documentary *Into Great Silence* (2005), in the McNulty Hall Amphitheatre, at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on May 2, 2024. The documentary, directed by

Philip Gröning, examines life inside the Grande Chartreuse, the original monastery of the reclusive Carthusian Order in the French Alps. **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, and **Reverend Colin A. Kay, M.Div.**, Seton Hall University's Vice President for Mission and Ministry, a former Carthusian monk, offered a brief introduction and led conversation prior to the screening. Thirty-one people attended.

Mission and Service

- ❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology:
 - Volunteers as a guest speaker for the Sisters in formation for the Missionaries of Charity – Contemplatives, in Plainfield, NJ, delivering a series of presentations on the Ten Commandments, for one and a half hours per session, including both teaching and discussion. Dr. Anderson delivers these presentations on an approximately bi-monthly basis throughout the year. Approximately eight to ten Sisters attend each session.
 - Volunteers as co-organizer of small circles of Catholic married couples in New Jersey. These couples meet eight times per year in one another's homes, enjoy dinner, and listen together to a presenter via Zoom, then discuss the topic on faith, marriage, and family in their respective circles. Approximately 32 people (16 couples) attend each meeting.

- ❖ **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology:
 - Serves as coordinator of prison ministry religious services for the Archdiocese of Newark, at Essex County Correctional Facility, Newark, NJ, on an ongoing basis. This includes interaction with jail administration for arrangement of Catholic services and accessibility of the sacraments for detainees.

- Serves as prison minister at Essex County Correctional Facility, Newark, NJ, every Friday. In this role, Dr. Fortin offers Bible studies and outreach to county, federal, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees.

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

- Frequently serves as confessor at parish penance services, recently having served in this role at Holy Spirit Parish, Pequannock, NJ; Christ the King Parish, New Vernon, NJ; Holy Family Parish, Florham Park, NJ; Holy Spirit Parish, Union, NJ; Our Lady of the Mount Parish, Warren, NJ; and Seton Hall University Campus Ministry, South Orange, NJ.
- Served as principal celebrant at:
 - Two Young Adult Masses, held at St. Paul Inside the Walls Diocesan Center for New Evangelization (for the Diocese of Paterson), Madison, NJ:
 - On August 6, 2023. Approximately 40 people attended.
 - On March 13, 2024. Approximately 60 people attended.
 - Easter Triduum liturgies, at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Boonton, NJ, from March 28 to 31, 2024. Approximately 150 people attended.
- Presented the following:
 - “Holy Eucharist: What We Live.” Presentation to Directors of Religious Education and catechists of the Diocese of Paterson, delivered online, on November 16, 2023. Approximately 50 people attended.

- “The Holy Eucharist: Unlocking the Power and the Participation.” Advent retreat, at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Paterson, NJ, on December 1 and 2, 2023. Approximately 15 people attended.
- “Theology of the Body: Introduction to Catholic Sexuality.” Presentation to OCIA students, Seton Hall University Campus Ministry, on February 4, 2024. Approximately 15 people attended.
- “The Meaning of Friendship.” Lenten retreat for teenaged girls, sponsored by The Little Servant Sisters of The Immaculate Conception, Cherry Hill, NJ, on February 17 and 18, 2024. Approximately 20 people attended.
- “Holy Friendships.” Lenten retreat for women, at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Mountain Lakes, NJ, from March 1 to 3, 2024. Approximately 20 people attended.
- “Why Sexuality Matters: An Introduction to Theology of the Body.” Presentation to young adults, at St. Paul Inside the Walls Diocesan Center for New Evangelization (for the Diocese of Paterson), Madison, NJ, on April 24, 2024. Approximately 60 people attended.
- “St. John the Baptist as the Model for Diaconate Ministry and Formation.” Diocesan retreat for permanent deacons of the Diocese of Paterson, at Loyola Retreat House, Morristown, NJ, on May 3 and 4, 2024. Approximately 15 people attended.
- During the Spring 2024 semester, was appointed to SHU’s Working Group to develop a proposal for a grant opportunity, [*Educating Character Initiative*](#), from Wake Forest University (funded by Lilly Endowment).
- As *Censor Librorum* for the Diocese of Paterson, reviewed the following future publications seeking Imprimatur (ensuring freedom from doctrinal or moral errors):

- *Living Wisdom Every Day*, by Reverend Jude Winkler, O.F.M. Conv., Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, on March 3, 2024.
- *A Child's Way of the Cross*, by Reverend Jude Winkler, O.F.M. Conv., Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, on March 21, 2024.
- *St. Joseph Sunday Missal Prayerbook and Hymnal for 2025*, Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, on April 10, 2024.
- *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass*, Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, on May 9, 2024.

❖ **John D. Nowik, M.M.**, Director of Music, Organist, and Adjunct Professor of Liturgy and Music, presented “The Beauty of Authentic Sacred Liturgical Music,” the first lecture of the three-part series *The Way of Beauty in Eucharistic Revival*, at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, Metuchen, NJ, on January 6, 2024. Approximately 70 people attended, and many more have viewed the presentation on YouTube. Other lectures in the series were: “The Beauty of the History of the Mass,” presented by Reverend Timothy Eck, II, and “The Beauty of the 21st-Century Mass and Other Liturgies,” presented by Very Reverend Jeffrey M. Calia, C.O. A video recording of Mr. Nowik’s presentation can be viewed [on the Cathedral’s website](#) or [on YouTube](#).

- ❖ **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 “Scripture, Tradition, Magisterium.” Lecture, for OCIA group preparing for entrance into the Catholic Church, at St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Clifton, NJ, on January 22, 2024. Fourteen people attended.
 - Presented *A Lenten Exodus*, five-part lecture series, at Immaculate Conception Parish, Montclair, NJ. Approximately 25 people attended each lecture:
 - “‘With Mighty Hand and Outstretched Arm’ – The Exodus from Egypt – An Historical Introduction,” on February 15, 2024.
 - “‘Living in Egypt’ (Ex. 1-12) – The Ancient Hebrews and Us,” on February 22, 2024.
 - “‘Leaving Egypt’ (Ex. 12-18) – A Biblical ‘How-To’ Guide,” on February 29, 2024.
 - “‘You Shall Be My People’ (Ex. 19-24) – Covenants Old and New,” on March 14, 2024.
 - “‘Walking to the Promised Land’ (Ex. 25-40) – Living After Mount Sinai,” on March 21, 2024.
 - Presented “The Last Days of Jesus.” Lecture, at St. John Parish, Leonia, NJ, on March 19, 2024. Approximately 25 people attended.
 - Presented “Transitioning to Major Seminary: Spiritual Life.” One-hour presentation delivered to the senior class of St. Andrew’s College Seminary, at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on April 2, 2024.
 - As *Censor Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, reviewed *Grateful Living: The Joy of Stewardship*, by L. Anslinger. Plainfield, NJ: Renew International, 2024.

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

Theology:

- Presented the following:
 - “Faith and Reason, Theology and Science, and the CII.” Lunch-and-learn workshop, sponsored by Seton Hall University’s Center for Faculty Development, at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on February 15, 2024. Five people attended.
 - “Transitioning to Major Seminary: The Intellectual Dimension.” Talk delivered to the senior class of St. Andrew’s College Seminary, at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on March 12, 2024.
 - “Catholicism and Care for Creation: Teaching *Laudato Si’* in the Core.” Lecture, for SHU’s Core Curriculum Faculty Development Program, delivered online via Microsoft Teams, on April 5, 2024. Approximately eight people attended.
- Was elected chairman of ICSSST’s Department of Systematic Theology, in April 2024.
- Was appointed a *Censor Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, effective in Spring 2024.

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

- Served at a penance service for Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on February 16, 2024. Approximately 100 people attended.
- Facilitated a day of recollection on the theme *Who Is Jesus*, for the staff of St. James Parish, Springfield, NJ, on February 17, 2024. The retreat, held at the Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling, NJ, included two conferences, small group discussion, and a holy hour. Approximately 20 people attended.

- Served at a Lenten Holy Hour, delivering a reflection on the theme “The Powerlessness of the Desert,” at St. Bartholomew Parish, Scotch Plains, NJ, on February 19, 2024. Approximately 200 people attended.
- Delivered a formation conference to all resident seminarians of the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Andrew’s Hall, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on the theme “The Call to Chastity, the Call to Love,” on February 27, 2024.
- At a day of recollection, delivered two talks in preparation for the community chapter of the Pauline Fathers and Brothers, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA, on March 1, 2024. Approximately 25 priests and brothers attended.
- Served at a Lenten Holy Hour and Vespers, at St. Augustine Parish, Kendall Park, NJ, on March 11, 2024. Father Koch delivered a talk on the theme “The Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.” Approximately 100 people attended.
- Facilitated a retreat for permanent deacons, at Marist Brothers Center, Esopus, NY, from March 16 to 18, 2024. Nine deacons attended.
- For the “Ten Miles with Jesus” walk, on March 17, 2024, co-coordinated the English section of the walk with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. The day began at 10 a.m. at St. Theresa Church in Linden, NJ. The pilgrims traveled through Elizabeth, NJ, en route to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, NJ. Along the way, the group prayed the Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and joined together in song. Approximately ten friars assisted with the singing and leading the prayers. The day ended with an evening Mass celebrated by **Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., D.D.**, Archbishop of Newark. More than 1,200 people attended.

- Served as confessor for Seton Hall University’s OCIA students preparing for entrance into the Catholic Church, at a penance service held in the Boland Hall Campus Ministry chapel on SHU’s South Orange campus, on March 24, 2024.
- Under the auspices of the post-abortion ministry program *Entering Canaan: A Sacramental Journey to an Inheritance of Mercy*, facilitated a post-abortion retreat for siblings. The program was held at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA, from April 5 to 7, 2024. Father Koch delivered several conferences, presided at Mass and a prayer service, and celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Ten people attended.
- Served at a parish event on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7, 2024, at St. Philomena Parish, Livingston, NJ. The afternoon included adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass, and a conference by Father Koch on the topic “The Mercy of God.” Approximately 200 people attended.
- Served as confessor at a retreat for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Holy Spirit Parish, Union, NJ, on April 13, 2024. The retreat was facilitated by the seminarians of the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew’s Hall, SHU, and was held at Holy Spirit Parish, Union, NJ.
- In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the presence of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in Newark, NJ, delivered a talk on the history of Most Blessed Sacrament Friary and the Franciscan mission to the poor. Father Koch delivered this talk to the Franciscan Associates, at Most Blessed Sacrament Friary, Newark, NJ, on April 20, 2024. Approximately 80 people attended.

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology:
 - Is serving as a member of the [Aikido Schools of New Jersey](#) Parent Teacher Association, Roselle Park, NJ, from January to August 2024.
 - Presented two guest lectures for The Grade, a program for high school men, at Murray Hill Place Conference Center, New York City, NY. Approximately ten people attended each lecture:
 - “Human Rights,” on March 16, 2024.
 - “The Historical Reliability of Scripture,” on April 20, 2024.

- ❖ The monthly, student-faculty coffeehouse, *Agape Latte*, hosted by SHU’s Center for Catholic Studies and Campus Ministry and held on SHU’s South Orange campus, recently featured personal stories of faith presented by two ICSST faculty members. Approximately 50 people attended each talk:
 - [“From Earthly Father to Spiritual Father,”](#) by **Reverend Thomas P. Shubeck, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology, on March 21, 2024.
 - “Faith, Poverty, and Redemption,” by **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology, on April 18, 2024.

- ❖ **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, presented a talk addressing holiness in the lay vocation, for the *Theology on Tap* series for young adults ages 21-35, at St. Aloysius Parish, Caldwell, NJ, on April 12, 2024. Approximately 60 people attended.

- ❖ **Gregory C. Floyd, M.A. '04**, Assistant Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation, presented “Eternal Bonds,” a reflection on his Catholic bestseller, *A Grief Unveiled: One Father’s Journey through the Death of a Child*. Original songs from his album *Angel in Disguise* anchored the themes of grief, hope, and faith. The talk was held at Church of the Little Flower, Berkeley Heights, NJ, on April 18, 2024. Approximately 25 people attended.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Gerard H. McCarren, S.T.D.**, Rector/Dean, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, as *Censor Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, in April 2024, reviewed the 2025 Paulist Press *Ordo*, which is distributed to most US dioceses for use in church sacristies.

Conferences, Meetings, Panel Discussions, and Symposia

- ❖ Seton Hall University’s Center for Catholic Studies, partnered with RENEW International, sponsored the [Seton Values Summit](#), a one-day conference for professionals in any field and stage of life. The summit, held at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on March 9, 2024, focused on balancing faith and work in everyday life. Sixty people attended. The event featured **Carolyn Woo**, a former Notre Dame business dean, and **Chris Lowney**, a former Jesuit seminarian and managing director for J.P. Morgan. The current executive director of RENEW is Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology alumnus **G. Gregory Tobin, M.A. '06**. Breakout sessions throughout the morning and afternoon covered topics of mission, vocation, leadership, and using one’s spiritual gifts, always tying into the theme of balancing faith, work, and life. Session speakers included ICSST alumna **Julie V. Burkey, M.A.P.M. '04, D.Min.**, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology at ICSST, who presented “Leading with Your Spiritual Gifts: Discover Your God-Given Gifts for Work & Life,”

outlining the Catholic/Christian teaching on charisms and guiding participants in self-administered assessment to shed light on their unique callings in work and evangelization. At the end of the day, participants worshipped together at Mass, with **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, Vice Provost for Academics and Catholic Identity, and former ICSST Rector/Dean, as the main celebrant. Additional information about the event is available [here](#).

❖ **Gregory Y. Glazov, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, Professor and Chair of Biblical Studies:

- As a representative of ICSST's Lilly Endowment-funded *Preaching as Hospitality* grant, attended the Compelling Preaching Coordinator Program for Grant Recipients, in Indianapolis, IN, from March 12 to 14, 2024. As previously reported, in October 2023, ICSST was awarded this \$1.25 million dollar grant from the Lilly Endowment based on a proposal written by **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology. A multi-faceted, five-year formation program, *Preaching as Hospitality* seeks to help participants invite and welcome the Word of God into their lives, so that in encountering the Lord, they may encourage their listeners to draw closer to Christ. Additional information about the grant is available [here](#).
- Has accepted an invitation from the Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) to serve as a panel discussant for the session *The Hebrew Bible / Old Testament in Russian Thought and Literature* at the ASEEES Convention, to be held in Boston, MA, from October 17 to 18, 2024.

❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, presented “Software Engineering Education Must Adapt and Evolve for an LLM (Large Language Model) Environment.” Paper, at the Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE TS), sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), on March 22, 2024. The conference was held at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR, with some limited online participation options. Father Laracy delivered his presentation online via Zoom. Approximately 60 people attended Father Laracy’s presentation.

❖ **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, delivered the following:

- “Silencing the Authoritative Past: The Methodological Problem of Theological Continuity.” Invited oral presentation, at the *Newman and Nicaea* conference, sponsored by the National Institute for Newman Studies, together with the Center for Scriptural Exegesis, Philosophy, and Doctrine (at Mundelein Seminary). The conference was held at the University of St. Mary of the Lake Conference Center, Mundelein, IL, on April 5, 2024. Approximately 15 people attended Dr. Scully’s presentation.
- “How Modern Perceptions of Truth Affect Understanding of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.” Invited oral presentation, at the [Petersheim Faculty Research Showcase](#), sponsored by the Office of Grants and Research Services, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 24, 2024. Approximately ten people attended Dr. Scully’s presentation. A recording of the full Research Showcase is available [here](#). Dr. Scully’s presentation runs from the 51:00 mark to the 1:11:30 mark.

- ❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Moral Theology, presented “Teaching Scandal in Catholic Seminaries.” Paper, at the *National Conference for Moral Theologians in Catholic Seminaries*, held at University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, IL, on April 15, 2024. Approximately 15 people attended Dr. Anderson’s presentation.

- ❖ **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, at the Silver Anniversary Commemoration of the Seton Hall University Catholic Studies Program/Department, delivered a presentation about the Catholic Studies commemorative volume edited by Ines Murzaku and himself, titled *An Interdisciplinary Pedagogical Model for Catholic Studies - Rooted in Vatican II, Growing Through the 21st Century* (Springer, c. 2024). Part of SHU’s 28th Annual Petersheim Academic Exposition, the event was conducted on April 22, 2024. Seven people attended Dr. Rice’s presentation and more viewed his presentation online.

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology, presented two scholarly papers at the [2024 Stanley Jaki International Congress](#), held at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 24, 2024. Approximately 40 people attended each presentation:
 - Paper co-authored with Biff Rocha and co-presented with Biff Rocha: [“Nineteenth-Century American Catholic Approaches to Darwinian Evolution.”](#)
 - [“Nature and Scripture: Galileo’s Proposed Biblical Hermeneutic in the Context of Early Modern Biblical Interpretation.”](#)

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 chair of the Reader Panel of the Board of Commissioners of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), on November 15, 2023.
 - Is serving on the Working Committee to Oversee the Review of the 2020 ATS Standards of Accreditation.
 - Served as a committee member for the ATS initial accreditation visit of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary, South Bound Brook, NJ. The visit took place from March 11 to 14, 2024.

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Professor of Undergraduate Theology, served as a blind manuscript reviewer for an essay in a book that **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, is editing, in March 2024.

- ❖ **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology, and **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation, and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology, each reviewed a scholarly paper for the [2024 Stanley Jaki International Congress](#), in March 2024.

- ❖ **Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. '08**, Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation, has accepted membership in the [International Diaconate Centre](#) (IDC). Since 1965, the IDC has supported the theological, pastoral spiritual, and intellectual formation of permanent

deacons worldwide. This international organization served in an advisory role to Pope Paul VI in the restoration of the Permanent Diaconate.