



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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## SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

### *Faculty & Administration News (FAN)*

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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.

### **Approval by Accreditor**

- ❖ As previously reported, on February 4, 2025, the Board of Commissioners of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) voted to reaffirm Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology's accreditation for the full period of ten years. Additional information on this reaffirmation is available [here](#). Pursuant to the requirement issued in February 2025 by the ATS Board of Commissioners, ICSST produced a report indicating how each ICSST strategic plan priority will be achieved, including appropriate human, financial, physical, and technological resources needed for each priority, and submitted this report to ATS on April 1, 2025. On May 8, 2025, ICSST received from the ATS Board of Commissioners notification of acceptance of ICSST's report on ICSST's Strategic Plan. The ATS Board of Commissioners noted of ICSST's report: "Every objective is well defined, not just in terms of what it seeks to accomplish but also in terms of the actual steps to be taken to achieve it, the personnel needed to accomplish the objective, finances required, and who will be leading the efforts."

The implementation process is well laid out and mapped to ensure maximum clarity and accountability but also to provide specific benchmarks over the four-year implementation horizon, which will aid in the process of evaluating progress.” Instrumental in the production of ICSST’s report on its Strategic Plan were **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, and **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology. ICSST is grateful to them for their work in advancing the Mission.

## Awards

- ❖ At the 2025 Celebration of Faculty Excellence, sponsored by Seton Hall University’s Office of the Provost, at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on May 6, 2025, five outstanding ICSST faculty members were recognized with awards.
  - **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology, was honored as ICSST’s Researcher of the Year. Dr. Fortin has been a gift to ICSST since 2009. With a Ph.D. from Santa Croce in Rome and an M.A. from The Catholic University of America, in Philosophy, he also brings his M.S. in Clinical Psychology from IPS, now Divine Mercy University, in Virginia, as foundations for his reflections, which he expresses in the form of “a symposium” in his new book with Springer, [\*On the Nature of Human Sexual Difference: A Symposium\*](#). Indeed, this book, expanding significantly explorations begun years ago in his published research and in his classroom, will be foundational for discussions of the presently much controverted areas of sexuality and gender as we move forward. ICSST is grateful that Dr. Fortin has had the courage to enter this debate and the focus to become a leader in it.

- **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, was honored as ICSST's Teacher of the Year. Dr. Scully has been with ICSST since 2011, and her research, teaching, and service have always been focused and of very high quality. Soon to be full professor, she published [\*Human Salvation in Early Christianity: Exploring the Theology of Physicalist Soteriology\*](#) with Cambridge this year. ICSST gives thanks for her teaching, of high quality, passionate, innovative, interdisciplinary when appropriate, and opening the frontiers of Proficiency Infusion, Core III, and Mission Partnering for the School of Theology. ICSST is thankful that our School's 2024 Researcher of the Year is our 2025 Teacher of the Year.
- **Reverend Monsignor Raymond J. Kupke, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Church History, was honored as ICSST's Adjunct of the Year. Monsignor Kupke, a Paterson diocesan priest, began teaching Ecclesiastical History at ICSST in 1988. Beloved by his students since then, he has taught more than a generation of priests. Moreover, he has contributed to the life of ICSST in myriad ways, bringing, in effective ways, the historical discipline he learned in his doctoral studies at The Catholic University of America and his encyclopedic knowledge of American Church History to students both American- and foreign-born. His teaching has always been marked by the inclusion of details that bring history to life. Countless priests, deacons, and other Church ministers in New Jersey, neighboring states, and countries throughout the world remember anecdotes and principles they learned from Monsignor Kupke, and all are filled with gratitude.
- **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, was honored with ICSST's Award for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Skills. Father Laracy, a Newark archdiocesan priest, employs his knowledge of Science and Mathematics, developed from his study at the University of Illinois and

Massachusetts Institute of Technology and numerous publications in these fields, with his deep familiarity with Theology, deepened with his doctoral work at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and in subsequent publications, to illuminate the complementarity of these fields. Students, perhaps skeptical of the place of Theology among the arts and sciences today, discover its relevance and, indeed, its integrative power. Theology students find application of their field in varied practical ways throughout the STEM landscape. Father Laracy, who is a wonderful mentor to his students, helps them advance far beyond the capabilities they brought at semester's beginning, as shown in his students' presentations in April's Petersheim Exposition. We at ICSST are thankful that Father Laracy helps our students—and many others—discover the relevance of Theology today through varied applications, opening new frontiers.

- **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology, was honored with ICSST's Award for Excellence in Service-Learning. Father Tomczyk, a priest of the Diocese of Paterson, teaches Moral Theology, an area where the theoretical meets the practical. Case studies are particularly relevant in the teaching of Christian Ethics. Father Tomczyk's teaching of this subject to ICSST's permanent deacon candidates—to both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking cohorts on account of his constructive use of time in learning Spanish during the COVID shutdown and continuing ever since, including three summers abroad—only increases the focus on experience-based learning because our permanent deacon candidates bring life experience that our seminarians, typically young, do not. In addition, Father Tomczyk leads ICSST's Pastoral Formation program, which puts our seminarians in field placements—parishes, hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, schools, and social service

settings—where they learn precisely through service and prepare for a life of ministry in the Church.

## New Administrative Staff Roles

- ❖ **Alyssa V. Carolan, M.A. '20**, began new responsibilities at ICSST on February 24, 2025.

Alyssa is an alumna of ICSST, and she worked as a graduate assistant during her time of study. She then continued to give ICSST significant time as Administrative Assistant for ICSST's Lilly Endowment *4:12 Pathway for Pastoral Leadership* grant. Now her attention is focused on ICSST's Lilly Endowment *Preaching as Hospitality* grant, having been hired as Administrative Assistant for this constellation of projects. Additionally, Alyssa ministers as Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, and as Online Communications Coordinator, for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Oak Ridge, NJ, and St. John Vianney Parish in Stockholm, NJ.

- ❖ **Michael J. Morano, B.A. '23**, joined the ICSST community on March 3, 2025, as Web Editor and Writer for ICSST's *Preaching as Hospitality* grant. Michael earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Seton Hall University in May 2023 in History and Journalism. While at Seton Hall, he served as an editor and writer for *The Stillman Exchange*, a publication of the School of Business. Since that time, he has worked as a freelance journalist. He is an active member of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Cedar Grove, NJ.

## Publications

- ❖ **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, published the following:
  - Book, co-edited with Ines A. Murzaku: [\*An Interdisciplinary Pedagogical Model for Catholic Studies: Rooted in Vatican II, Growing Through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century\*](#). Catholic Education Globally: Challenges and Opportunities. Singapore: Springer, 2025. Dr. Rice wrote the following chapter of this book:
    - “John Paul II’s Christian Humanism: A Paradigm for Catholic Studies.” 85-98.
- ❖ **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology, published a journal article: “*Dignitas Sacerdotalis: Moral Implications.*” *Angelicum* 101, no. 1 (2024): 77-104.
- ❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies, published a journal article: [\*“Returning to the Edge: Religious Education, Affiliation, and Accompaniment.”\*](#) *Religious Education* 120, no. 1 (2025): 4-17.
- ❖ **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 Two Sides of the Dallas Charter”\*](#) (March 18, 2025).
  - As Co-Chair of the bilateral ecumenical initiative Evangelicals and Catholics Together (ECT), was a signatory of [\*“The Pillar and Foundation of Truth,”\*](#) ECT’s seven-page

statement on the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. The statement was published on the website of the journal *First Things* on March 25, 2025. Additionally, the statement was the subject of an article by Tyler Arnold, [“One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic: Scholars Issue Joint Statement on Marks of the Church,”](#) published on the website of Catholic News Agency on April 8, 2025. Monsignor Guarino’s dedication to fostering dialogue and unity within the Christian faith was highlighted in a [news story](#) published on the Seton Hall University website on April 15, 2025.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor John A. Radano, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, published a review of *Grassroots Ecumenism: The Way of Local Christian Reunion*, by Karen Petersen Finch. *Journal of Social Encounters* 9, no. 1 (March 2025): 310-12.

## Media Contribution

- ❖ **Gregory Y. Glazov, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, Professor and Chair of Biblical Studies, participated with **Jon Radwan, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Communication in Seton Hall’s College of Human Development, Culture, and Media, and Director of the Institute for Communication and Religion, in a [podcast discussion](#) of their SHU Academy, The Shame Seminar. Among the seminar’s goals is to better understand shame’s meaning and function and its link to guilt. The podcast, which aired on March 17, 2025, is part of the *Faculty Matters* series sponsored by SHU’s Center for Faculty Development.

## Teaching Outside Seton Hall

- ❖ **Gregory Y. Glazov, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, Professor and Chair of Biblical Studies, 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 March 11 and 12, 2025. Approximately 20 people participated in each session.

## Special Events and Initiatives

- ❖ **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 *St. Peter in the New Testament: His Life and Example*, a five-part lecture series, at Immaculate Conception Church, Montclair, NJ. The series was sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church and Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology. Approximately 35 people attended each lecture:
  - “The Call of St. Peter: Jesus Chooses Peter (and Us!),” on March 6, 2025.
  - “Peter’s Confession of Faith: What Does it Mean to Live for Jesus?,” on March 13, 2025.
  - “Peter’s Denial: What Happens When We Sin?,” on March 20, 2025.
  - “Peter at Pentecost: Living in Renewed Faith,” on March 27, 2025.
  - “Peter After the Gospels: Being Faithful in a Fallen World,” on April 3, 2025.
- ❖ 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:



- **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology, delivered a lecture on his recently published book, [\*The Nature of Human Sexuality: A Symposium\*](#) (Springer, 2025), on March 18, 2025. Six people attended the live webinar. Additional information about the event can be found [here](#).
- **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, delivered a lecture on her recently published book, [\*Human Salvation in Early Christianity: Exploring the Theology of Physicalist Soteriology\*](#) (Cambridge University Press, January 2025), on April 15, 2025. Seven people attended the live webinar. Additional information about the event can be found [here](#).
- ❖ ICSST hosted a lecture and book-signing by **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophical Theology, in celebration of the recent publication of his book, [\*The Nature of Human Sexuality: A Symposium\*](#) (Springer 2025). This work tells four stories of the origins, nature, and ends of human sexual difference. Having examined the phenomena of sexual difference, the evolutionists, Simone de Beauvoir, and Judith Butler each offer an account of the reality of sex. The thought of Thomas Aquinas is then brought to bear upon the findings of contemporary science and philosophy. The work seeks to trace each protagonist's account to its fonts, thereby providing a perspective from which various streams of thought might be understood both in their divergence and agreement. Ultimately, it offers a vision of human sexual difference grounded in gratitude for the goodness of being. A light reception in the Seminary Refectory followed Dr. Fortin's lecture, and copies of his book were available for purchase. Approximately 30 people attended the lecture, which was held in the Seminary's Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, on March 27, 2025.

- ❖ ICSST's Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program, funded by a \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., continued its *Many Faces of Hospitality* series, sponsoring a third event at Immaculate Conception Seminary for the Seton Hall University and broader communities: *An Evening of Reflection on Dorothy Day and the Visual Arts as Preaching*, on April 9, 2025. This event included a presentation by artist Brother Mickey McGrath in the Seminary's Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, followed by a wine and cheese reception and meet and greet with Brother McGrath in the Seminary refectory, with prints and books by Brother McGrath available for purchase. Forty-two people attended. Additional information about the event can be found [here](#).
  
- ❖ ICSST's Faculty Library Committee sponsored its inaugural Lunch in the Library on April 10, 2025. The event featured **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, who shared topics, authors, and insights and why these are theologically programmatic or personally impactful. After a brief presentation, Dr. Johnston led an open discussion and fielded questions from attendees. Approximately ten people attended.
  
- ❖ ICSST hosted a lecture and book-signing by **Ellen R. Scully, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Theology, in celebration of the recent publication of her book, [\*Human Salvation in Early Christianity: Exploring the Theology of Physicalist Soteriology\*](#) (Cambridge University Press, January 2025). Some of the greatest early Christian theologians taught that because all of humanity fell to Adam, the incarnation of Christ, who is the second Adam, must also have a universal effect independent of individual belief or consent. Dr. Scully's book outlines this "physicalist" logic in which all humans, not just believers, benefit from the incarnation, and, in unraveling the mystery of its fifth-century disappearance, reveals theological ways to combat

the overwhelming individualism of the present day. A light reception in the Seminary Refectory followed Dr. Scully's lecture, and copies of her book were available for purchase. Twenty-six people attended the lecture, which was held in the Seminary's Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, on April 22, 2025.

- ❖ ICSST, together with the University CORE, Seton Hall University School of Law, the Center for Catholic Studies, and the Catholic Studies Program, co-sponsored [\*Immigration: Local and National, Religious and Ethical Perspectives\*](#), at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 24, 2025. More information about the event can be found [here](#).

## Mission and Service

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Chapel, S.T.D.**, Associate Spiritual Director:
  - As Director of Permanent Diaconate Formation for the Archdiocese of Newark, organizes and leads monthly Saturday formation sessions for more than 50 permanent diaconate candidates for the Archdiocese of Newark.
  - Celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, NJ, on March 5, 2025.
  - Celebrated Italian Mass for Italian students at St. Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, NJ, on March 24, 2025.
- ❖ **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology:
  - As *Censor Librorum* for the Diocese of Paterson, reviewed the following future publications seeking imprimatur (ensuring freedom from doctrinal or moral errors):

- *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, on August 12, 2024.
- *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults – Bilingual Edition*, Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, on August 15, 2024.
- *Little Guide to Spiritual Accompaniment*, by Sister Luisa Currelli, Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, on September 3, 2024.
- *Behold My Heart: Praying the Seven Last Words*, by Monsignor James Vlaun, Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, on November 7, 2024.
- Frequently serves as confessor at parish and school penance services, recently having served in this role at Holy Spirit Parish, Pequannock, NJ; Christ the King Parish, New Vernon, NJ (First Confessions); Holy Spirit Parish, Union, NJ; Seton Hall Preparatory School, West Orange, NJ; and Seton Hall University Campus Ministry, South Orange, NJ.
- Offered the following pastoral reflections/conferences:
  - “God’s Original Plan for Human Sexuality,” for students of the Theology of the Body Certificate Program, at St. Paul Inside the Walls Diocesan Center for New Evangelization, Madison, NJ, on October 2, 2024. Approximately 15 people attended.
  - “The Challenge of Infertility and the Morality of In Vitro Fertilization,” at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Stirling, NJ, on November 20, 2024. Approximately 50 people attended.
  - “Theology of the Body – Introduction to Catholic Sexuality,” for students in the Seton Hall University Campus Ministry OCIA program, at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on March 16, 2025. Approximately 20 people attended.
- Facilitated a retreat for permanent diaconate candidates, at Loyola Retreat Center, Morristown, NJ, from March 28 to 29, 2025.

❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies:

- Was appointed a member of the Archdiocese of Newark Lifelong Faith Formation Advisory Council, for the period October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2028.
- Led a workshop on Christian contemplative practices, for Catholic school teachers of the Archdiocese of Newark, at the John Paul II Youth Center, Kearny, NJ, each day from March 24 to 28, 2025. Approximately 950 teachers attended.
- Served as moderator of the discussion *E.A. Seton Meets G.K. Chesterton: What They Might Say about Catholic Higher Education Today*, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 8, 2025. This event, which was part of Seton Hall's Charter Day celebrations, featured speakers **Catherine O'Donnell, Ph.D.**, author of *Elizabeth Seton—An American Saint*, and **Dermot A. Quinn, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, Professor of History and editor of *The Chesterton Review*. Approximately 25 people attended.

❖ **Reverend Renato J. Bautista, M.Div., M.A.**, Director of Formation, and Director of Seminary Records, delivered two presentations for seminarians of the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew's Hall, SHU, South Orange, NJ:

- "Priest as a Man of God: Hope," for all seminarians, on October 22, 2024.
- "Transition to the Major Seminary: Human Formation," for the senior class, on April 1, 2025.

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

- Facilitated a Lenten day of recollection on the theme *Life: A Pilgrimage of Hope*, for staff of the Chancery of the Diocese of Paterson, at the Jesuit Retreat Center, Morristown, NJ, on

- March 7, 2025. Father Koch served as concelebrant and homilist at Mass; presided at a Holy Hour, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and Benediction with a Eucharistic procession; celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and delivered two talks. Approximately 30 people attended.
- Presented a talk, “Transition to the Major Seminary,” to the senior class of seminarians at the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew’s Hall, SHU, South Orange, NJ, on March 18, 2025.
  - Celebrated Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph, at the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew’s Hall, SHU, South Orange, NJ, on March 19, 2025. Father Koch delivered a homily on the topic “St. Joseph: Model of Spiritual Fatherhood.”
  - Presented a Lenten Mission on the theme *Journey to Jerusalem*, at St. Theresa Parish, Linden, NJ, from March 22 to 25, 2025. A total of approximately 200 people attended throughout the course of the Mission.
  - Facilitated a Lenten evening of prayer for Legatus, an international organization of Catholic business leaders and executives who have committed to study, live, and spread the Catholic faith. The evening, which was held at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Stirling, NJ, on March 27, 2025, included recitation of the Rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and celebration of Mass. Father Koch delivered the homily at Mass, as well as a Lenten meditation on the theme “Trusting Jesus.” Approximately 30 people attended.
  - Served as celebrant and homilist at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary Mass of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Linden, NJ, on April 27, 2025. Approximately 500 people attended.
  - Served at a parish event on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27, 2025, at St. Helen Parish, Westfield, NJ. The afternoon included a Holy Hour, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,

the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass, and a talk by Father Koch on the topic “The Mercy of God.” Approximately 300 people attended.

❖ **Gregory Y. Glazov, D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, Professor and Chair of Biblical Studies, served as a guest speaker for the Seton Hall University Slavic Club, presenting “The Christian Journey of a Russian-Jewish Dissident Couple in the Soviet Union,” at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on March 13, 2025. Approximately 40 people attended.

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

- By invitation of the pastor, presented a 20-minute homily, “The Eucharistic Prayers in a Lenten Key” (with emphasis on the Last Supper, 1 Cor. 11:23-26), for the weekly Lenten Eucharistic Exposition with Evening Prayer, at St. Augustine of Canterbury Church, Kendall Park, NJ, on March 24, 2025. Approximately 75 people attended.
- Served as guest speaker at an afternoon of recollection for priests of the Diocese of Metuchen, at St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway, NJ, on April 2, 2025. Approximately 60 priests attended. Monsignor McCarren celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation and presented two half hour talks in the context of Eucharistic Exposition:
  - “Ignatian Discernment of Spirits” and
  - “Ignatian Discernment of God’s Will.”
- As *Censor Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, in April 2025, reviewed the 2026 Paulist Press *Ordo*, which is distributed to most US dioceses for use in church sacristies.

- ❖ **Reverend Douglas J. Milewski, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, presented a personal story of faith at 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, on March 27, 2025. Father Milewski's talk was titled "*Hazard Zet Hold on a Sec: The Role and Importance of Reflection and Perspective for College to Be Most Effective.*" Approximately 70 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, preached a three-night Lenten Parish Mission on the theme *Following Jesus*, at St. Michael Parish, Netcong, NJ, on March 31, April 1, and April 2, 2025. Approximately 85 people attended each night:
  - "Following Jesus: Making it Personal," on March 31, 2025.
  - "Following Jesus: Letting Go through Repentance and Forgiveness," on April 1, 2025.
  - "Following Jesus: Living as a Disciple," on April 2, 2025.
  
- ❖ The Seton Hall University Department of Catholic Studies sponsored "[Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic Relations. How Far Toward Unity Can We Go?](#)" a lecture in the *Archbishop John J. Myers Lecture Series on Law, Society, and Faith*. **Tamara Grdzeldze, Ph.D.**, Professor of Religious Studies at Ilia State University in Tbilisi, Georgia, delivered the lecture to an audience of approximately 15 people, at SHU, South Orange, NJ, on April 9, 2025. **Reverend Monsignor John A. Radano, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, served as event organizer and invited the speaker on behalf of the Department of Catholic Studies.



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

- As *Censor Librorum* for the Archdiocese of Newark, in academic year 2024-2025, reviewed a book for DNS Publications.
- Served as one of the faculty organizers of the event [\*Brain, Mind, and Soul: Neuroscientific and Psycho-Spiritual Insights into Healing\*](#), sponsored by Seton Hall University's [\*Academy For Nature And Nurture: Interdisciplinary Approaches To Resilience\*](#), at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 16, 2025. The event featured a presentation by **Mohammed Abdul Muneer, Ph.D.**, of JFK Neuroscience Institute and Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine; lunch; and a presentation by **Veronica Lenzi, Ph.D.**, Clinical Psychologist and Catholic Spirituality Scholar. Approximately 25 people attended.

## Conferences, Meetings, Panel Discussions, and Symposia

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

- Presented “Did/ Does Jesus Laugh? He Could Have, but Didn’t!” Paper, at the 2025 Reverend Robert J. Randall Conference, *Did Jesus Laugh? Comedy in Scripture*, sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the Center for Catholic and Dominican Studies, and the Honors Program, at Providence College, Providence, RI, on March 22, 2025. Approximately 50 people attended.
- Participated in the Compelling Preaching Annual Gathering, sponsored by Lilly Endowment, Inc., in Indianapolis, IN, from March 24 to 26, 2025. Dr. Glazov delivered a presentation on ICSST’s new Summer course BIBL/PTHO/STHO 6559: *Scripture and Hospitality*, which he developed. Dr. Glazov will co-teach this course in June 2025 with **Reverend Dominic Ciriaco, D.Min.**, Director of ICSST’s Preaching as Hospitality Formation Program. This course aims to help preachers understand the scriptural roots

of the Christian theology of hospitality and to gain skills in becoming ministers of Christ-inspired guest-host relationships.

❖ **Reverend Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology, organized the [ICSST Graduate Student Research Symposium](#) of the [Seton Hall University Petersheim Academic Exposition](#), on April 22, 2025. Approximately 15 people attended the session, which was conducted online via Microsoft Teams. ICSST students who presented at this session and their presentation titles were:

- **Katia Passerini, Ph.D.**, “The Mind-Body Question: Neutral Monism vs. Thomistic Hylomorphism.”
- **Bartosz Luczynski, Ph.D.**, “The Soul and the Computational Theory of Mind.”
- **Brother Bruno Mello, O.S.B.**, “Hildegard of Bingen’s Medieval Model of Integral Ecology.”
- **Thomas Pluhar**, “Critical Engagement with Reductive Physicalism.”

## Other Scholarly and Professional Activity

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

- Co-editor (with Michael Daise) of Proceedings of the Task Force on “The Use of the Old Testament in the Fourth Gospel” (meets at the annual meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association).
- An editor of the series *Verbum Domini*, with The Catholic University of America Press. The series aims to provide books useful for seminary courses in Scripture and related theological disciplines.

❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Seton Hall University Center for Catholic Studies:

- In July 2024, became an Editorial Review Board member for a three-year term for the [\*Horizons in Religious Education Book Series\*](#).
- In September 2024, was appointed Secretary of the [Consortium for Catholic Studies](#). Additionally, Dr. Manning has been serving on the Board of Directors of the Consortium since August 2023.

❖ **Reverend Paweł Tomczyk, Ph.D.**, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant Professor of Moral Theology, participated in and completed the Seton Hall University Employee Professional Development Program (EPDP) during academic year 2024-2025, under the mentorship of **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, University President. The goal of the EPDP is to create formal opportunities for highly motivated individuals to develop the skills they need to grow and advance in their careers. Seton Hall University Executive Cabinet members mentor the selected EPDP participants. The program affords participants opportunities to meet with leaders and members of various departments. These opportunities provide an overview of the planning efforts and the significant issues challenging each department. EPDP participants earn a Certificate of Completion upon successfully meeting their approved objectives for the program.

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

- Served as a peer reviewer for the journal *Microeconomics*, on April 27, 2025.
- Served as a peer reviewer for the journal *Theology and Science*, on April 29, 2025.