

South Orange, January 23, 2024—**The G. K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture Mourns the Death of Our Founder, Father Ian Boyd, C.S.B. -- January 23, 1935 – January 10, 2024**



*“Human life has all the characteristics of a story. We are characters in a story told by God. Like a novel it has an ordered plot, meaning everything in our lives is significant and providential.”*  
**Ian Boyd CSB**

Father Ian Boyd, a priest of the Congregation of Saint Basil and an internationally recognized Chesterton scholar, died in Edmonton, Canada on January 10, 2024. He was the author of *The Novels of G.K. Chesterton* (London 1975). For many years, he was Professor of English at St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan. From 1999-2020, he taught at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey.

He received a B.A. from the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada (1956); an S.T.B. Degree, University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto, Canada (1964); an M.A. from the University of Toronto, Canada (1965), and a Ph.D. from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland (1970).

As a young child, he became acquainted with the works of G. K. Chesterton when reading his father’s copy of G. K.’s Weekly. Chesterton was present at every stage in his life, and for the last 50 years, he devoted his work to writing and lecturing about the life, thought and body of work of G. K. Chesterton. In 1974, while at St. Thomas More College, and after attending the Centenary Conference of the Birth of G. K.

Chesterton, he founded the G. K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture and its widely recognized journal *The Chesterton Review*.

In 1999, Father Boyd brought both the Institute and the journal to Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, where they are permanently housed in the Center for Catholic Studies. At the invitation of universities, study-centers and various organizations, Father Boyd travelled all over the world sharing his knowledge of Chesterton and his circle and his scholarly work, inspiring a new generation of Chestertonians. He lectured across the U.S., Canada, Europe, South America, Australia and Japan.

In addition to lecturing about G. K. Chesterton, Maurice Baring, Paul Claudel, Charles Peguy, Hilaire Belloc and others, he also lectured on the subject of "Sacramental Themes in Modern Literature." Among the Christian authors whose work he discussed are T.S. Eliot, Graham Greene, C. S. Lewis, Flannery O'Connor, Piers Paul Read, Muriel Spark and Evelyn Waugh. In nineteenth-century literature, he was also interested in the work of such authors as Charles Dickens, Anthony Trollope and Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Father Boyd was President Emeritus of the G. K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture based at Seton Hall University and was the founding editor of *The Chesterton Review*. He retired in 2020.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, January 20, in St. Andrew's church, Edmonton, Archbishop Richard William Smith presided. Glenn McDonald CSB preached. Kevin Storey CSB, Basilian Superior General, led the Final Commendation. Interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery, Edmonton, AB.

#### **About the G. K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture at Seton Hall University**

The Institute was founded in 1974 by Father Ian Boyd, C. S. B., its purpose is to promote the thought of G. K. Chesterton and his circle and more broadly, to explore the application of Chestertonian ideas in the contemporary world. The Institute's work consists of conferences, lecture series, research, and writing. *The Chesterton Review*, founded in 1974, has been widely praised both for its scholarship and for the quality of its writing. The journal was founded by Father Ian Boyd, C. S. B., and is edited by Dr. Dermot Quinn. It includes a wide range of articles not only on Chesterton himself, but on the issues close to his heart in the work of other writers and in the modern world. It has devoted special issues to C. S. Lewis, George Bernanos, Hilaire Belloc, Maurice Baring, Christopher Dawson, Cardinal Manning, the Modernist Crisis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Fantasy Literature, Special Polish Issue, Special Charles Dickens issue, and the most recent "Special Conversion Issue," and many others. For information about the Institute and *The Chesterton Review* please contact [chestertoninstitute@shu.edu](mailto:chestertoninstitute@shu.edu) – website: [www.shu.edu/chesterton](http://www.shu.edu/chesterton)

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