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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.

Awards, Honors, and Appointments

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor of Systematic Theology, was honored as Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology's Researcher of the Year, at the University's annual Research Luncheon, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on March 23, 2018.

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, was awarded a summer stipend in the amount of \$10,000 by Seton Hall University's University Research Council, for the period May-August 2018. The stipend will support Dr. Morrow's research project titled "Toward a Theology of Work and Rest: Jewish and Catholic Contributions."

- ❖ **Reverend Mariusz Eugene R. Koch, C.F.R., M.Div., M.A.**, Associate Spiritual Director for the Seminary, was honored at the 15th Annual *Notes of Distinction* benefit concert,

sponsored by the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Andrew's Hall, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 19, 2018. Father Koch is the recipient of the 2018 Saint Andrew's Achievement Award.

Speaking Engagements

- ❖ **Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Moral Theology, presented “Worship: The Kingdom to Come.” Presentation on heavenly worship and how it touches our prayer and lives today, to approximately 50-80 young people from Western Europe and the Middle East, in Vaalbeek, Belgium, on February 4, 2018.

- ❖ **Reverend Pablo T. Gadenz, S.S.L., S.T.D.**, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, served as a guest speaker on the hour-long “Inner Life” talk show on the nationwide station *Relevant Radio* (Newark area: 1430 AM), discussing with the show's host the upcoming Sunday's Gospel reading, and fielding a callers' questions, on the following dates:
 - [March 16, 2018.](#)
 - [May 4, 2018.](#)

- ❖ **Maria Pascuzzi, C.S.J., S.S.L., S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, served as an invited panelist at the Women's History Month panel “Women in Contemporary Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The Persistence of Patriarchy?” Sister Pascuzzi was invited to discuss the following: the definition of patriarchy; the persistence of patriarchy in the Church today; the Scriptural, historical and cultural roots of patriarchy in Christianity; and what has been, and can be, done to increase the role of women in the Church. The event was sponsored by the Dix Hills Jewish Center; the Islamic Center of Long Island; the Long

Island Council of Churches; the Suffolk Board of Rabbis; Suffolk Community College Center for Social Justice and Understanding; the Suffolk Jewish Community Center; the Turkish Cultural Center of Long Island; and Miraculous Medal Church, Wyandanch, NY, and was held at the Suffolk Jewish Community Center, Commack, NY, on March 18, 2018. 187 people attended.

Special Events

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology sponsored the following:

- ❖ A Holy Hour and welcome reception for new and returning students for the Spring 2018 semester, at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on February 24, 2018. Twenty-one people attended this event, which was organized by **Diane M. Carr, M.A. '07**, Coordinator of Graduate and International Services. **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, Rector/Dean, presided at the Holy Hour, and **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, and Director, Institute for Christian Spirituality, served as emcee for the event.

- ❖ A Morning of Prayer and Reflection for Wives of Deacons and Deacon Candidates: “Women of the Passion and the Gift of Presence,” at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on March 24, 2018. Twenty-six women attended this event, which included Mass, breakfast, and a presentation by **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, and Director, Institute for Christian Spirituality. Participants were invited to prayerfully ponder the Women of the Passion who were present for Jesus as he

journeyed to the Cross, and to consider what such ministerial presence means to them today in the heart of their marriage and family, and in their spiritual family, the Church.

- ❖ “With Pope Francis on the Peripheries: A Roundtable Discussion of *Placuit Deo*,” at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 5, 2018. **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, served as the initiator and principal organizer of this event, which was attended by 57 people. **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Studies, served as co-organizer.

This event included the following presentations:

- Welcome/Introductory Remarks, by **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology.
- “Navigating Scylla and Charybdis with Francis,” by **Eric M. Johnston, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology.
- “The Human Body and the Vocation to Freedom,” by **Timothy P. Fortin, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Philosophical Theology.
- “Restoring the Paradigm: The Integral Gift,” by **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology.
- “Contemporary Questions for American Education,” by **Anthony C. Sciglitano, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies.
- “The Mind’s Journey to God: The Path to Philosophical Contemplation,” by **Victor Velarde-Mayol, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology.
- “The Mystery of Divine Filiation,” by **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology.

- Panel Discussion, moderated by **Reverend Monsignor Richard M. Liddy, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, Professor of Religious Studies.
- Closing Remarks, by **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology.
- Acknowledgements, by **Joseph P. Rice, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology.

Following the theme of the roundtable, a co-edited volume is in the initial stages of proposal by the organizers to a university press.

- ❖ “The Christian Meaning of Suffering: Turning Dross into Gold.” Lecture, by **Reverend John M. McDermott, S.J.**, in Immaculate Conception Seminary’s Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 16, 2018. Father McDermott, a visiting scholar from Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, MI, was ordained a priest in 1971. Over the course of his career, he has written and edited four books and published more than 150 articles. Fifty-two people attended Father McDermott’s lecture.
- ❖ An Evening of Prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Reflection and Fellowship: “Lessons from the Diaconal Ministry of St. Lawrence,” at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 27, 2018. **Reverend Lawrence B. Porter, K.H.S., Ph.D.**, Professor of Systematic Theology and Director, Turro Seminary Library, served as the speaker for this event, which was attended by 40 deacons, deacon candidates and their wives.

Mission and Service

- ❖ **Dianne M. Traflet, J.D. '88, S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, and Director, Institute for Christian Spirituality, presented the following:
 - *Stepping Out of Pigties and Fishing Boats: The Transforming Adventure of Forgiveness.* Lenten Parish Mission, at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Wyckoff, NJ, on February 25, 26, and 27, and March 2, 2018. Dr. Traflet's presentations included:
 - "The Pigsty of the Prodigal." February 25, 2018. Approximately 120 attended.
 - "Boat of the Brokenhearted!" February 26, 2018. Approximately 110 attended.
 - "Scenery of the Surprised." February 27, 2018. Approximately 95 attended.
 - Summary of Mission Theme. March 2, 2018. Approximately 15 attended.
 - "Pondering a Mother's Heartbreak: Meditations on the Seven Sorrows of Mary and their Implications for our Spiritual Journeys." Lenten presentation, at Sacred Heart Parish, Clifton, NJ, on March 23, 2018. Approximately 25 attended.

- ❖ **Reverend Pablo T. Gadenz, S.S.L., S.T.D.**, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies:
 - Presented "Overview of the Gospel of John." Forty-five minute lecture, with slides and a handout, followed by a Q&A session, to kick off the parish Lenten Bible Study on the Gospel of John, at St. Cassian Parish, Upper Montclair, NJ, on February 27, 2018. Approximately 40 attended.
 - Delivered "Encountering Jesus in the Scriptures" / "*Encontrando a Jesús en la Biblia.*" Keynote address, first in English and then in Spanish, at the Catholic Bible Conference of the Archdiocese of Newark, held at Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, NJ, on April 14, 2018. Approximately 315 attended.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor of Systematic Theology, as *Censor Librorum* for the *Nihil Obstat*, reviewed a book titled *We Are Spirits*, in March 2018.

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.**, Rector/Dean:
 - Preached on the topic of the Deadly Sin of anger, at all Masses at St. Teresa of Avila Church, Summit, NJ, on the weekend of March 10-11, 2018.
 - Presented “Living a Vulnerable Life.” *Faith Quest* Lenten presentation, at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Roseland, NJ, on March 14, 2018. Approximately 200 attended.

- ❖ **Reverend Mariusz Eugene R. Koch, C.F.R., M.Div., M.A.**, Associate Spiritual Director for the Seminary, presented the following:
 - Lenten Parish Mission at St. Anthony Parish, Red Bank, NJ, from March 12-14, 2018. Approximately 200-300 attended each evening.
 - Divine Mercy talk, at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Linden, NJ, on April 8, 2018. Approximately 300 attended.
 - “Peter Do You Love Me?” Catholic men’s breakfast group talk, at St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, NJ, on April 14, 2018. Approximately 40 attended.

- ❖ **Reverend James P. Platania, S.S.L.**, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, presented the following:
 - “Abraham, Isaac, and the Sacrifice of Jesus.” Conference on Genesis 22, in preparation for Good Friday, for the Carmelite nuns of Flemington, at the Carmelite Monastery, Flemington, NJ, on March 28, 2018. Twelve nuns attended.
 - “Beauty and Art.” A philosophical and theological presentation on beauty, guided by the thought and writings of Pope Benedict XVI, at St. Magdalen de Pazzi Parish, Flemington, NJ, on April 12, 2018. Approximately 70 people attended.

- ❖ **Diane M. Carr, M.A. '07**, Coordinator of Graduate and International Services, presented “New Media and the New Evangelization.” Presentation for the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic Clergy’s Annual Presbyteral Days, at The Breakers Hotel, Spring Lake, NJ, on April 11, 2018. Bishop Kurt Burnette and 55 priests attended the presentation.

Publications

- ❖ **Jeffrey L. Morrow, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Undergraduate Theology, published the following:
 - [A book review of *The Bible—From Late Antiquity to the Renaissance: Writing and Images from the Vatican Library*, co-edited by Ambrogio M. Piazzoni and Francesca Manzari. *Reading Religion* \(February 2018\).](#)
 - A journal article: “Spinoza and the Theo-Political Implications of his Freedom to Philosophize.” *New Blackfriars* 99, no. 1081 (2018): 374-87.

- ❖ **Maria Pascuzzi, C.S.J., S.S.L., S.T.D.**, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, published an article in “*Donne, Chiesa, Mondo*” (“Women, Church, World”), the monthly magazine insert of the Vatican newspaper *Osservatore Romano*. The article, titled “*Lidia: guida della prima Chiesa domestica a Filippi*,” was translated from English to Italian by S. Storioni, and appears in [*Donne, Chiesa, Mondo* no. 67 \(April 2018\): 29-35](#). Sister Pascuzzi originally wrote the article in English, under the title “Lydia: Leader of the First House-Church in Philippi.”

Conferences, Meetings, and Symposia

- ❖ **Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, participated in The Monsignors Thomas Kleissler and Thomas Ivory Symposium on Parish Renewal, sponsored by Renew International, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, on April 19, 2018.

Other Scholarly and Professional Activity

- ❖ **Reverend Monsignor Thomas G. Guarino, K.H.S., S.T.D.**, Professor of Systematic Theology, peer reviewed an article for *Nova et Vetera*, in spring 2018.