Faith’s Reasons

The Catholic Intellectual Tradition at the University of Dayton

“St. Peter said that we must give a reason for the faith that is in us, and I am trying to give you those reasons . . .” —Dorothy Day

Business as a Vocation

The UD School of Business Administration, led by Bro. Victor Forlani, S.M., has been developing events and opportunities around the theme of Business as a Vocation. “Business has obligations to its stakeholders and to the welfare of society as a whole,” Bro. Victor writes. “Moreover, recognition of one’s vocation or calling is necessary to fulfill God’s plan for all creation. . . It is also recognition of the role of work in developing the whole person. As each individual recognizes their unique calling to their chosen business profession, they can begin to see their role and responsibility in developing more healthy organizational cultures.

The SBA aims, he continues, “to help its students recognize the importance of seeing their chosen career as a vocation. Capitalizing on this opportunity will not only help our students develop as whole persons, but also to see their life’s work not just as a means for income and career advancement but also as an integral part of their responsibility as business professionals to the good of society.”

Using Catholic intellectual tradition and Catholic social thought as primary resources, the SBA effort uses a Marianist spirit of inquiry and community to develop multiple opportunities for reflection for students and faculty: 1) The Center for Business as a Vocation will stress the importance of a culture of ethics in fostering a vision of the firm as responsible corporate citizen. 2) A graduate course, MBA 652, will use various religious, ethical and societal traditions to enrich students’ exposure to major theories of business and society interface and help them to formulate their own synthesis and personal mission. 3) An annual symposium features executives who model a sense of the enterprise that pursues such a vision of a profession, a calling. 4) “Business as a Vocation” serves as the organizing theme for the undergraduate Business Core, and 5) the same theme informs SBA’s relationship with the College of Arts and Sciences regarding the UD general education curriculum and the thematic cluster in “The Business Professional in a Global Society.”

California, Here He Comes

As noted below, for the next three years “Faith’s Reasons” co-editor Fr. Jim Heft, S.M., will be on leave from UD to work full-time on establishing the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at the University of Southern California. While we sincerely hope both for the imminent and sustained success of the IACS and for Fr. Heft’s return to the UD community, it seems a suitable occasion to note his indispensable contribution to enlivening Catholic intellectual life on UD’s campus and nationally.

Fr. Heft has given life to our understanding of Catholic intellectual tradition on campus, and to our ability to find a shared language to express it, in a dizzying array of venues and endeavors—in the undergraduate and graduate classroom; in books written and edited and in hundreds of articles and presentations; in interviews with every prospective faculty member during his eight years as provost; in an annual address both as Provost and, since 1996, as University Professor of Faith and Culture; in a series of transformative interdisciplinary seminars with faculty from every academic area of the university; in homilies at 27 years of the Sunday 10:00 a.m. liturgy; in decades of hundreds and thousands of casual campus encounters, dinner-table conversations, letters, and e-mails with students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and friends of the University.

We send him off with congratulations, gratitude, a little sadness, prayers and a deep knowledge of how much the Church and the academy will benefit from the gifts he brings and from the Institute he seeks to establish.

Living with Mary Today

The Marian Library and the International Marian Research Institute are pleased to announce and invite attendance at Living with Mary To-
day, "A Symposium to share information and experiences." To be held on campus July 26-29, 2006, the symposium will feature presentations on Marian doctrine and spirituality, art and culture, from a variety of periods, cultures, and traditions. The registration deadline is July 1st. Further information, including a schedule and registration form, can be found at http://www.udayton.edu/mary/symposium2006.html.

**Marianist Education**

In Spring 2005, Dean Mary Morton of the College of Arts and Sciences appointed a working group to lead a campus-wide consideration of the substance and purposes of a Marianist education. Chaired by Associate Dean Paul Benson, the group included members from each of the four sub-divisions of the College, each of the undergraduate schools, the vowed Marianists, and the Academic Senate.

The group met to consider the question with faculty, staff and students in a wide variety of settings, and drew on the results of these discussions to formulate a final report to the Dean. "Habits of Inquiry and Reflection: A Report on Education in the Catholic and Marianist Traditions at the University of Dayton" identifies the key educational aims that should orient the common academic program for undergraduates, formulates learning outcomes that derive from these aims, and makes recommendations for action.

"Education in the Catholic and Marianist traditions at the University of Dayton," the report notes, "1) seeks knowledge in a sacramental spirit; 2) pursues learning in, through, and for community; 3) cultivates practical wisdom; 4) forges critical ability to read the signs of these times; and 5) supports discernment of personal and communal vocation."

The working group was greatly heartened by the wide and deep interest in Marianist education exhibited throughout the campus community during its work. The next steps will involve decisions about implementing the report’s recommendations, which will be made through the University’s ordinary mechanisms for curricular change. Taken seriously and given curricular life, the aims identified as dwelling at the heart of Marianist education offer extraordinary transformative possibilities.

**CIT Seminar Concludes**

Nineteen UD faculty participated in a year-long seminar in Catholic intellectual tradition during the 2005-06 year. Funded by the Forum on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition Today, the Office of the Provost and the University Professor of Faith and Culture, the seminar included participants from Chemistry; Engineering Technology; Geology; Health and Sports Science; History; the School of Law; Philosophy; Religious Studies; Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work and Teacher Education, and from Roesch Library and Campus Ministry.


**Recent Activities of the University Professor of Faith and Culture**

This past semester Jim Heft, S.M. taught a Catholic Doctrines course, double numbered for both undergraduate and graduate students. He also led two directed studies courses, one on Charles Taylor’s major study, *Sources of the Self*, and the other on several books by both Henri de Lubac and Hans Urs von Balthasar. He participated in...
the Catholic intellectual tradition seminar, led by Dr. Una Cadegan, for the full academic year. He served on the steering committee of the Stander Symposium and continued various pastoral services with Campus Ministry.

A book he edited and introduced, *Passing the Faith on to the Next Generation: Jews, Christians and Muslims*, will be published this December by Fordham University Press. He and Dr. Kevin Hallinan, chair of Mechanical Engineering, edited and introduced a book entitled, *Engineering and a Catholic University*. He was invited in March by the faculty senate of the University of Notre Dame to address the issue of "academic freedom and a Catholic university" (the address appeared in *Origins* March 23rd). His article, "Catholic Education and Social Justice" will appear in the September issue of *Catholic Education: a Journal of Inquiry and Practice*. He has finished a book manuscript on Catholic schools which he hopes to revise for publication this fall. He continues to work on the book on Catholic higher education.

In June he will convene 15 Jewish, Catholic and Muslim scholars in Cambridge, MA to explore the theme of "intellectual humility" or "learned ignorance"; each scholar will write an essay on the theme from within their own religious tradition, and then all will meet in Jerusalem in June of 2007 to discuss the papers before their publication as a book of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies. Jim will again speak this July at Boston College’s Institute for Catholic Higher Education.

For the next three years, he will be on leave from UD in order to devote himself more fully to the establishment of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at the University of Southern California, where he will be installed as the Alton Brooks Professor of Religion in USC’s College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

**Recent Work in Brief**

**Christopher M. Duncan** (Political Science) presented "Got Community? Liberalism, Catholicism, and The Search for Community in America," the second annual College of Arts and Sciences Marianist Education Lecture, April 27, 2006, at UD. He will present "Sometimes Satan Comes as a Man of Peace: Religion’s Apostatic Bargain With Post-Modernity" at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Philadelphia, PA, in August 2006, and "Catholicism and the Hartz Thesis: Mistaking the Convention for the Concentration Camp in American Political Thought" at the Association of Political Theory conference at Indiana University in November 2006.

**Br. Raymond Fitz, S.M.** (Ferree Professor of Social Justice) presented "Public Conversations and Catholic Social Teaching" on April 8th at the John Murphy Public Policy Institute at St Thomas University.

**Brad Kallenberg** (Religious Studies) published "Some Things Are Worth Dying For" in *New Blackfriars*. In the article, he says, "I argue against Bill Rowe's complaint that excessive evil is evidence against the reality of God (since, he says, unnecessary human deaths would necessarily be prevented by a good God).

Brad Kallenberg and **Terry Tilley** (Religious Studies) also gave papers at the Vatican Observatory, Castel Gandolfo, Italy, in September 2005 at a conference on "The Problem of Natural Evil," convened by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Berkeley, CA. Brad’s paper was called "Trinity and Tragedy." "Both papers are to be published in a volume," Brad writes, "though the conference changed my mind on some things. And so my paper has been re-titled as 'The Descriptive Problem of Evil.'" The papers will appear in *Scientific Perspectives on Suffering in Nature*, Nancey Murphy and Robert Russell, eds. (Vatican City State & Berkeley, CA, forthcoming).

**Laura Leming, F.M.I** (Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work) has been working on "morphing" a US/Mexico Border Immersion experience developed for the Berry Scholars into a course for social science students. The step that took place this spring break was a Social Science Border immersion, with 10 students from Sociology, Laura’s SOC 398 course, Psychology and Criminal Justice accompanied by Dr. Judith Huacuja from Visual Arts. The group participated in the Border Awareness Experience sponsored by Annunciation House in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. Upon their return they developed a three-day art installation at Art Street Studio A during the Stander Symposium. The installation re-created the border at Art Street, including a house, the interior of a chapel, the border itself, and the omnipresent pick crosses commemorating the Missing and Murdered women of Juarez. One biochemistry major from SOC 398 exclaimed, "This has been such a different learning experience. I’ve never worked with my hands like this to integrate what I’ve learned."

As part of a Lenten series celebrating Vatican II’s 40th anniversary, **Fr. Jack McGrath, S.M.** (Religious Studies) gave a lecture and discussion on "The Church in the Modern World" to the adult faith formation group at Holy Angels parish on March 29. He spent Easter week in Rome at the Marianist General Administration with a commission pre-
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Fr. McGrath will be one of UD's representatives.

William Portier (Religious Studies) gave a public lecture March 1, 2006 at Fairfield University (CT), "Here Come the Evangelical Catholics," sponsored by the Program in Catholic Studies. On April 1, 2006, he gave one of two keynotes for the Evangelical Catholic Institute at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The title was "Joy in the Lord: Forming Catholics for an Evangelical Moment."

In January 2006 Eric Street (Music, Graul Chair) presented a paper in Honolulu, "Kicking the Habit: The Changing Portrayal of Nuns in French Opera, 1790-1990," at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities. His research on the topic was first funded with a Summer Seminar in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition research grant.

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