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## Four University of Dayton Professors Declared Innocent

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*News from*

**THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON**  
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DAYTON, Ohio--December 5, 1966 RELEASE from University of Dayton Administration

In a statement issued today by the Very Reverend Raymond A. Roesch, President of the University of Dayton, four professors of the University were declared innocent of the charge by one of their colleagues on the staff that "doctrines contrary to the teaching magisterium of the Church have been taught (by them) at the University of Dayton." University authorities based their decision on written explanations of their statements submitted by the four accused professors and on impartial expert opinion invited by the administration. The local Ordinary, Karl J. Alter, Archbishop of Cincinnati, to whom the charge was made, has accepted the decision.

The charge was made in October of this year by Professor Dennis Bonnette against his colleagues, Professors Eulalio Baltazar, John Chrisman, Randolph Lumpp, and Lawrence Ulrich.

The University is well aware of the confusion which may have arisen in the minds of some of the hearers of all these professors, including Mr. Bonnette. It judges that much of it is based on an improper understanding of the proper role of a Catholic university and a Catholic scholar. The University holds with many of its colleagues in Catholic higher education that there is a distinction to be made between 1) the pastoral mission of the Church in which she and her ministers seek to guide souls according to the truths of divine revelation and 2) the role of the Church learning in which competent scholars seek by academic inquiry to further clarify the formulation and understanding of dogmas and doctrines. This distinction has been known and appreciated for centuries. It was this that Cardinal John Henry Newman had in mind when he formulated his exposition on the evolution of doctrine.

In a sincere effort to clarify for all concerned a proper understanding of the role of a Catholic University and the responsibility of a Catholic scholar in the academic world, the President of the University of Dayton will establish an ad hoc committee composed of seven full-time faculty members to be nominated by the Faculty Forum (an advisory body elected by the faculty) and by the five professors involved in the present case. This committee will then proceed immediately to conduct an open discussion directed toward establishing clear directives for the pursuit of truth in academic debate on the University of



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Dayton campus. It will be free to consult with and to invite recognized authorities to help identify the issues, especially the question of how a Catholic scholar can resolve the tensions that sometimes exist "between the two magisteria, that which is based on divine thought and that based on human, that deriving from faith and that from reason," as expressed by Pope Paul VI in a Milan address in 1964.

The Archbishop in expressing his satisfaction with the appointment of the ad hoc committee, called attention to the care that must be taken to avoid disturbance of mind and a species of scandal, or, at least, wonderment on the part of the ordinary student or audience because of the way and/or occasion in which one or other Catholic tenet, dogma or practice may be subjected to academic examination and discussion.

The University of Dayton intends that full academic freedom exist on its campus in the true and full sense of the term and has so indicated this intention in its acceptance of the AAC-AAUP statement on Academic Freedom appearing in its Faculty Handbook.