



IFACS.com

The Institute's Unique Role in the Catholic World

Most people are familiar with Catholic institutions, such as schools, hospitals, and projects that support the poor and victims of disaster. Few people understand the critical importance of institutes for advanced studies. In the United States there are now six of them. The very first was founded at Princeton in the 1920's and hosted such scholars as Albert Einstein and Jacques Maritain. *None* of these institutes focuses on the study of a specific religious tradition—that is, until the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies (IACS) was established at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

The mission of an institute for advanced studies, however, is much less familiar. In fact, it is quite different—it creates a special environment, offers financial support and ample time for scholars to do top research on critical issues. The IACS brings together scholars from all over the world, not just Catholics, to explore the broad and deep intellectual, spiritual and ethical traditions of Catholicism. Moreover, the Institute promotes a dialogue between the academy and religion, for the benefit of both, and certainly for the Church and the leaders of world religions.

Three people who help lead important Catholic institutions appreciate the value of doing serious intellectual work in the Catholic tradition and how it helps the Church, universities, and even local parish life. The author of *The Intellectual Appeal of Catholicism and the Idea of a Catholic University* (2003) and *Why Choose the Liberal Arts?* (2010), Mark Roche believes that “an institute of advanced studies rooted in Catholicism has the opportunity to highlight questions that have been central to the Catholic intellectual tradition and

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The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, located at the University of Southern California, fosters Catholic intellectual and scholarly life. It brings together scholars from across the world in all disciplines who desire to engage in cross-disciplinary, ecumenical, and inter-faith conversation and research that retrieves, critiques, and develops a deeper understanding of the roles of religion and, particularly, Catholicism today.

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 might otherwise be neglected.”
 The former dean of the College or Arts and Letters at the University of Notre Dame, and now Joyce Professor of German Literature and Concurrent Professor of Philosophy, Roche is a leading Catholic intellectual. He offers three examples of such key questions: “What is the relation between what is and what should be? In what ways does the unity of truth bridge disciplines? What is the ultimate purpose of various kinds of research?”

Sustaining research on these questions is crucial to higher education. Through the leadership of its president Fr. Dennis Holtschneider, C. M., DePaul University became the first major Catholic educational institution to provide financial support for the Institute. In the competitive world of Catholic higher education (there are about 230 Catholic colleges and universities in the United States), this DePaul gift might seem like an odd thing for a Catholic university to do; after all, Fr. Holtschneider must support the programs for his 25,000-student university.

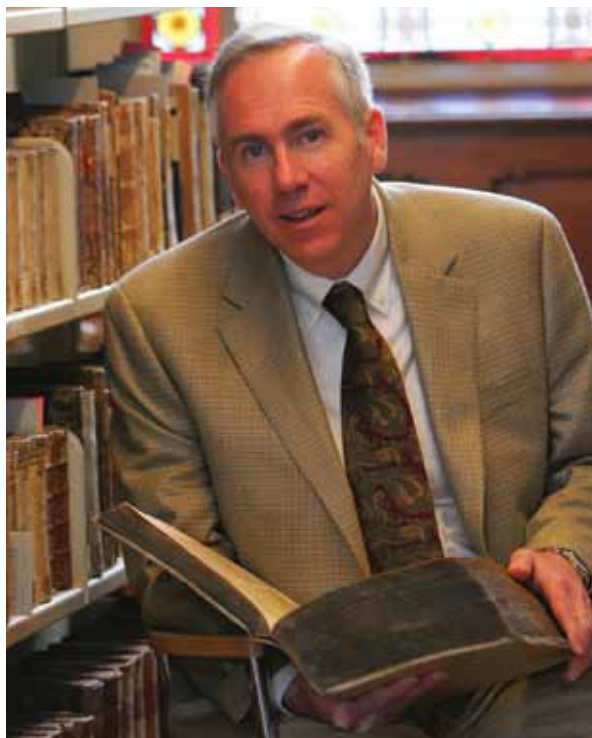
In discussing DePaul’s support of the Institute, however, Fr. Holtschneider emphasized the unique role of the IACS, noting that “the Institute offers an important, critical and long-term

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support for the Church’s Intellectual life.” In other words, the IACS can provide unique opportunities for faculty to deepen their appreciation of Catholic intellectual themes in relation to academic disciplines, to other religions, and to secular thought.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

INSTITUTE RECEIVES
 TWO GENEROUS GIFTS
 WHICH TOTAL OVER
 \$2.5 MILLION TO
 SUPPORT ITS
 ENDOWMENT.



Mark Roche



Fr. Holtschneider



Fr. Seyer

Close to the IACS’s home at USC, Fr. Lawrence Seyer is responsible for USC’s Catholic campus ministry. As a pastor, Fr. Seyer is completing a capital campaign for the construction of a brand new church facility and student center, called Our Savior Parish and USC Caruso Catholic Center, which are now rising up right next to USC’s main campus.

Asked to imagine a bright future for the Catholic Center, key stakeholders decided in the spring of 2011 to give priority to a close relationship with the IACS. Reflecting on this connection, Fr. Seyer sees the Institute as a “partner in building the Kingdom of God.” Fr. Seyer has seen how the IACS reaches out to USC faculty and students in ways that a campus ministry by itself is unable to do. “The IACS connects the tradition of Catholicism with intellectual work and scholarly conversation at USC,” Fr. Seyer adds that “the Institute does this not just for the USC community, but for the international church as well.”

The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies is, therefore, a very special type of institution. It gives scholars a special place to do ground-breaking research that will deepen and broaden the great Catholic tradition. Prof. Roche, Fr.

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Holtschneider, C.M., and Fr. Seyer understand this. May even more people join them in recognizing what the Institute, with its special mission, can do for the Church, the academy and the world.

Generations in Dialogue: Mullin Scholars Update

This summer saw both an end and a beginning: the first Generations in Dialogue (GID) group finished an 18-month series of formative conversations while a second group began theirs. Both groups shared a common theme: uniting scholarship and faith in order to enliven both.

The first group of four GID scholars, led by John O'Malley, S.J. met at the Jesuit Community at Georgetown University, and were joined by Yale University historian Carlos Eire. Dr. Eire's story of exile from Cuba and struggle in the United States are detailed in his autobiography *Waiting for Snow in Ha-*

The GID program exposes these stereotypes, but also provides practical wisdom about living in a way so that the experience and vision of faith illumines professional work. As a Catholic intellectual, Dr. Eire reflected that in all the areas of his life and scholarship, "faith has everything to do with it."

The second group of six GID scholars, led by Bernard McGinn of the University of Chicago Divinity School, picked up thematically where the first group left off. Focused on the study of spirituality in modernity, these six scholars have cleared the hurdle of graduate training and entered professor positions. During three days at DePaul University in downtown Chicago, this ecumenical group of participants discussed their emerging research

Scholarship and Faith: "They Complement Each Other"



Merle and Peter Mullin

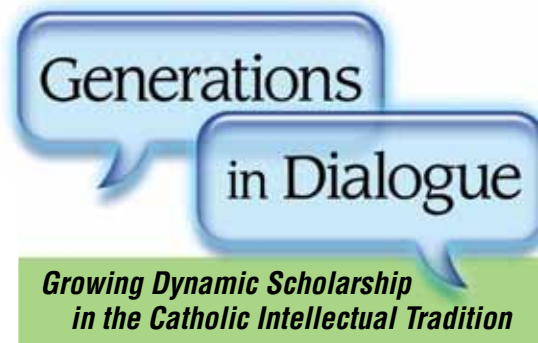
vana, which won the National Book Award in 2003. With this group of young historians, Dr. Eire addressed how faith and scholarship "complement each other." From his study of Calvin's iconoclasm to a recent book on eternity, Dr. Eire says he attempts to "to be who I am for scholars," exploring questions about religion in a way that non-believing scholars can appreciate. This approach has led to curious results: when he was appointed to the Riggs Chair at Yale University, a position traditionally held by a Catholic, a colleague complained, "You're not even Catholic." Explaining that he, in fact, was, the colleague replied, "Really, but you're so tolerant!"



Pictured above: Dominic Doyle (Boston College), Bo Karen Lee (Princeton Seminary), Bernard McGinn, David Albertson (USC), Michon Matthiesen (Providence College), Diane Vincent (Biola University)

interests, explored the life of spirituality in relation to its study, and shared liturgy at a local community of Benedictine monks. Along with Larry Cunningham, professor of theology at Notre Dame University, Dr. McGinn focused the group on the "self-implicating study of spirituality." Dr. Cunningham explained the importance of studying spirituality as way to introduce modern audiences to the importance of ritual and symbol that religious traditions sustain. Dr. McGinn explained his practice of "teaching as a religious vocation" and his in-depth reading of mystics' writing, which he noted, "I'm still learning." This GID will group will meet three more times to continue the dialogue of learning together how faith and scholarship complement each other.

For more on the GID participants, and the next career steps of the first GID group, please visit. www.ifacs.com.



Human Agency, Social Structures and Moral Responsibility

The Institute is pleased to announce the on-going True Wealth of Nations research project on Catholic social teaching and the economy will be hosting, next June 20-24, 2012, a five day conference on “Human Agency, Social Structures, and Moral Responsibility,” on the USC campus.

We all participate in markets, in our roles as workers and consumers. Markets do many wonderful things in coordinating economic activity, and many of us are among the most fortunate beneficiaries of markets. Yet we also know that markets cause hardships and at times even tragedies in the lives of many people around the globe. Do we bear responsibility for those hardships and tragedies because we participate in and benefit from the

markets which bring about those harms to distant and sometimes not so distant others?

Christians have, of course, many reasons why we should help others in need even if we have played no role in causing the problems they face. Those reasons are rooted in our tradition: the gleanings laws in the Torah (that required farmers to leave the corners of their fields unharvested – for the widow, the orphan, and the resident alien), Jesus’ teaching on love of neighbor, and the traditional teaching on the obligations of property owners to help those with unmet needs (what Pope John Paul II called “the social mortgage” on all property).

Our own causal role in markets is complicated. Markets exist only because people like us participate in them, but no one of us has a perceptible direct impact on markets – if any one of us stopped participating altogether, nothing would change. Together, therefore, we are responsible for causing markets even if no one of us has much impact.

This conference will begin with a focus on what sociologists have learned about this sort of “social causality.” Only persons are agents, but once social structures like the market “emerge” from human interaction, they do have causal effects in people’s lives independent of – and sometimes contrary to – the intentions of the humans who created them. To date, Catholic social thought has not articulated a clear account of this social causality and the consequent moral responsibility that would then be tied to it. Bringing together sociologists, economists, theologians, and others from the US, Europe, and elsewhere, the conference aims to sort out these issues, publishing the results in a volume that contributes to the ongoing development of Catholic social thought.

“Human Agency, Social
Structures, and Moral
Responsibility” Conference
June 20-24, 2012
USC campus.

Elizabeth and Robert Plumleigh Lecture Series



Douglas Kmiec

Douglas Kmiec, Professor of Constitutional Law and Caruso Family Chair in Constitutional Law at Pepperdine University, and former United States Ambassador to the Republic of Malta and USC Gould School of Law alumnus.

The ambassador delivered a lecture titled: “**Secularism Crucified?**” A comparative examination of the recent jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights as it relates to religious symbols in public places.

Provost Elizabeth Garrett introduced Ambassador Kmiec. The lecture took place on Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 PM.

Event was co-sponsored with the USC Center on Public Diplomacy at the Annenberg School.

Tom Rausch, S.J., T. Marie Chilton Professor of Catholic Theology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Title: “**Pentecostals and Roman Catholics: Past Tensions, New Initiatives**”

Date: **Tuesday, October 18**
at 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Co-sponsored with the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture



Dana Gioia

Dana Gioia, Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at USC and former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Title: “**The Catholic Writer Today.**”
Date: **Tuesday, November 15**
at 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Co-sponsored with the Conference on Christianity and Literature at Pepperdine University.



Elizabeth and Robert Plumleigh with Father Hef



From the President

Dear Friends,

I hope you are pleased with our redesigned version of our Institute newsletter. We are preparing for the launch of the Institute's first-ever campaign. This is a very exciting endeavor and one that will have a long term impact on our commitment to deepen and broaden Catholic intellectual life in the Church and the world today. We will have more about the campaign in our next issue.

The last few months have been both very active and very fruitful. At the invitation of the Vatican, we are thinking about organizing another conference for 2013. We have several new publications (see the newsletter). In addition, I am pleased to report that *After Vatican II: Trajectories and Hermeneutics* has been accepted for publication by Eerdmans Publishing. This volume describes various movements that followed the second Vatican Council, some intended and some not.

In June of 2012, we will host at USC a special conference to follow up on our fall 2010 Vatican conference, this time exploring how we need to participate in morally responsible way in the economy and the market. We have more on that in this newsletter. Most recently I accepted an invitation to speak at the Jewish Federation in Los Angeles. It was a pleasure to visit with Rabbis and members of their staff. I look forward to working together with them more closely in the future. Special thanks to Jackie and Marvin Jubas for making this possible.

It is with sadness that we report the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Thom Rhue, Senior Associate Vice President for University Advancement. We have a special note about him and his contribution to our efforts in this newsletter.

Thank you for your support over the last year. You have made it possible for us to make continuous progress. We depend on your support for the work we do. Should you wish to make a gift immediately, Should you wish to make a gift immediately, please visit our online giving site at www.ifacs.com and click on the "Support Us" link on the top right-hand corner.

Thank you,

James L. Heft, S.M., President

Three Special Planned Giving Opportunities

Making a gift through a will or living trust

One of the easiest and most common ways to make a substantial gift to the USC Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies is through a gift in your will or living trust. While this type of gift creates no immediate income tax benefits, it will be 100% deductible for estate tax purposes. Most gifts by will or living trust are specific (block of stock or specific piece of real property), general (specific dollar amount), or residuary (portion or percentage of one's estate). Your gift can support a specific purpose at the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies.

Please contact Todd Thaxton to obtain specific legal and bequest language or for more information.

2011 IRA Rollover

It's Back! A practical way to make tax-free charitable gifts from an IRA to support the USC Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies...

Act Now! Through the end of the 2011 calendar year, individuals over the age of 70 ½ can make an impact at USC by transferring funds directly from an IRA to USC for the benefit of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies. The distribution counts toward fulfilling your required minimum distribution (RMD). The distribution is excluded from your income for federal tax purposes—a real advantage at tax time! Check with your professional advisor about the best ways to take advantage of this giving opportunity.

Example: Barbara, age 72, lives comfortably on her pension, savings, and Social Security. When she takes withdrawals from her IRA, she is taxed on those funds and the

additional income also means that her Social Security income is taxed. She was pleased to learn that by having her charitable gifts made directly from her IRA this year, she avoids reporting that amount as income, pays no taxes on those funds, bypasses additional tax on her Social Security benefits, and supports the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies.

USC's federal tax I.D. number is **95-1642394**

Special Notice:

The IRS discount rate for October is at an historic low of 1.4%. The IRS discount rate is an important factor in the calculation of the charitable tax deduction for a number of deferred charitable gifts, such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts.

Unfortunately, a declining discount rate causes the tax deduction to decline for many of these types of gifts, especially charitable gift annuities. However, it has just the opposite effect on the tax deduction for **Charitable Lead Trusts** -- an extraordinarily low discount rate at this level makes it an especially good time for wealthy donors to consider a lead trust.

A charitable lead trust is a terrific way for donors to achieve two important objectives:

- (1) Provide current and future support for the Institute
- (2) Provide for a future transfer of assets to the donor's children or others, while greatly reducing or even eliminating gift and estate taxes on this transfer.

Should you have any questions on planned giving or contributing to the Institute, please contact Todd Thaxton at 213-740-7826 or via email at thaxton@usc.edu.



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In Memoriam: Thomas A. Rhue, 67



Thomas A. (Thom) Rhue M.A. '68, associate senior vice president for University Advancement, died Aug. 20 at his home in Los Angeles, following an arduous battle with cancer. He was 67.

He and Father Heft worked closely together for almost five years. Thom was responsible for "Central Projects," these are projects that the president and provost of USC designate as key projects for the campus and function more broadly than any single unit.

The happy consequence of Thom's assignment is that the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies is one of USC's Central Projects. We all miss Thom, not just professionally, but even more personally, as a friend, a man of competence, kindness, and compassion.

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