



THE DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC STUDIES

20th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Student Center 120a

PROGRAM

5:30

Gathering & Cocktail Reception

6:00

Remarks

Toast by Guillermo Vásquez de Velasco, *LAS Dean*

Anna Wolfe & Olivia Hollman, *Catholic Studies Students*

Griffin Hardy, *Catholic Studies Alumnus*

Awarding of Rev. Laurence Coyne Prendergast Memorial
Endowed Scholarship by Karen Scott, *Associate Professor of*

History and Catholic Studies

Fr. Dennis Holtschneider, *DePaul President*

6:30

Meet & Greet

The Foundation of the Program in Catholic Studies

Fr. James Halstead, OSA

At a fall 1994 faculty retreat, members of the Department of Religious Studies discussed and decided to pursue a program in Catholic Studies. By the mid-1990s, in the wake of *Ex corde ecclesiae* and at a time when Catholic Studies programs were emerging in other Catholic universities, interest in a DePaul program had been voiced by colleagues in several academic departments as well as by colleagues in University Ministry. A decision was made to approach Dean Michael Mezey, asking his approval of a faculty committee to explore and, if deemed feasible, create an academic, interdisciplinary, student-friendly, interreligious Program in Catholic Studies for proposal to the DePaul Faculty Council.

In winter 1995, interested faculty and staff from many departments of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as from the schools of education, music and commerce began a year-long process of developing a program proposal. The final proposal reflects some of the viewpoints, discussion, and compromises as well as DePaul realities. The vast majority of course were to be cross-listed and sponsored by other departments. A four-course core and six "areas" were agreed upon. Majors were to be required to take the core and select 200-level courses from four of the six areas. Program developers held equally interesting and lively discussions of the necessity and content of the areas.

In winter and spring 1996, the final proposal for a DePaul Program in Catholic Studies proceeded through the required approval process by the entire DePaul University faculty. Faculty Council approved the proposal in spring 1996. Dean Mezey appointed Fr. James Halstead, OSA, associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies the first program director of Catholic Studies beginning July 1, 1996. Fr. Halstead served two terms. Dr. Karen Scott was appointed as the second program director. She began her leadership in July 2002.

With the arrival of President Dennis Holtschneider, CM, at DePaul, the fortunes of the Program in Catholic Studies changed.

The Shift from the Program in Catholic Studies to the Department of Catholic Studies

Karen Scott

In November 2009, DePaul University decided to turn the Catholic Studies Program into a full-fledged academic program with its own faculty, governance, and a new curriculum. Dr. Karen Scott served as the first department chair, followed by Dr. Michael Budde in July 2012, and then Dr. Emanuele Colombo in July 2015.

Between 2002 and 2009, the basic governance and curriculum set up originally under Fr. James Halstead's guidance remained in place, but a number of changes also eventually made it possible for the program to evolve into a department. The program director continued to advise the majors and minors in Catholic Studies and to oversee the work of the part-time student worker. The program brought together a larger number of DePaul faculty and scholars from various departments and colleges across the university who agreed to cross-list their classes with Catholic Studies and include significant Catholic content in their courses. As the students' curricular options became more numerous, we hoped the program would grow in visibility and numbers.

To encourage a greater sense of community among the Catholic Studies faculty, the program organized retreats of a spiritual nature and workshops on DePaul's identity as a Catholic university. The faculty also worked together to create many different kinds of co-curricular events and mini-conferences showcasing faculty expertise in Catholic topics as well as external speakers.

These events strengthened and enriched the teaching mission of the faculty. These events also helped create a strong sense of community among the Catholic Studies faculty, who came from many different departments and had little occasion to see each other and discuss Catholic intellectual issues otherwise. Finally, they also served to bring Catholicism and the Catholic Studies Program to the attention of the broader university.

When Fr. Dennis Holtschneider became president of the university in 2004, he took an immediate interest in the activities and future of the Catholic Studies Program and he asked Provost

Helmut Epp to help oversee the program's first-ever hiring of its own faculty. The arrival of these new faculty members and the university's commitment to its Catholic mission made it possible for the program to become a department. We now serve majors, minors, and ever-larger numbers of students taking courses in various domains of the Liberal Studies Program. The department has also continued to organize co-curricular events and lectures for the university community on topics of interest to the faculty members and the life of the Church. And the department works closely with the Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology.

The Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology

William T. Cavanaugh

The Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology (CWCIT) was launched in 2008 through the efforts of Fr. Dennis Holtschneider. The original inspiration came from Dr. Michael Budde of the Political Science Department, who was looking for a way to leverage DePaul's Catholic character in support of efforts to promote global education initiatives and diversity at DePaul. The Catholic Church is arguably the first truly global organization. CWCIT is a research center dedicated to examining the Catholic Church in its global reach, especially in what is today called the global South: Africa, Asia, and Latin America. CWCIT was the first research center of its kind. Its goal is not only to produce and disseminate research, but to bring people together across great distances to collaborate with, inspire, and learn from one another. CWCIT sponsors events at DePaul throughout the academic year, including the annual World Catholicism Week, which brings speakers from around the globe to address the same topic from different angles. The results of these conferences are published in the CWCIT book series with Cascade Press, a division of Wipf and Stock. CWCIT also sponsors scholars from around the world as research fellows at DePaul. CWCIT has collaborated with many other departments and units at DePaul and has developed cooperative arrangements with universities in Brazil, the Philippines, and Kenya.