



OST NEWS

OBLATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Fall 2017 Volume 21 No. 3

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OST NEWS

Fall 2017 Volume 21 - No. 3

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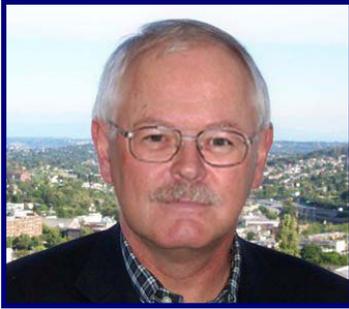
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Cover: Father Peter C. Phan gives the 2017 Vance Chair of Systematic Theology Lecture at OST.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

HOW TO RESPOND TO CRITICISM AND OPPOSITION



Nobody goes through life without facing criticism, opposition, misunderstanding, suspicion, and, at some point, hatred.

This is one of the great pains—perhaps the greatest—inside family, church and community.

Eventually we are subject to criticism, our motives and integrity are questioned, and we have to live with the bitterness of those judgments, a bitterness that can rob our lives of joy and rob us of self-confidence. The real pain, though, is not when these negative judgments come from outside, when the big bad world out there questions our integrity, but rather when it comes from inside, from persons with whom we are meant to share family and faith.

Experiencing hatred, bitterness and accusations of hypocrisy is not easy to cope with. How do we not question our own essential goodness in the face of criticism and judgment? How do we sustain ourselves in community and resist the urge to walk away in the face of criticism?

I've often wondered how Jesus coped with this, because certainly he had to face it. He moved around Palestine preaching love, joy, community and vulnerability, even as people called him a blasphemer and hated him enough to kill him. How did he stay joyful in the face of this anger? How did he let himself be vulnerable when others were attacking him? How did he continue to be self-confident in his mission when he was accused of being hypocritical and self-deluded? How did he handle this?

By always taking his real identity from God and not from himself or from the opinions others had of him.

As Jesus moved about doing his mission, he met every kind of reaction: Sometimes the crowds loved him and tried to make him king; other times the same people hollered for his head: "Crucify him!" He was both loved and hated, and always there were some who stood sincerely in bitter opposition and accused him of being the ultimate egoist and blasphemer.

What's important to notice is that Jesus never took his identity from these reactions, good or bad; he didn't feel confident when the crowds supported him or feel insecure when he faced opposition. He took his truth and identity from elsewhere. Where?

"I do the will of my father." His identity, his truth, his courage to act and his joy were all rooted in something beyond the affirmations or criticisms of the moment, beyond public opinion, beyond the judgment of those who hated him.

Looking at Jesus, we see that, in the face of criticism and hatred, his key questions weren't, "Can I live with this criticism? Do I let another's negative judgment intimidate me from the truth and mission I feel called to? Do I let someone's hatred of me destroy my energy and joy?"

Looking at Jesus, we see that the key questions are, "Can I live with myself? Can I be centered and patient enough to let God, history and truth be my judge? Can I be sensitive to how I'm seen and judged by others, even as I take my identity from a reality deeper than public opinion and the view of those who like or dislike me? Can I, by casting my eyes more towards heaven, continue to sustain myself in energy and joy, even in the face of bitterness and hatred?"

Jesus shows us the way here, albeit it's far, far from an easy one. This gate is narrow. It's not easy to not be intimidated from doing what we are called to do because we experience opposition. There will always be opposition. It's simply impossible to live for any length of time inside of any kind of closeness, family or community, without irritating and hurting each other. We have different personalities, different histories, different perspectives, and we all arrive on the scene carrying wounds from elsewhere. Community isn't easy, but we must not let our truth and our joy die in the face of opposition.

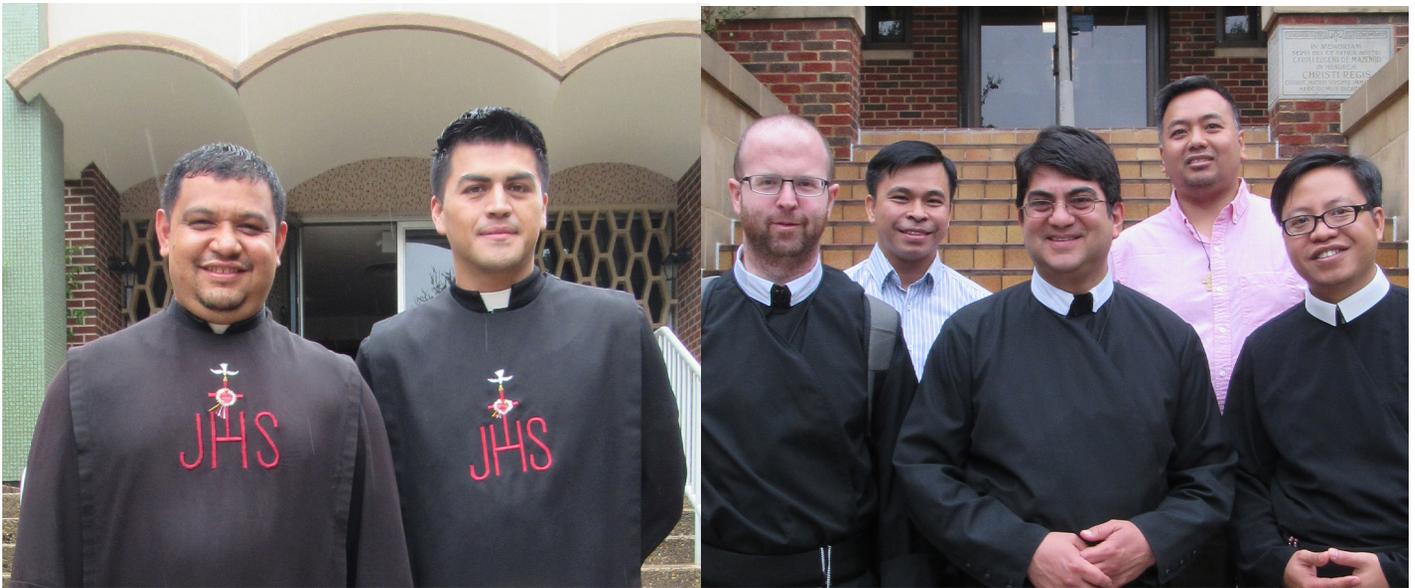
Still a caution needs to be added: There is always a danger of self-delusion when we discern our truth. In the face of criticism, opposition and hatred, we should always seek spiritual direction from the wise and from the good. Wisdom and goodness are the great principles of discernment. Hence, go to those within the community who are wise and good. Ask them how they see you and how they see those particular actions of yours that are so upsetting to your critics.

Know and accept that always there will be criticism, anger, and sometimes even hatred. Jesus experienced this and, in the end, it led to his crucifixion. He warned that, for us, it will be no different. Hell will always try to blackmail heaven, but that's to be resisted.

Ronald Rolheiser, OMI
Ronald Rolheiser OMI



NEW FACES ON CAMPUS



Left photo: Missionaries of the Holy Spirit Jorge Haro and Rodolfo Martinez, are the first members of their congregation ever to attend Oblate School of Theology (OST). Right photo: Redemptorists (front row, left to right) Kevin McGraw, Tony Moreno and Huan Le, and (back row) Huyen Nguyen and Eumir Bautista are among the first 12 members of that congregation ever to attend OST.

Twelve Redemptorist students are enrolled at Oblate School of Theology (OST) for the 2017 fall semester, the first time the congregation has sent students here in the School's 114-year history, Dr. Scott Woodard, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean, announced.

"We're very excited to have the Redemptorists at OST. Their presence helps the School tremendously, but we're also happy to have them because the charism of the Redemptorists fits perfectly with that of OST and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate," he said.

We also welcome two members of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit who are also here for the first time. With the Oblates and the Trinitarians, four missionary congregations are represented in the student body.

Dr. Woodward said the Redemptorists are bringing students from the United States, Canada and Ireland to study at OST. "It's a big move for them and for us. They'll bring good energy to the place; the students and the Redemptorists as a congregation are interested in academics, particularly in moral theology, which we hope to tap into in the future," he commented.

Among the factors that led the Redemptorists to choose OST are its Hispanic and multicultural focus, its interest in pastoral and missionary work and the affordability of San Antonio's cost of living and OST's tuition.

Oblate School of Theology and its parent congregation, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, have deep historical ties to the Redemptorists, he noted, adding that St. Eugene de Mazenod, founder of the Oblates, derived most of his rules and constitutions from those of St. Alphonsus Liguori, who founded the Redemptorists. Both realized the need to draw people back into the life of the Church. Such missionary emphasis matches perfectly what goes on at OST, Dr. Woodward said.

"This is something to be excited about. That religious communities would seek us out to explore these possibilities says something about the reputation OST is building. Our name is getting out. There's a lot of chatter around the Association of Theological Schools and other areas of seminary formation and seminary life that OST has done a lot of really good work and that people are paying attention," he commented, adding, "The Redemptorists were looking for good, solid pastoral formation to bring men into their community who can really live the charism of St. Alphonsus." OST's Master of Divinity program has a strong emphasis on the pastoral nature of ministry.



TOP U.S. THEOLOGIAN GIVES VANCE LECTURE

Oblate School of Theology has scored a major coup in bringing Father Peter C. Phan to give its 2017 Louis G. Vance Lecture in Systematic Theology Oct. 17 in the lecture's third year, said Father John Markey, OP, Associate Professor of Theology.

He called Fr. Phan "one of the most significant theologians in the United States and even in the global church," adding, "His coming is very prestigious and a sign of the commitment of the Vance Chair to bring the most important theological voices into the local conversation here."

Fr. Phan's topic in the free public lecture is "Doing Ecclesiology in the Global Church," outlining the theology of the Catholic Church and exploring its mission, nature and ministry. His lecture draws insights from Pope Francis and the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences and seeks to respond to the most prominent challenges facing the Church today.

The Vietnam native is the Ignacio Ellacuria Professor of Catholic Social Thought at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He emigrated to the United States in 1975 and has earned three doctorates. Fr. Phan taught philosophy at age 18 at Don Bosco College in Hong Kong. He has taught at the University of Dallas, the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Union Theological Seminary in New York, Elms College in Chicopee, Mass., and St. Norbert's College in De Pere, Wisc. In 2001, Fr. Phan became the first non-Anglo elected President of the Catholic Theological Society of America. In 2010, he received the John Courtney Murray Award, the society's highest honor for outstanding and distinguished achievement in theology.

"Peter Phan is like the Rosetta Stone of theology. Every theologian in the global church has contact with him. He's not just a major Catholic theologian; he's a major theologian, period," Fr. Markey said.

Fr. Phan brings the American church and culture to global conversations, and he brings many global perspectives into U.S. church conversations and Catholic theological conversations, Fr. Markey noted. A former president of the ecumenical Association of Theological Schools, he knows what is happening in a variety of other religious denominations and has served on global commissions and projects.

(Continued on page 5)

COMMUNITY NEWS

STUDENTS

August Higgins taught the Theology of Church and Ministry summer course for the OST Sophia program. He was a Bridwell Library Research Fellow at SMU's Perkins School of Theology, in Dallas for two weeks and has submitted an article, "The Aesthetic Foundations of Religious Experience in the Writings of Jonathan Edwards and Ralph Waldo Emerson" for publication in the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*.

ALUMNI

Father Charles Phukuta, CICM, MDiv, '99, was recently elected Superior General of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (the Missionhurst congregation). Born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Father Phukuta, 51, professed his first vows in 1990, came to the United States in 1993 and was ordained to the priesthood on May 8, 1999, by Bishop John J. Fitzpatrick of Brownsville. He studied English in Washington, D.C., served a three-year internship with parish assignments in the Diocese of Brownsville and the Archdiocese of San Antonio and studied at OST from 1994-1999. He served in the Brownsville and Raleigh dioceses. Fr Phukuta was secretary general of his congregation from 2006 to 2012 when he was chosen superior of the United States Province.

Father Anthony G. Maes, MDiv '86, a priest of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M., died Sept. 4 in Albuquerque at age 62.

STAFF

Sister Susan Hazenski, SSCM, is on health leave in Pennsylvania at Maria Hall in Danville, Pa.

Sister Theresa O'Toole, SHSp, Assistant Director of the Oblate Renewal Center, has retired after more than 20 years in that position.

Brian Wallace has resumed full-time work, three days a week at the Whitley Theological Center and two days a week at the Oblate Renewal Center.

OBLATE INSTITUTES

In 2018, the Association of Oblate Institutes of Higher Learning will meet in Cedara, South Africa. The Association has decided to schedule the annual **Kusenberger Lecture** on Oblate Studies on the last date of this meeting each year. The lecture will be given June 1, 2018.



MAGIS IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM



***“We desire only what is magis, more conducive
for us toward the end for which we are created.”***

-St. Ignatius of Loyola

The Magis Ignatian Spirituality Program, which has provided Ignatian spiritual direction and spiritual director training for the past seven years, is now an official program of Oblate School of Theology (OST).

There is a growing interest in the full Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola among laypeople who cannot go away for a 30-day retreat but can do it in their daily lives. They commit to meeting with a spiritual director weekly for about a year and a half, and they pray an hour a day, five days a week. But the program doesn't have enough trained spiritual directors.

Magis has only ten spiritual directors trained specifically to direct the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. It's a big commitment, so when working as well as doing spiritual direction, a director in this program can direct a maximum of only three to four people.

Applicants can take the Magis training program at the certificate level, or for nine hours' graduate credit, applicable for the Master of Arts (Spirituality) degree. It's one year of theory and one year of supervised practice. The School has had more requests for spiritual direction than it has trained directors to handle it.

Applicants for the training program to accompany others in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius must already be experienced spiritual directors trained at recognized centers and must have completed the Spiritual Exercises in a personally directed setting such as a 30-day retreat or in daily life. The training course uses the original text of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and the syllabus complies with the master's skill level. Those who take the course for graduate credit must fulfill the prerequisites for graduate studies at OST.

Once certified, spiritual directors will be equipped to accompany others without having to rely on pre-designed formats of the Spiritual Exercises and will be able to meet the contemporary needs of each retreatant. Each session will consist of a lecture and a practicum in the form of a role play or a case study. The first year of weekly study will be followed by a second year of supervised directing of the Exercises in daily life.

The Magis program also offers Ignatian Twilight Retreats, given over three workday evenings and designed for busy working people. Each includes dinner, a presentation, an opportunity for personal reflection and materials to reflect on at home. Magis also offers Abundant Life retreats, which are completely silent, three-day, directed retreats. Each retreatant is assigned a spiritual director, who meets with him or her four times during the weekend.

Learn more about Magis at www.ost.edu/magis



Top Theologian (Continued)

“Peter is one of the best-informed theologians doing theology today. The breadth of his insights in dialogue and conversation brings what’s going on with the global church to many discussions,” Fr. Markey explained. He added that Fr. Phan was at Catholic University when its faculty included “a Who’s Who of theologians who were doing ground-breaking work. The generation after the Second Vatican Council was taking what the Council said and running with it.”

He stated that Fr. Phan has a broad and profound world-view because he is attentive to developments in Asia and Africa and reads material in languages to which many American theologians don’t have access.

Fr. Markey noted that peers highly respect the Georgetown University theologian and value his perspectives on topics on which they are writing. “He’s contributed essays for some 20 books because theologians want to know what he thinks,” according to Fr. Markey.

He said that Fr. Phan is deeply engaged in pastoral conversations and in sociological and cultural issues. “He’s not the only voice, but he stimulates other people’s thinking; he engages people and offers insights that enable them to grow. He’ll bring something into a conversation and light up the conference. People say, ‘That helps me explain what I was trying to say.’ That’s what Peter brings.” Post-Vatican II theology is about theologians animating each other’s thinking and moving the conversation forward, he explained. “The goal is not for me to be the expert whom everybody turns to, but to bring my energies to bear on a conversation that I’m going to learn from,” Markey said.

Fr. Phan’s writings deal with the theology of icons in Orthodox churches, patristic theology, eschatology, and the history of mission in Asia. His books include *Christianity with an Asian Face*; *In Our Own Tongues* and *Being Religious Interreligiously*. His writings have been translated into Italian, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian and Vietnamese. He is general editor of the multi-volume *Theology in Global Perspective* for Orbis Books and *Ethnic American Pastoral Spirituality* for Paulist Press.



Check out the OST Blog for the latest OST news, videos and more! ost.edu/blog

Save These Dates

MORE EVENTS AT WWW.OST.EDU

Conferencia Escobedo 2017
Inmigrantes y Justicia Social: Una respuesta teológica
24 de octubre, de 7 a 9 pm

Dr. Diana Hayes
Black Catholics Faith, and Hope
Nov. 4, 9 am, Whitley Theological Center

Dra. Renata Furst
Biblia, Espiritualidad y Dirección Espiritual
Miércoles, de 6 a 27 noviembre, 2017, de 7 a 9 pm

Welcoming Prayer Practice Workshop
November 11, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Women’s Retreat:
Continuing the Journey to a New Normal with Hope
December 8- 9

Wonder and Witness: An Ignatian Twilight Retreat
Dios ha hecho maravillas en mí: Retiro Ignaciano
December 11, 12, 13 , 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Come, Taste & See: Introduction to Black Church Studies
Jan 26 and 27, 2018

Phyllis Tickle: Teacher, Poet, Publisher, Journalist,
Pray-er, and Evangelist of Emergence Christianity
February 21, 2018, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

5th Annual International Retreat with Ron Rolheiser, OMI
Insane for the Light: A Spirituality for Our Wisdom Years
Feb 25-March 1, 2018

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ESCOBEDOS ESTABLISH ENDOWED SPANISH LECTURE



Ruben M. and Verónica Salazar Escobedo, HOMI, have made a major endowed gift to Oblate School of Theology (OST) to establish the Ruben M. and Verónica Salazar Escobedo Endowed Fund within the School's endowment. This legacy gift is intended to benefit OST in perpetuity. While the corpus of their fund will remain intact, the annual income will support OST's Continuing Education programs offered in Spanish.

The Escobedos, Honorary Oblates of Mary Immaculate since 2013 and friends of various Oblates for much of their lives, also have established a planned gift for OST through a bequest from their estate that will be invested in that endowed fund when the time comes.

Verónica served on the OST Board of Trustees from 1989 through 2009; however, her relationship with the Oblates began soon after her birth. "I grew up with the Oblates," she said. "I was baptized, received First Communion and was given my first report card by Oblates. There were many Sundays when an Oblate or two shared a meal at home with my family. Seventy years later, we're still doing the same thing at home at least twice a month."

Verónica said that her last pastor before she left Rio Grande City to enroll at Our Lady of the Lake University was Father Sebastián Mozos, OMI. "He was my pastor through middle school and high school." They lost contact while Veronica attended college, but he wrote her a kind letter when he learned of her graduation, and they reconnected. Ruben and Verónica took him to Spain three times to visit his family when he could no longer travel alone.

When Ruben and Verónica were named Honorary Oblates, they were allowed to choose an Oblate cross from a deceased Oblate, and they chose that of Father Mozos, who had died in 2003.

While an OST Trustee, Verónica proposed that the School hold an annual Spring Gala fundraiser. She has chaired that gala each year since its inception in 2000, and Ruben has co-chaired the gala with her since 2011. Under their leadership, the gala has raised nearly \$1.2 million.

Verónica retired from the San Antonio Express-News as vice president of community relations in January 2005 after 35 years with the newspaper. She was president of the Express-News Charitable Foundation and for 17 years wrote the "Dedication Rewarded" column. She currently serves as president of the Pastoral Council at Our Lady of Grace Parish. Verónica has served on numerous boards of directors throughout the community, including Our Lady of the Lake University, her alma mater.



In 2016, the Verónica Salazar Media Center was named for her at Our Lady of the Lake University. She and Ruben have received recognition and awards from professional, educational and human service organizations throughout the San Antonio area, far too many to mention.

Ruben, a retired CPA, managed his own company, Ruben Escobedo & Co. CPAs, for 30 years, retiring in 2006. He began his public accounting career in 1961 with Price Waterhouse in New York and was later President of Handy Andy, Inc., a regional grocery chain. He serves on the board of directors of Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc., and is a past director of Valero Energy Corporation and CST Brands, Inc.

He serves on the executive committee of the board of directors of United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, is founding chair of the San Antonio-Mexico Foundation for Education and past chairman of the boards of trustees of St. Mary's University, the Catholic Community Foundation and the Historical Centre Foundation. Ruben is immediate past chair of the audit committee at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He served on the CPS Energy board of trustees for 11 years and was co-chair of the \$22.5 million capital campaign for San Fernando Cathedral.

"The Hispanic community is growing tremendously in the Church in the United States, especially with the influx of immigrants. Many are coming to South Texas and San Antonio. We felt this gift was the right thing to do because people are hungry to hear the word of God in their native language," Veronica said.

"The Oblates began their ministry to the United States in South Texas. They came to serve the poor and the Spanish-speaking. This gift is meant to help this growing segment of the population that's coming to the United States," Verónica added. She noted that OST sponsored a lecture in Spanish last fall by Fr. Alan Figueroa Deck, SJ, Distinguished Scholar of Theology and Latino Studies at Loyola Marymount University. The School had to provide additional chairs when the audience was much larger than expected.

"The importance of ministry to Hispanics has always been one of the chief objectives of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and their first objective in the United States, and it continues to be. Our firm belief is that the future of the Church in the United States is Hispanic, and while there will be a transition to English for other generations, it's of utmost importance that the Church be receptive to the Spanish-speaking Catholics who find themselves in our country. We want to build on what the Oblates have been doing and help them to continue their mission. There haven't been that many public lectures in Spanish, and if anybody can do that appropriately, the Oblates can," he said.

A highlight for the Escobedos was visiting Aix-de-Provence in France twice with the Missionary Oblate Partnership, of which they are members. "It was overwhelming to visit the birthplace (founding) of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate by St. Eugene de Mazenod," Veronica said.

The School is delighted to announce that the inaugural Escobedo Lecture will be given at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the Whitley Theological Center by Neomi DeAnda, an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Dayton and an OST alumna. Her topic will be "A Theological Response to Migrants' Situations." This and all subsequent Escobedo Lectures at OST will be free and open to the public.

Dr. DeAnda, who earned her M.A. (Theology) at OST in 2005, will discuss how the United States has dealt with issues surrounding migration and related injustices. These issues have been exacerbated by local, state and national authorities and the passage of unjust laws which are detrimental to the common good and violate human dignity. This event will present theological issues raised by these laws and mandates as well as pastoral responses to those issues.



GENEROUS GIFT BRINGS ROLHEISER RESEARCH CENTER TO OST



Linda and Edward Speed have made a major gift to Oblate School of Theology (OST) to fund the “Preservation and Access Project: The Writings of Ron Rolheiser, OMI” in support of the Rolheiser Research Center. Their gift is for the preservation of the writings of Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, which have advanced public understanding of Catholic spirituality.

The multi-faceted gift includes \$25,000 for an archivist during the 2017-2018 academic year to catalogue and index Fr. Rolheiser’s books, articles, lectures and films to make them available for future research and scholarship for those studying contemporary spirituality. The Speeds’ gift also includes \$25,000 to underwrite a conference on contemporary spirituality at OST during the 2018-2019 academic year. That conference will emphasize the thought, context and impact of Fr. Rolheiser’s works and will provide opportunities to envision ways that his work can best be used in the future.

Further, Linda and Edward have pledged to provide a generous grant of \$2,500 each year for the next 20 years to be awarded to an OST student or professor who will prepare a scholarly paper focusing on Fr. Rolheiser’s work during the academic year of the award.

The gift honors the many Oblates who have served throughout Texas, the Speeds said, and especially eight Oblates who were instrumental in Edward’s

formation as an Oblate seminarian: Fathers Bill Davis, Pat Guidon, Mike Levy, Gabe Mokarzel, Ron Walker and Ed Vrazel, OMI; and the late Frs. John Sokolski and Andy Wueste, OMI.

The Rolheiser Research Center was conceived last year to gather, archive, catalogue and digitize Fr. Rolheiser’s writings with the goal of promoting research on his whole body of work, as well as his method and his resources in theology as they have developed over the past three decades.

Its mission will be not only to promote Fr. Rolheiser’s work but, on a larger scale, to make the deep riches of the Christian spiritual tradition available to contemporary audiences. OST has a five-year plan to develop the center and initiate deeper research into Fr. Rolheiser’s life, work and mission. Two years will be dedicated to collecting, cataloguing and digitizing his work in a single archive. The School is seeking funding to sustain the research center in perpetuity. The third and fourth years will focus on developing the center, informing scholars and potential scholars of its existence, and creating a small society of scholars who are already influenced by and dedicated to studying Fr. Rolheiser’s work.

The research center will organize a conference of national and international significance to discuss the OST president’s contributions to theology and spirituality and to suggest new avenues for further research. The goal of the conference is publication of a book or articles representing the emerging scholarship presented at the conference.

The fifth year, the Rolheiser Research Center is to begin functioning as a research center, with facilities for visiting scholars, ongoing functions promoting Fr. Rolheiser’s work and development of a long-term strategic plan.



FACULTY NEWS

Bonnie LeMelle Abadie has been appointed Director of Theological Field Education, succeeding Sally Gomez-Jung, who retired at the end of the 2016-2017 academic year after 24 years. Abadie has directed the pastoral formation certificate programs since 2004.

Sister Linda Bolinski, SSCM, DMin '13, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology.

Dr. Andrew Getz, Miller Professor of Catholic Medical and Biomedical Ethics at St. Mary's University, will be an adjunct professor at OST this semester.

Father Roger Keeler, Assistant Professor of Canon Law, has rejoined the OST faculty full time. He will resume teaching canon law, will assist in the Theological Field Education program and will coordinate the Preaching Improvement Project. His book *What Every Catholic Needs to Know About Marriage, Divorce, Nullity and Remarriage* (Novalis Books) earned an Honorable Mention in the Pastoral Ministry category at the 2017 Catholic Press Awards. "A very engaging, informative and faithful exposition of the Church's teaching on a subject that is often difficult to explain and to understand for many in the Church."

Dr. Rodolfo Felices Luna has joined the OST faculty to teach Scripture, filling the position formerly held by Sister Sarah Sharkey, OP, who retired at the end of 2014. He comes from the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec, where he was an academic advisor overseeing undergraduate studies and the master's program.

Father John Markey and **Dr. Greg Zuschlag** have submitted an article titled "The Foundational Theology of Donald Gelpi, SJ" to be published in the fall 2017 issue of the *American Journal of Philosophy and Theology*.

Father Jim Myers, PSS, directed the 13th Institute for Seminary Formators June 7-14, 2017, at Theological College in Washington, DC, for 36 people. The Institute is presented by the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, as a formational program for those who minister within seminaries or houses of formation as advisors, spiritual directors or members of formation teams.

Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, gave a keynote address titled "Preaching in the Mother Tongue: Calming the Deep Fires inside Our Listeners" July 24 at the 2017 Notre Dame Preaching Conference at the University of Notre

Dame. He gave a keynote address titled "Spirituality and Leadership: A Contested Unrelatedness" Aug. 29-30 at the Titus Brandsma Institute for the Study of Spirituality at the University of Nijmegen in Holland.

Fr. Ron has agreed to continue as President of OST for the 2017-2018 academic year. The search committee for a new President will be restarted and also may look for a new Vice President for Administration since Father David Kalert, OMI, who has served in that capacity since 2007, would like to step away from that post at the end of this academic year.

Father Bryan Silva, OMI, has been appointed Associate Dean for Hispanic Engagement, a new position designed to help the School keep Hispanic ministry in the forefront of the School's work.

Father Bob Wright, OMI, has submitted for publication an essay on a census in 1750 of the Spanish missions at La Junta de los Rios (today's Ojinaga, Mexico, and Presidio, Texas). He is completing a book manuscript on the history of the Spanish presence at La Junta, and particularly the history of the missions there from 1535 to 1773. He participated in the executive committee meeting of the Commission for the Study of the History of the Church in Latin America Aug. 12-13 in Mexico City. Fr. Wright was a co-presenter at a public event in Spanish October 6 on the 16th-Century Reform and Counter-Reform of the Church, organized by the Casa de España at the Mexican Cultural Institute in San Antonio.

Dr. Greg Zuschlag presented a paper titled, "Environmental Stewardship: The Last Acceptable Anthropocentrism?" in the theological anthropology section at this year's convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America June 8-11 in Albuquerque, NM. He reviewed Edward Oakes' book *A Theology of Grace in Six Controversies* in *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society*, June 2017 edition. Dr. Zuschlag presented a class module in the Diocese of San Angelo titled "God in the Christian Tradition" for deacon candidates July 7-8. He is the new editor of *Offerings: A Journal of Practical Theology*, OST's theological journal, and will "relaunch" the journal in the winter of 2017 as a peer-review, indexed and subscription-based journal.

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