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SR. THERESA O'TOOLE
RECEIVES OST MEDAL OF
HONOR

Oblate School of Theology - 285 Oblate Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78205 - 210.341.1366 - www.ost.edu





FR. RON ROLHEISER

Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, is a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He is a theologian, professor, award-winning author, and serves as president of the Oblate School of Theology.

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OST NEWS

Letter from the President

Empathy for the World

There's a story told, more legend perhaps than fact, about a mayor of a large American city in the late 1960s. It wasn't a good time for his city: It was facing financial bankruptcy, crime rates were spiraling, its public transportation system was no longer safe at night, the river supplying its drinking water was dangerously polluted, the air was rife with racial tension, and there were strikes and street protests almost weekly.

As the story goes, the mayor was flying over the city in a helicopter at rush hour on a Friday afternoon. As the rush-hour bustle and traffic drowned out most everything else, he looked down at what seemed a teeming mess and said to one of his aides: "Wouldn't it be nice if there was a plunger and we could flush this whole mess into the ocean!" He was being facetious, of course, but I worry that sometimes in the name of faith we think the same thing about our world. Too common in church circles is the notion that the world is a mess, immoral, self-indulgent, narcissistic, shortsighted, addicted to comfort, addicted to material goods, anti-church and anti-Christian. Indeed, it is common today in our churches to see the world as our enemy.

Far from feeling heartbroken about it, we feel smug and self-righteousness, gleeful witnesses to its downfall: The world is getting what it deserves! Godlessness is its own punishment! Fry in the consequences of not listening to the Gospel! In thinking like that, our attitude is antithetical to Jesus' attitude towards the world. Jesus loved the world. Here's how the Gospels describe his reaction towards the world that was rejecting him: As Jesus drew near to Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it, saying: "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes." Jesus sees what happens to people when they try to live without God, the mess, the pain, the heartbreak, and, far from rejoicing that they are paying the consequences for not listening to him, his heart aches with empathy. Looking at a world that's breaking down because of its self-absorption, Jesus responds with empathy, not glee; with understanding, not judgment.

Good parents do this. What frustrated, heartbroken parent hasn't looked at a son or daughter caught up in wrong choices and self-destructive behavior and wept inside? What loving mother hasn't sometime looked at her child and felt these words spontaneously form inside her: If only you could see what you're doing to yourself! But you can't, and it breaks my heart! If only I could do something to spare you from your self-destructive behavior! The same is true for friends. True friends don't rejoice and become gleeful when their friends make bad choices and their lives begin to collapse. Instead there are tears, empathy, heartache, pleading, prayers. Genuine love is never gleeful at someone else's downfall.

We are asked by our faith to love the world. The world isn't our enemy. It's our child who's sometimes wayward and it's a loved friend who sometimes breaks your heart. Even so, empathy can be hard to feel when in fact the world is often belligerent and arrogant in its attitude towards us, when it's angry with us, when it judges us wrongly, and when it scapegoats us. But that's exactly what suffering children often do to their parents and friends when they make bad choices and suffer the consequences. They scapegoat the very ones who love them. This can feel very unfair. But Jesus invites us to an empathy that lies beyond our wounded feelings.

Kathleen Norris suggests that we look at the world when it opposes us in the same way as we might look at a belligerent 17-year-old girl dealing with her parents. At that moment of anger, her parents become a symbolic lightning rod (a safe place) for her to vent her anger, to blame them for her suffering. But absorbing that anger is a function of adult loving. Good parents don't respond to the anger of an adolescent child by declaring her their enemy. They respond like Jesus did, with tears of empathy. Moreover genuine empathy for the world isn't just predicated on mature sympathy. Mature sympathy itself is predicated on better seeing the world for what it is: The 17 year-old adolescent standing belligerent and angry before her parents isn't a bad person; she's just not yet fully grown up.

That's true too for our world: It's not a bad place; it's just far from being finished and mature.

Ron Rolheiser

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OST NEWS





Bishop Barnes, Fr. David Garcia



He taught her much about ministry: the need to be prayerful, to realize she belonged to God, to welcome people on society's margins, to read the signs of the times and to get to know people. He had a real gift for "recognizing, appreciating and calling forth the giftedness of others," she said.

Bryant Rivas, a seminarian and OST student from the San Bernardino Diocese, expressed the bishop's sincere thanks for the honorary degree, since the prelate was unable to attend. "I can tell you that Bishop Barnes holds this institution in very high esteem, and he holds San Antonio very near and dear to his heart," he said.

Rivas continued, "I can understand why he sends us here. He wants us to be good pastors with hearts like a shepherd. He told me personally, 'I don't need more intellectual priests; I need more pastoral priests.' I can attest to his deserving this honorary degree in pastoral leadership. He knows what it means to be a bishop."

Oblate School of Theology praised the Most Rev. Gerald R. Barnes and Father David Garcia, classmates at Assumption Seminary in the 1970s, during the Honorary Doctorate and Medal of Honor recipients' dinner May 9 in the Whitley Theological Center.

Introducing Fr. Garcia, Fr. Ken Hannon, OMI, recalled that Fr. Garcia's early pastoral work was with then-Auxiliary Bishop Patrick Flores. "That was where his devotion to the poor of Christ began to germinate. I think David learned early on then, if he hadn't already learned it from his parents, to have a heart for the poor. That was a cornerstone move in his life."

Bishop Barnes has headed the Diocese of San Bernardino, Calif., since 1995. Fr. Garcia is pastor of Mission Concepción Parish, Administrator and Director of the Future Evangelization Program for the Missions and senior advisor for clergy outreach for Catholic Relief Services.

When Bishop Flores became Archbishop of San Antonio, Fr. Hannon said, Fr. Garcia was his priest-secretary. He fulfilled huge responsibilities brilliantly, including construction of the new chancery and identifying, obtaining and preparing the large area of land in Westover Hills for Pope St. John Paul II to celebrate Mass before some 350,000 people.

Bonnie LeMelle Abadie, Director of Theological Field Education, spoke of her years of work and friendship with Bishop Barnes in the 1980s when he asked her to work at the Archdiocesan Catechetical Center. He led many workshops in the far-flung parts of the Archdiocese and built close friendships with her and other co-workers while traveling to the workshops. Shortly after inviting her to work at the Catechetical Center, he was appointed rector of Assumption Seminary.

"He had a heart for the poor but also energy and ingenuity. He worked out problems that you really couldn't figure out – and did it with good grace," Fr. Hannon said. Fr. Garcia worked with Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS), Metro Alliance and other groups anxious to help

receive honorary doctorates

on social justice issues. He also worked with Rabbi Samuel Stahl, the Rev. Buckner Fanning and Archbishop Flores in ecumenical and interfaith activities. As rector of San Fernando Cathedral, he raised \$21 million to restore the historic structure. "He raised huge amounts of money – amounts that nobody thought you could get in San Antonio," Fr. Hannon said.

He noted Fr. Garcia even traveled to Europe to study European cathedrals, how they functioned and their meaning for their communities. He concluded that the church and civil society should work together. In 2008, Fr. Garcia became a senior clergy advisor to Catholic Relief Services, extending his concern beyond the local poor population to the whole world.

Fr. Hannon described the honoree's work at restoring San Antonio's Old Spanish Missions as "quite phenomenal," bringing sustained applause from the audience. Accepting the honor, Fr. Garcia said that those who lead the Church must understand humility and live it – "realizing what you are and have, and what you aren't and don't have. This is essential to a Church leader who needs to recognize the community," he said.

He asked if humility can be taught in courses of theology. "Can it help students understand that their task is to get their feet and hands dirty? How do we teach future ministers not to be afraid of failure but to accept failure as a lesson to be learned? How do we teach them to take risks in ministry and, even if not successful, to keep learning and stay at the task?" he asked.

The honoree said the first evangelizers who came to Texas had a wide vision, far beyond where they were living. "They saw the possibilities of what could be. Being Catholic means our vision must always be universal. People who have a vision and are willing to step out of their comfort zone and do the hard work inspire others to do the same. That is how the world changes. Can schools of theology challenge students to have that wide vision?" he asked.



He noted that Father Antonio Margil, with few resources to work with, left an enduring legacy, "not just in buildings but in communities of faith that have passed on spirituality, values and traditions to succeeding generations," and was bold, like the original disciples. Fr. Garcia asked if a school of theology teaches boldness.

"We must help the next generation of ministers to appreciate the diversity of gifts, languages, cultures, traditions and spiritualities that they will encounter in their ministries," the priest said.

Admitting that it is easier to ask questions than to propose answers, Fr. Garcia said his questions came from 44 years of ministerial service and a sincere desire to share lessons learned with the next generation. He closed by saying, "I am honored and truly grateful to be receiving this recognition from a school like Oblate School of Theology that is distinguishing itself every day in preparing the next generation of leaders and evangelizers. I am confident that these questions are being acknowledged and answered and that history we write now will inspire future generations to come."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Administrative News

Fr. Sylvester David, OMI - On June 6, 2019, Fr. Lou Studer, OMI, Provincial of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, U.S. Province, announced that Pope Francis named Fr. Sylvester David, OMI, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Cape Town, South Africa. As Fr. Studer stated, "While it is a great loss for Oblate School of Theology and the province, it is certainly a great gain for the Cape Town diocese, for the church of South Africa and for the wider church." We wish Auxiliary Bishop-elect David all the best and assure him of our prayers.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI - A June 18, 2019 memo to the OST Community from Fr. Lou Studer, OMI, announced that the current OST President, Ron Rolheiser OMI, has been asked to continue to serve as President for one more year and has accepted. OST will name a Search and Selection Committee to launch a new search for an Oblate to serve as President effective August 1, 2020.

René Espinosa, CPA - The OST Board of Trustees has appointed René Espinosa Vice President for Administration and Finance effective immediately. René served OST as Vice President for Finance and Human Resources until his current appointment.

Faculty News

Father Wayne Cavalier, OP, has been recommended for promotion to associate professor. He recently served on an ATS comprehensive evaluation visit at Providence Theological Seminary in Otterburne, Manitoba, Canada. He was re-elected treasurer on the executive board of the Association for Doctor of Ministry Education. OST will host the association's next annual conference in April 2020. Fr. Cavalier has been working with Julia Hinojosa to bring the Espiritualidad y Dirección Espiritual program to the Diocese of Beaumont. With the Congar Institute, he is working to bring new Spanish adult faith formation programs to the Dioceses of Beaumont and Victoria.

Dr. Steven Chase delivered a paper in March titled "Ecological Soul Care: Healing in a More-than-Human World" during a

symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education at Texas Christian University's Brite Divinity School.

Monsignor Jeremiah McCarthy has been hired to teach moral theology at OST during the 2019-20 academic year.

Sister Anne Mary O'Leary, PBVM, will teach Scripture at OST beginning in August.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, received the Writer's Award in Spirituality May 5 in Anaheim, Calif., from the Loyola Institute for Spirituality. He was keynote speaker at the 2019 National Conference on Evangelization and Catechesis April 4-6 in Ottawa, Ontario, sponsored by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. His theme was "From the Well to the World: Catechesis and Evangelization."

He gave a retreat April 12-14 at Queen of Apostles Renewal Center in Mississauga, Ontario. He spoke on "Spiritual Wisdom from the Deep Wells of Christian Mysticism: Principles for Living a Mystically-Driven Life" April 26-27 at the Shalem Institute in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Philip Sheldrake will have a book published this summer by Liturgical Press titled *The Spiritual Way: Classic Traditions and Contemporary Practice*.

Dr. Scott Woodward presented a workshop to the Chief Academic Officers Society (CAOS) at the Association of Theological Schools' annual meeting April 9-11. The workshop was on "Building a Room of Many Colors: Ecumenical and Ethnic Diversity in Theological Education." He also was named to the working group for the ATS Global Awareness and Engagement Initiative. The group is to put together a set of guidelines for "effective global partnerships" to be submitted to the ATS member schools for possible adoption.

Fr. Bob Wright, OMI, had an article, "El santuario de la Virgen de San Juan del Valle en el contexto del bloqueo, el Tratado de Libre Comercio (TLC) y la violencia," published in *Migracion y religion*, edited by Amilcar Carpio Perez and Yves Bernardo Roger Solis Nicot, published recently by the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. In April, he facilitated the visits of Fr. Jose Marins of Brazil, a leading theologian of comunidades de base, with the bishop and clergy of the diocese of Piedras Negras (Mexico), and Texas parishes in Eagle Pass, Brownsville, Penitas and San Antonio.

Dr. Greg Zuschlag has assumed the editorship of *Offerings*, OST's theological journal.

Faculty Emerita

Sally Gomez-Jung is a member of the formation team for CHRISTUS Mission Integration Program in Dallas for international executives from Mexico, Colombia and Chile. She led a day-long retreat for Diocese of El Paso seminarians May 11 and addressed the Summer Gathering of Hispanic Leaders on Hispanic/Catholic identity June 8 at St. Mary's University.

Staff News

Congratulations to the **OST Team, led by Jenny Mattingsley**, whose tres pestos taco won the San Antonio Herb Market Association's annual Basil Fest Chefs' Challenge last weekend. In addition to Jenny, the OST team included chefs Elizabeth Reyna, Max Solis, Bella Castillo, Callie Forge and Linda Tillerson.

Student News

Cliff Knighten became Oblate School of Theology's first PhD graduate May 10, while four other OST students passed their written and oral comprehensive examinations this spring to become PhD candidates. They are Melody Escobar, the Rev. Raquel Feagins, Sister Ha Dinh, OP, and Fr. Raymond Mwangala, OMI. Besides Knighten, three other candidates already have been working toward the PhD: August Higgins, Sr. Duong Pham, LHS, and Sr. Jacinta Kioko, CPS.

PhD students **Melody Escobar, Nathan Garcia, Fr. Raymond Mwangala, OMI, and David Pocta** addressed the OST winter retreat and all were well received by the 140 participants.

The Rev. Raquel Feagins and Nathan Garcia are to attend the Hispanic Theological Initiative Professional Development Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary June 24-27. The initiative will provide mentoring for the students as emerging scholars in Spirituality.

Theresa Galan-Bruce presented the preliminary findings from her doctoral research at "Spirituality in Society and the Professions," the annual conference of the European Institute for Spirituality in Economics and Society (SPES), which met May 16-18 at the Waterford Institute of Technology in Waterford, Ireland. She also had an article, *An Unlikely Mystic: Etty Hillesum and the Dark Night: A Spiritual Sojourn from Sensuality to Surrender*, published in OST's theological journal, *Offerings*.

August Higgins co-edited (with Fr. John Markey, OP) the manuscript for *Mysticism and Contemporary Life: A Conference Honoring Bernard McGinn*, which is to be published soon by Crossroads Publishing Co. The conference met in October 2018. Higgins's essay *Ralph Waldo Emerson and the Politics of the Natural* is soon to be published in *Spirituality Studies*. He delivered it during a conference in June 2018 at the Titus Brandsma Institute in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. He presented a paper, titled *A Hermeneutical Approach to Baptist Spirituality: A Catholic-Baptist-Pentecostal Dialogue on the Question of Experience*, in May at the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion annual meeting at Campbell University in Raleigh, NC.

He also is scheduled to present a paper, titled *Sandra Schneiders and the Question of Normativity: Spirituality Studies and the Postmodern Situation*, in September during a joint international conference of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality and the Forum of Professors of Spiritual Theology in Italy at the Pontifical Antonian University in Rome. Higgins also reviewed *The Spirit of Early Evangelicalism: True Religion in a Modern World*, by D. Bruce Hindmarsh, in *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality*; and *Moses in Pharaoh's House*, by Fr. John Markey, OP, in *Offerings*.

Alumni News

Isaura Barrera, MA (Sp) '18, has published a new book titled *Unwrapping Beloved's Gift, Co-Creating Soul's Song: Way Stations on the Path to Awakening Deep Love, Hope and Faith*, released in April by Balboa Press.

Ordinations

Duncan Amek was ordained a priest May 18 at St. Ann Church in San Antonio.

Juan Carlos Lopez was ordained a priest May 18 in Sacred Heart Church in Cucamonga, Calif.

Pedro Javier Martinez Rodriguez was ordained a deacon May 24 at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Arlington.

Maricio Tovar was ordained a deacon May 24 at Schuyler Central High School in Schuyler, Neb.

Richard Gutiérrez was ordained a priest June 8 in Corpus Christi Cathedral in Corpus Christi.

Cosmas Kithinji Kubai, OMI, was ordained a priest June 8 at St. Pius X Minor Seminary in Nkubu, Meru, Kenya.



William and Gladys Way leave bequest to OST

Oblate School of Theology has received a generous bequest from the estate of William A. Way and Gladys Marie Way, a couple who lived many years in San Antonio before moving to New Braunfels in retirement. The initial distribution of the bequest was more than \$171,000. Mr. Way was born Jan. 12, 1928, in San Antonio. He earned a bachelor's degree at St. Mary's University in 1948 and a master's in education from Trinity University in 1957. He taught as a professor at San Antonio College for many years and was named Professor Emeritus upon his retirement. In 1986, he formed Kable-Kraft, a specialty cable installation company which served Comal, Hays, Guadalupe and Caldwell counties.

He died Dec. 6, 2013. Mrs. Way was born June 6, 1929, in Pampa, Texas. She moved to San Antonio with her parents and attended Incarnate Word High School. After graduation, she met Mr. Way, and they were married March 25, 1950. She worked in banking at the original Jefferson State Bank. The School is deeply grateful for this wonderful gift, which will positively benefit every student, retreatant, sabbaticant and all who participate in OST's Continuing Education programs, use our facilities or visit our beautiful campus.

Spring Gala pays tribute to Archbishop Gustavo, Sr. Teresa Maya

Oblate School of Theology honored Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSPS, and Sister Teresa Maya, CCVI, during the 2019 Oblate Spring Gala April 2 in the Whitley Theological Center with approximately 280 guests. The event brought in more than \$63,000. The net proceeds of the gala will be for operating expenses.

Sister Germaine Corbin, CCVI, and Charles Lutz, chair of the University of the Incarnate Word Board of Trustees, spoke of Sister Teresa's concern for the individual members of her congregation, both young and old, and for her talents as a speaker and congregational leader. Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, President of OST, presented each honoree with a crystal globe as a token of appreciation from the School and on behalf of Oblates serving around the world.

Sister Jane Ann Slater, CDP, and Sister Ramona Bezner, CDP, brought humor to the evening as co-mistresses of ceremonies. Dr. Ramon Figueroa and Fr. Jonathan Felux spoke of Archbishop Gustavo's pastoral sensitivity and persistent work ethic.

Religious orders donate more than \$200,000 to sponsor Sankofa students

As of May 1, the Sankofa Institute for African American Pastoral Leadership raised \$203,000 in donations and pledges for scholarships to help Sankofa Scholars to pay for their education. Sister Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND, Director of the Sankofa Institute, said OST leaders made an appeal by letter to men's and women's religious congregations throughout the United States explaining what Sankofa does and asking if they would agree to help students who needed financial assistance to complete their studies.

"We wrote letters to more than 440 congregations. We explained what Sankofa does and asked them to join us to help our Sankofa Scholars. We invited them to reach out to our other Christian sisters and brothers who need a Christian education and to sponsor a Sankofa scholar for a year," Sr. Walker explained. "Some have taken our offer and decided to sponsor a Sankofa scholar for \$15,000 per year for one, two, or more years. Some gave \$5,000 or \$10,000. Those who couldn't give that much gave what they could. Really, it's been a generous response."

"Religious congregations in general, although they receive charitable donations, also give to worthy efforts that coincide with their charisms as a way to extend their missionary outreach," Sr. Walker said. "Especially women religious, since the apostolic visitation of women's congregations conducted by the Holy See, are collaborating more and more with other women's and men's congregations to reach out to people who are underserved and marginalized in situations where one congregation alone cannot have a broad effect by itself but in collaboration with another congregation can have a great impact," she added. In all, 18 congregations responded.

She said that one congregation, already sponsoring four Vietnamese sisters elsewhere, pledged their support through prayers. "I thank Fr. Ron Rolheiser for his effort in broadening the vision of OST by seeing and responding to the needs of African American students here from other denominations who could be better served if we provided them with something that would prepare them for ministry in their faith tradition. He proposed it to the board, even when it wasn't necessarily a popular thing, and he kept inviting me at every opportunity to come back to OST," Sister Walker explained.



Sr. Theresa O'Toole receives OST Medal of Honor

Sister Theresa O'Toole, SHSp, longtime spiritual director and associate director of the Oblate Renewal Center who retired in 2017, was awarded the Oblate School of Theology Medal of Honor May 9 during the Honorary Doctorate and Medal of Honor Recipients' Dinner at the Whitley Theological Center.

The medal, inaugurated in 2016, is given for outstanding contributions in service to the School. An Irish-born Sister of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate, Sr. O'Toole was a special education teacher in Mississippi and Louisiana before coming to Texas. After training as a spiritual director, she did retreat work in Zambia for five years and met the Oblates there. Contracting malaria, she was sent to San Antonio to recuperate. Soon after her arrival, Father Tom Ovalle, OMI, invited her to work at the Oblate Renewal Center. "She spent 20 years there as a spiritual director and a very gracious host," Fr. Ron Rolheiser said. "She became the face of the ORC, but she was a lot more than a smiling face. Every morning, she was here at 6 a.m., and when people came here, they found the place open and the coffee was on."

"Smiling, gracious and hospitable—these are not minor qualities. Her signature line was always, 'Can I help you?'" Addressing the honoree, Fr. Rolheiser said, "When you were there, there was a mother in the house. You're a wonderful example of St. Therese of Lisieux's 'Little Way,'" he continued. He explained that some people think the "Little Way" means "peeling potatoes for Jesus," but in reality, "it's a martyrdom of obscurity. Instead of shedding their blood all at one time, they give it one drop at a time, unnoticed, every day for years and years. They do it patiently and forgivingly, working with the tensions of daily life and the jealousy and anger that are still with us. That's the martyrdom of obscurity." Accepting the Medal of Honor, Sr. O'Toole described herself as "challenged and grateful to God" for the medal, "and especially for my time at Oblate Renewal Center and OST. I thank the Oblates from the bottom of my heart for all the beautiful memories I carry with me," she added.

In a printed statement read by Sr. Therese Cunningham, SHSp, the honoree noted that the Oblate Renewal Center was still under construction when she first arrived on campus. "I had so much hope for all that would happen here. I felt right at home and accepted for who I was. The blessing of welcome was in the



air, and I tried to spread that same welcome to all who came through our doors for the next 20 years," Sr. Theresa said. Being trained as a spiritual director was a confirmation of her gifts but also a new challenge she had to face. "It changed my whole life. God is so wise, and I am so blessed," she commented. "I met countless people trying to discover their deepest selves, and it was my privilege to be a holy listener for many years." Co-workers at the ORC blessed her with their insights, confidence and goodness. "Each enriched my life and nurtured my soul, and I will count them all as some of my richest graces," she commented.

She said the ORC "opened its doors and invited people to taste and see the goodness of the Lord. So much healing happened on this hill; I carry gratitude in my heart for what I've experienced here as well. I can still 'taste' the happiness of people who came to the center and left with such joy." Sr. Therese recalled a non-Catholic woman she met in the St. Joseph Chapel. "When I came along, she stepped forward, took me in her arms and said, 'Thank you for bringing me here. I have experienced a bit of heaven today.'"

Indeed, the nun said, "I have been blessed. All my experiences, travels, challenges and acquaintances remind me that I was never sad here. It was my home."

OST graduates 24 degree students and first PhD



Oblate School of Theology graduated 24 degree students, including its first Doctor of Philosophy and its first graduate in Oblate Studies, during its 116th Commencement exercise May 10 in the Immaculate Conception Chapel. The School awarded honorary Doctor of Pastoral Leadership degrees to Bishop Gerald R. Barnes and Father David Garcia. It conferred the Fr. Theodore Labouré Award on Paul Matthew Vance for outstanding scholarship in the DMin program. The SteSal Award was conferred on Juan Carlos Lopez for his personal, intellectual, social, ministerial and spiritual growth during his journey as a Master of Divinity student at OST. The PhD degree in Spirituality was conferred on Clifford Lawrence Knighten, Jr. Doctor of Ministry degrees were awarded to Amy Daniels (in absentia), Joseph Hugh Callahan, John Thomas McGregor and Paul Matthew Vance.

Receiving Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degrees were Melissa Fernandez, Gilbert Maldonado, Margaret Pruett, María Aurora Apac Smith, Francisco Suniga, Jr. and Jennifer Cervantes Vasquez. Master of Arts (Spirituality) degrees were awarded to Cosmas Kithinti Kubai, OMI, David Muñoz, OMI, Kristina Pinero, Eric Nawa Sanjobo, Kenneth Stigner, CSsR, and Jennifer Trently. Fr. David Muñoz is the first to receive a degree in Oblate Studies. Vincent Adaikalasamy, OMI, Robby Banda, OMI, Daniel J. Bourg, OMI, Cosmas Kithinti Kubai, OMI, Richard Gutierrez, Cynthia Ladson and Juan Carlos Lopez received Master of Divinity degrees. Adaikalasamy also received a Master of Arts (Theology). Adaikalasamy, Banda, Bourg, Kubai, Gutierrez and

Lopez also received the Certificate of Advanced Studies for Presbyteral Ministry. Father David Garcia, Administrator and Director of the Future Evangelization Program for the Missions, senior advisor for clergy outreach for Catholic Relief Services and Pastor of Mission Concepción, received the honorary Doctorate in Pastoral Leadership for successfully handling a variety of major accomplishments that have made a positive difference in the local Church and the city of San Antonio. Bishop Gerald Barnes, a former seminary classmate of Father Garcia in 1975 and Bishop of San Bernardino, Calif., since 1995, received the honorary Doctorate in Pastoral Leadership for leading one of the nation's fastest-growing dioceses with 1.7 million Catholics and for his service on many key committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, including Administration, Hispanic Affairs, Migration and Refugee Services and Communications.

Joan Cheever, MS, JD, who was awarded an honorary doctorate at OST's 2018 Commencement for her work with the poor and especially for feeding the homeless in San Antonio despite a \$2,000 fine for violating a city ordinance, gave the Commencement Address. Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, President of OST, introduced Cheever as an "anonymous Oblate," explaining that theologian Karl Rahner described people who were Christians without knowing it as "anonymous Christians." He said she is an "anonymous Oblate" because, "like our founder, St. Eugene de Mazenod, she was born into privilege but stepped down from that privilege to serve the poor" by serving high-quality meals to the homeless through her ministry called the Chow Train. He reminded the audience of the 1960s song titled "I Fought the Law and the Law Won," then said, "Joan fought the law, and she won!"

Fr. Rolheiser noted that OST strives to put the riches of privilege at the service of the poor, and Cheever has done so; thus, her work is part of the Oblate charism. She recounted the story of her fight with the city, which ended Dec. 17, 2015, with a new city ordinance called the Charitable Feeding Ordinance. She declared that "the Good Samaritan is not a criminal, and neither are the people being served. You can't criminalize poverty." Her message for graduates, she said, was that "we're all responsible to serve those in need – each of us." Cheever warned that the needy "won't be members of your church, and they won't come to you; you have to go to them."



Certificate programs graduate 52 students

Oblate School of Theology conferred certificates on graduates from its Lay Ministry Institute, Instituto de Formación Pastoral/Pastoral Formation Institute, ACTS Spiritual Companion Formation Program and Espiritualidad y Dirección Espiritual Program May 11 in the Immaculate Conception Memorial Chapel.

Graduation speaker was Father Will Combs, BBD, pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Parish.

The Rev. Debra D. Carson-Seward, Anabel Farrell, Cynthia Quiñones, Sharon Lynn Reich and Norma S. Villarreal graduated from the Lay Ministry Institute. Graduates from the Instituto de Formación Pastoral/Pastoral Formation Institute were Maria Elena Alonzo, Mary C. Berumen, Olga B. Fermán, José Manuel Martínez, Lorena Parada, Consuelo Patiño, José A. Rodríguez, Virginia Sanchez, Cynthia Turullols, María Juanita Vargas and Angeles Villalobos.



Receiving certificates in the ACTS Spiritual Companion Formation Program were Santiago J. Aguilar, Sarah Salina González, Raúl R. Hernandez, Valentin Lucero (in absentia), Louise McLaughlin (in absentia), Debbie A Perez, Santa I. Quiroz, Corina V. Salinas, Sharon Saltzman, Paula R. Sanchez, Richard G. Schell, PhD, Patricia Silva, Lori Lynn Skillestad and Jesús G. Villela, Jr.

Graduates of the Espiritualidad y Dirección Espiritual Program were Sr. María de Jesús Bringas Aguirre, Sr. Francisca O. Alemán, Ana Luz Castillo, Veronica D. Garcia Cavazos, Veronica María Fernandez, Maria Guadalupe Flores, Martha F. Gamboa, Silvia Alfaro Gonzalez, Hector Lopez, Sr. María Socorro Lozoya, MCM, Julieta del Carmen Luna, Sr. Alicia Macias, MCM, Cecilia Mendoza de Avila, Monica Ortiz, Armandina Peña, Claudia Angelica Pinales, Elsa E. Nieves Reyes, Noelia Saavedra, Fernando Guerra Santos, Romelia Tiscareño Torres, Mónica P. Treviño (in absentia) and Ana Isabel Velasco.



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