Celebrating Our New Academic and Conference Center

Francis Cardinal George, O. M. I., joined us to celebrate the Dedication Ceremony of our new academic and conference center on October 29th, 2006. Prior to the Eucharistic liturgy, Fr. Thomas Reynolds, S.S.C., Chairman of Catholic Theological Union’s Board of Trustees along with representatives from CTU’s faculty, administration and student body, took part in a blessing ceremony which incorporated the different areas of the building where students, faculty and staff come together to accomplish the mission of the school. Afterwards, the friends, donors, faculty, staff, students and trustees of CTU gathered for a wonderful reception.

Top: Francis Cardinal George, O. M. I., Fr. Thomas Reynolds, S.S.C., Chairman of CTU’s Board of Trustees, and Rev. Donald Senior, C.P., President of CTU, prepare for the Dedication Ceremony in the VIP Room.
Middle left: The new assembly space is filled with CTU’s friends, donors, faculty, staff, students and board of trustee members.
Middle right: Cardinal George and Rev. Senior greet guests at the reception.
Bottom left: The atrium is filled with guests during the reception.
Bottom right: Fr. Thomas Reynolds, S.S.C., blesses the water which will be used during the Blessing Ceremony.

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In mid-April, I was at the Vatican for a plenary meeting of the Pontifical Biblical Commission. On Friday, the last day of our week-long meeting, we finally completed a substantial text on “Bible and Morality” that the 20 of us on the commission had worked on for nearly six years. Once approved by the Pope it will probably be published in a year or so.

As the last vote was completed, the Secretary of the Commission stood and said we should all sing the Te Deum. You veteran Catholics remember the Te Deum? That beautiful Latin hymn of exuberant thanksgiving that dates from the 4th century and has been sung at moments of thanksgiving and triumph through the centuries. “Te Deum Laudamus,” it begins, “We praise you, O God” and goes on from there to a lyrical litany of praise in an elaborate and exquisite chanted melody.

All of us started strong: “Te Deum Laudamus, te Dominum confitemur, te aeternum Patrem omnis terra veneratur...” (“We confess you as Lord. All the earth venerates you as the eternal Father…”).

But as the verses unfolded (the hymn is feisty, forget. Its verses are not easy to memorize), every word and every note were lost. I don’t mean trying to school everyone and how beautiful our Catholic tradition is perhaps, but it reminded me how important tradition forged over the centuries and being committed to sustaining that tradition with our contemporary experience will be the teachers and leaders of tomorrow’s Church to be steeped in the heritage.”

Scott Alexander, Associate Professor of Islam and Director of the Catholic-Muslim Studies Program, was one of five national recipients of an ATS administered Lilly Faculty Fellowship, ($30,000 to support innovative sabbatical research and writing in a theological field).

Barbara Bowe, R.C.S.J., Professor of Biblical Studies and Director of the Biblical Spirituality Program, served as Coordinating Editor for 30 spirituality articles and authored 10 of those in the newly released St. Mary’s Presi College Study Bible (Winona, M N: St. Mary’s Press, 2007).

Barbara Bowe, R.C.S.J., Rabbi David Sandmel, Crown Ryan Professor of Jewish Studies, and adjunct professor Rabbi Lawrence Edwards contributed to Fortress Press’s recently released new volume Contesteds Texts: Jews and Christians in Conversation About the Bible. John Pawlikowski, O.S.M. was one of the editors. The book contains most of the papers given at a conference in February 2005, co-sponsored by CTU, LSTC, MTS and CTS. This was CTU’s annual Perlmutter Conference. This is the fifth book from the Catholic-Jewish Studies Program of CTU’s Cardinal Bernardin Center.

Edmund Chia, Assistant Professor of Doctrinal Theology, has co-edited with James Heisig, A Longing for Peace: The Challenge of a Multicultural, Multireligious World, which has just been published in Bilbao, Spain. It is a collection of the papers presented at a conference organized by Pax Romana International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs in December 2005.

Eileen D. Crowley, Assistant Professor of Word and Worship, was the guest “author online” for Luthernet during the month of October. Pastors from around the country discussed her Augsburg book, A Moving Word: Media Art in Worship, and shared their pastoral experiences and questions.

Carmen Nanko-Fernández, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry, and Director of Field Education, delivered the inaugural lecture in the “Changing Faces” series at St. John’s University/College of St. Benedict, Collegeville, Minnesota. The lecture was entitled “Removing the P on for the Young: Directions for Theology and Ministry Amongst Latinos.”


John Pawlikowski, O.S.M., Professor of Ethics, and Director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies Program, was named a Distinguished Fellow for Research & Teaching at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) for the spring semester 2008. John’s recent publications include: “Warsaw Confession: The Polish Church, the Pope and the Past” in Commonweal (February 9, 2007).

Roger Schroeder, S.V.D., Associate Professor of Cross-Cultural Ministry, has accepted a three-year appointment as International Coordinator of the Anthropos Institute, a network of S.V.D. scholars and institutes, working in the field of the social sciences (particularly anthropological and social studies) and driving to link academic pursuits with pastoral/ministry concerns.

Ton Sison was a contributor to The Film and Religion Reader, eds. Brent Plate & John Mitchell, London: Routledge Publishing, 2007. His theological film, Ichthus appeared on the official selection list of two more film festivals: Imago Film Festival and Flickerings Film Festival, both in Illinois.

Vanessa White, Director of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program, has published “Somebody’s Calling My Name: Liturgy, Discernment and Christian Discipleship” in the Keeping Current column of the New Theology Review, February 2007 (vol. 20. no. 1). On March 19th she delivered the Paula Ripple Comin Memorial Lecture titled, “We Are All God’s Children: Keeping the Legacy of Sister Thea Bowman Alive”, at Viterbo University.
Siragusa Foundation Salutes Liz and Jim Wilson

By Bill Booth, Director of Development

The Siragusa Foundation, a long-time supporter of CTU’s minority scholarship programs, took another giant step in furthering its relationship with the school by making a gift of $100,000 toward the “Making a Place for Faith” capital campaign. The relationship between the two institutions is much more than the financial rewards that have come to pass. It’s about the life of one of CTU’s prized graduates - Elizabeth Wilson from the class of 1991.

Liz was a remarkable student who yearned for what most of us seek, a better understanding of God’s purpose for us and fulfilling that purpose in our lives. Through her education at CTU and living her life accordingly, she has achieved a sense of peace in knowing that there is a loving God who is with us always, especially in our most difficult times. This was tested most dramatically in the last few years. She has been battling complications from a spinal cord injury that has left her unable to further pursue a number of goals that she had set out to do upon her graduation. Fortunately, her loving husband, Jim, a retired attorney, has been at her side during this time, along with others in her immediate family, including her daughters Cacky Murnane and Liz Anne Wilson. Jim is also a board member of the Siragusa Foundation that ties together this unique relationship between the foundation and CTU. It was at the request of Irene Phelps, the Foundation’s executive director, that the school consider a special recognition for both Liz and Jim. From this came the naming of the fifth floor classroom in their honor. “This is an occasion that I embraced from the moment it was brought to my attention,” related Fr. Donald Senior, C.P., President of CTU. “Liz and Jim have been such wonderful friends filled with God’s spirit and love, and their names attached to the school’s new home in such a personal way makes it complete.”

The Siragusa Foundation has given nearly $30 million to worthy education, health and social service causes in the Chicago area since its founding 60 years ago by Ross D. Siragusa. Mr. Siragusa built a worldwide enterprise that is best known for its manufacturing of electronic equipment most notably Admiral television.

New Doctor of Ministry and MA Concentrations Begin This Fall

Catholic Theological Union will introduce two new academic programs beginning in the Fall 2007 semester. The Ecumenical Doctor of Ministry Program in collaboration with McCormick Theological Seminary and the Lutheran School of Theology is beginning a new concentration titled “Educating for Witness,” designed for those who assume leadership in educating believers both in the knowledge and in the practice of their faith. It combines religious education, communications, proclamation, what Roman Catholics call “evangelization” and catechesis with the study of key religious values and practices (e.g., peace-building, the promotion of justice, etc.). The concentration invites students to consider together such key values and practices side by side with the strategic means for forming people in these values and practices. This concentration is designed for those interested in strengthening their faith; those who have already professed belief; and secondarily, those whose primary work is reaching out to people whose religious affiliation is nominal or marginal. This concentration is open to those who have previous experience, broadly speaking, in educational ministries and faith formation ministries.

The Master of Arts program introduces a unique specialization in interreligious dialogue, which is designed for students from the three Abrahamic faith traditions. The goal is to provide theological and practical preparation for future leaders in interreligious dialogue, bringing new and vital knowledge and skills to those in roles such as; teaching at the secondary and college level; guiding interreligious dialogue for various religious organizations; and serving as a resource person in business or government where knowledge of other religious traditions and methods of dialogue is a valuable asset. This distinctive program will prepare future religious leaders who can be agents of peace and reconciliation among religious traditions, while remaining deeply grounded in their own religious identity, commitments and community.

The program seeks to maintain a balance of Jewish, Christian and Muslim students, reflecting the balance of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim professors who function as the core faculty of the program. This balance will be important in helping to create a learning context in which all three faiths are represented and where actual dialogue will take place within the context of the program itself. Each participant is expected to become theologically literate in one of the faith traditions other than their own and each student will contribute to the ongoing dialogue and sharing of perspectives that is at the heart of the program.

CTU’s President, Fr. Donald Senior, C.P., noted, “As a Roman Catholic school of theology, CTU has a strong and long-term commitment to interreligious dialogue that has prepared it to mount such a program in a credible manner.” Under the auspices of the Bernardin Center for Theology and Ministry, CTU has programs in both Jewish studies and Islamic studies and maintains close relationships with both the Muslim and the Jewish communities and their religious leadership. Permanent and adjunct Jewish and Muslim faculty members teach on a regular basis at CTU and the school has had students from both traditions matriculate at CTU. The school also has a long-standing overseas biblical study program that resides in Jerusalem (Bethany) and has contacts there with both Israeli and Palestinian institutions of higher learning. The Bernardin Center also sponsors tri-lateral dialogues among the leadership of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities in the Chicago area.
Catholic social teaching. My greatest fear is the themes of mission, culture, poverty and the fact that we have spent time as a group exploring all of the logistical preparations, but my job is to learn as much as it is to serve. In addition to all of the logistical preparations, the best strategy for construction was slow and steady, digging deep, and prying rocks out of the ground. The construction projects were slow and steady, and the best strategy for construction was slow and steady, digging deep, and prying rocks out of the ground. The construction projects were slow and steady, digging deep, and prying rocks out of the ground.

During our short nine-day stay, we will be working to break the cycle of poverty in Nicaragua. Fabretto, an organization with positive effects of natural disasters. Progress happens little by little, but it seems that one can never quite reach the bottom.

In his book G racious!, Henri Nouwen reflects on why people become missioners. For some, it is a call to live with the poor; for others it is a love of adventure, for still others it is a desire to share the Gospel message. He says, “The issue is not to have perfectly motivated ministers, but missioners, who are willing to be purified again and again as they struggle to find their true vocation in life.” Perhaps this is what keeps me going back to Nicaragua. One cannot encounter extreme poverty without being changed.

Although this is my third trip to Nicaragua, it is my first time in an official ministerial capacity. Our group consists of 16 college students and two staff members from the Shell Catholic Center at Northwestern University.

We will be working with La Familia Padre Fabretto, an organization with positive momentum in under-served communities working to break the cycle of poverty through nutrition and educational programs. During our short nine-day stay, we will celebrate Christmas with the kids in the after-school program and help with various construction projects.

While there is plenty of work to be done, our job is to learn as much as it is to serve. In addition to all of the logistical preparations, we have spent time as a group exploring themes of mission, culture, poverty and Catholic social teaching. My greatest fear is that we will come home and students will struggle to find their true vocation in life.

Back home-cooked meals, regular prayer and spontaneous conversation. The Christmas parties were a medley of games of soccer, and they amused us with their shoes. The men were transformed. I woke up in Chicago, but in Nicaragua the answer lies somewhere beneath the complex issue of poverty. As we wrestled with that question throughout the week, it felt like we were never going to get to the bottom.

In many ways, it reminded me of the demolition work we were doing at the construction site. One of our tasks was to remove a series of wood beams without access to any power tools. We chipped away for several hours, making little progress, as the beams were buried in endless layers of dirt, concrete and rock. Likewise, the issue of poverty in Nicaragua is buried in a tangled web of economics, inadequate resources and the devastating effects of natural disasters. Progress happens little by little, but it seems that one can never quite reach the bottom.

The best strategy for construction was slow and steady, digging deep, and prying rocks out of the ground. In all things, we found support in one another and in our Nicaraguan friends. The wounds of poverty were evident everywhere we looked. It may take a long time, but today we made a little more progress and uncovered a little more hope.

Wednesday, December 13:
Scarred for life
There are barbed-wire fences everywhere in Cusmapa. G rids, playgrounds, front yards, and even the church are surrounded by barbed-wire. Growing up on a farm, I know how easy it is to get caught when trying to crawl under or around a barbed-wire fence.

Crawling through barbed-wire is the perfect analogy for navigating cross-cultural boundaries. It was not uncommon to find ourselves tangled up in words and situations, and feeling the sharp pinch from getting too close.

I spent the morning working with Adrian in the carpentry shop. He gave me simple instructions, mostly by showing me what to do. As the morning wore on, we tried making small talk. With every question, Adrian would slow down and simplify his words. Where do you live? How many brothers and sisters do you have? Is your father here?

Is my father here? In Cusmapa? Adrian asked the question several times, even though I insisted that my dad was in the United States. Then, I recalled introducing Adrian to the director of the Shell Catholic Center, Fr. Ken Simpson, who was also traveling with our group. Perhaps there was some confusion. Given my poor Spanish, I may have accidentally introduced “Padre Ken” as my dad, instead of as the priest.

The conversation with Adrian did not get any easier. How old are you? Are you married? Why aren’t you married? Don’t you want to be married? As a thirty-something, single, lay woman working for the Church, those aren’t easy questions to answer in English. I quickly found myself tripping over words as I tried answering them in Spanish.

The real cutting question came just before lunch. I managed to catch only a few key words: shoes, work, students and gift. Adrian was asking me for shoes. The men who work in the carpentry shop need shoes. Would our students like to give the men who work in the carpentry shop their shoes? Maybe they could leave them as a gift? I felt my heart tear, unable to find the right words to respond in English or Spanish. At the end...
of the week, we left four bags of clothes, including ten pairs of shoes.

Friday, December 15:
Gift Exchange
There is a truism about service trips that says, "You will receive much more than you will ever give." I found this to be particularly true, especially on the days we were invited to help with Christmas parties in the small communities outside of Cusmapa.

The Christmas parties were a medley of activity, which mostly centered on taking measurements for shoes and uniforms, which will be distributed when the new school year begins in February. While students waited for their names to be called, we entertained them with spontaneous games of soccer, and they amused us with new Spanish phrases.

At each location, our group was also invited to hand out gifts. We would watch the kids stare in awe as they each received a zip lock bag filled with pens, pencils, soap, toothpaste, candy and a small toy. Often they would hold the bag at arm's length, not quite sure what to do with all this stuff. Watching the kids receive these gifts was a particular joy.

Today we were scheduled to help with another Christmas party, but there seemed to be some confusion about where we were going and how we would get there. In addition, several members of our team were limping along with minor injuries, and this trip would require a significant hike.

I began discussing our options with O liver, a local Peace Corp volunteer and Fabretto a staff member. In the course of our conversation O liver said, "It really doesn't matter what the group decides. The Christmas gifts will be delivered with or without you." From a practical standpoint, someone from the Fabretto team would ensure that the gifts were distributed. After some deliberation, we finally decided to make the trek.

That day I met two young girls, sisters, ages seven and nine, who provided us with endless smiles. The older one braided my hair, and the younger one followed me around the playground like a shadow. In some ways there was nothing significant about our interaction, but I was consciously aware of their presence while we were there and painfully aware of their absence when we left. We spent only a couple of hours with them, yet I found myself choking back tears as we said goodbye.

God often gives us gifts that we think we don't need, for reasons we don't fully understand. Like so many of the kids with their bag of supplies, I hold this memory at arm's length, not sure what to make of it, but trusting in the joy that will come as its meaning unfolds.

I was reminded today that mission work is really not about us. Gifts will be distributed with or without us because ultimately all mission work is God's work. We are instruments of something much larger than ourselves. All that is gift comes from God, and we each received something that day.

Wednesday, December 20:
There's no place like home
Coming home is often the most difficult part of the trip. In my three trips to Nicaragua, returning to life in the United States has often been more confusing than comforting. The pain of reverse culture shock comes from the realization that we have changed while everything else has stayed the same.

I awoke this morning at 6:20, back in my own apartment in Chicago. In Nicaragua, the bright sunshine would have already made its way over the mountain, while an hour earlier, the roosters would have started crowing. Today the darkness was still lingering, and the roosters were replaced by the distant hum of morning traffic. I miss the mountains and the early morning sunrise, but not the roosters.

I crawled out of bed and started my usual morning routine, grateful to be home. Everything seemed fine, until I started making breakfast. Standing in the kitchen, I dropped two slices of bread into the toaster and began to cry.

It was just bread, plain ordinary store-bought bread, the same bread I always buy. But, today it was different. It seemed so artificial, processed and mass-produced. We were surrounded by authentic people and experienced such a generous spirit of hospitality in Nicaragua.

For nine days, I was spoiled by homemade bread, fresh ground coffee and hand tossed tortillas made by our housekeeper, who arrived each morning before breakfast. She put a lot of love into it, we would say. I miss Nora, I really do. I would greet her with a big hug, and she would ask "Como amanecía? How did you wake up this morning?" Literally translated, "How did you dawn?"

It hit me this morning, as I stood in the kitchen waiting for the toast. I'm back in Chicago, but I will never really be home. Home implies somewhere comfortable and familiar. After being in a place like Nicaragua, you cannot go home. Something as ordinary as toast will never be the same.

I woke up this morning to find myself transformed. I woke up in Chicago, but in Nicaragua I dawned.

Beth Knobbe is a Master of Divinity student at Catholic Theological Union graduating in 2007, and she works as a Campus Minister at the Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. For more information about the Fabretto Children's Foundation and their work in Nicaragua, check out their website at www.fabretto.org.
Pictured Below:
Top: Director of the Bernardin Center, Sheila McLaughlin with Fr. John Hall at Cardinal Bernardin’s Memorial and Liturgy on November 9th.
Middle: Most Rev. John R. Gerken and Rev. Robert Schreiter, C.PPS, convening in front of one of the many photos by photographer John White which were on display for Cardinal Bernardin’s Memorial and Seminar.
Bottom, from left to right: Sheila McLaughlin, Director of the Bernardin Center, with November 10th. Bernardin Center Memorial Seminar speakers: Rev. Michael Place; Ms. Avis Clendenen; Sr. Mary Brian Costello, RSM; Rev. Al Spilly/CPS; Sr. Agnes Cunningham, SCCM; Mt. Steve Kloehn; and Mgr. Ken Velo.

The Bernardin Center for Theology and Ministry: Ten Years
By Sheila McLaughlin, Director of The Bernardin Center

November 14, 2006, marked the 10th anniversary of the death of Joseph Cardinal Bernardin. It’s hard to believe that 10 years have passed, at least until you think about all that has happened in the Church and in the world in that time interval! As readers know, within months of the Cardinal’s death, plans were underway for the establishment of the Bernardin Center for Theology and Ministry here at CTU. From its modest beginnings, the Center has been committed to carrying forward the Cardinal’s vision and legacy and presently we are fortunate to be able to do that through a variety of educational and pastoral initiatives impacting and supporting Catholic pastoral leadership. Underlying all of these initiatives and programs is the understanding of the Church as an inherently collegial and collaborative community, called to bridge polarities and bring reconciliation to the wider community. As our mission has matured, this focus on reconciliation has given added energy and vitality to our work, especially in our dialogue efforts and our Peacebuilders Initiative.

Finding a way to celebrate the significance of the occasion of the 10th anniversary was important to us. It provided a wonderful opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, to highlight the Cardinal’s signature initiatives and to reflect on how his vision and leadership give us insight in facing the challenges of today. We decided on a series of three special events under the title “The Legacy of Joseph Cardinal Bernardin: A Living Gift to the Church”. We wanted to reminisce, to share stories and insights with those who knew him and those who did not, and to explore his legacy in terms of “gift” to the church and the community.

The commemoration began on November 9th with a Eucharistic Liturgy and Dinner for the Cardinal’s family, friends and colleagues and continued the following day with an all-day seminar on the Cardinal’s spirituality. Those who were the Cardinal’s closest colleagues offered thoughtful, moving and humorous reflections on their experiences with the Cardinal and on the values and principles that guided his ministry. These speakers included Mgr. Kenneth Velo, Fr. Al Spilly, Sr. Mary Brian Costello and Fr. Michael Place. Sr. Agnes Cunningham, Steve Kloen and Avis Clendenen added their thoughts as respondents, and Bernardin scholars engaged with the speakers and audience in a panel discussion to close the day. An additional blessing was the wonderful display of photographs of Cardinal Bernardin taken by photographer John White, who was also in attendance.

The February 16th seminar was designed to delve more deeply into the areas of Church life critically important to the Cardinal: the relationship between religion and public life, especially his consistent ethic of life and concerns regarding our healthcare system; peacemaking and reconciliation, demonstrated by his Common Ground Initiative and the development of strong ecumenical and interreligious relationships; and his superlative administrative skills, well known by all in the

Archdiocese, both in the Pastoral Center and among parish leaders. Each speaker was asked to address several questions: What are the significant learnings from the Cardinal’s approach to this particular topic? What are the challenges? What has most significance for us today? What issues remain to be addressed? This framework provided for serious assessment and discussion, and prompted the “looking back to move forward” that was the hope of the anniversary committee. The presentations by Fr. Bryan Hehir, Ronald Hamel, Fr. Tom Naim, Sr. Sharon Euart, Sr. Mary Benet McKinney, Sr. Catherine Patten, Rabbi Herman Schaalman and Rev. Martin Marty were diverse, rich, challenging and inspiring. I am grateful that we had earlier made a decision to record the session. Cardinal George ended our day together with prayer and his personal memories of Cardinal Bernardin.

Our final day was April 27th, focusing on the Cardinal’s pastoral vision. This day included essential areas of the life of the Church: liturgy, education, social justice and lay ministry. Speakers include Fr. Clete Kiley, Elaine Schuster, Carole Eipers, Mary Heidkamp, and Sheila McLaughlin.

Coordinating these days has been a honor and a privilege for me. Most rewarding is the experience of working with the wonderful people who made up our anniversary committee and to whom I am so grateful: Sr. Mary Brian Costello, Fr. Tom Nain, Fr. Michael Place, Fr. Al Spilly and Mgr. Kenneth Velo. These days of remembering have brought new life to past experiences and insight for what lies ahead.

Catholics On Call’s Second Season
by JoEllen Windau, Associate Director of Catholics on Call

Gearing up for its second season of conferences, Catholics On Call will continue its outreach to young adults, ages 18-30, who are considering a life of service in the Church as priests, religious sisters or brothers, or lay ministers. Last year, Catholics On Call hosted 43 men and women from across the country at its first Young Adults Conference. This year, the national training initiative will host two conferences: June 3rd-8th and August 5th-10th.

Bob Back, one of last year’s Catholics On Call participants, has no magical answers regarding his possible future in religious life or lay ministry, but he feels far more comfortable with his own discernment and trusts that God is guiding him. He credits Catholics On Call for hosting a conference that provides opportunities to meet peers who are wrestling with similar questions about their futures and for bringing together renowned speakers who lay the foundation for discernment. “The conference was a wonderful experience,” said Back. “Thanks to those who jumped into the line-up of speakers, I came away with a better theological understanding of call and have a greater trust in myself for reflecting upon and responding to opportunities for ministry and to my desires and dreams.”

In the first session of the conference, “The Spirituality of Call,” participants learn that call is not a role or function but an invitation to life and holiness. All Christians have a call to live a holy life, but each person’s response is very different. Rev. Donald Senior, C.P., who spoke on this topic during the first young adult’s conference, incorporated Biblical stories of call and then tied them into Christian service and community. Fr. Senior will again present at the August conference. Christopher Robinson, C. M., Associate Director of Campus Ministry and Pastoral Outreach at DePaul University, will speak on this topic during the June conference.

The Most Rev. Robert Morneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin and noted lecturer and author, will return to both summer conferences this year. Weaving the love of the Green Bay Packers with his affection for poetry, he enlightens and amuses the young adult participants as he shares his wisdom on what is discernment and how it happens.

O ther presenters and topics include Robert Schreiter, C.PRS. and Mgr. Guder, O.S.F. on “Culture and Discipleship”; Robin Ryan, C.P. on “The Dynamics of Prayer”; Barbara Bowe, R.S.C.J. and Laurie Brink, O.P. on “Religious Life Today”; Sheila McLaughlin and Angela Appleby-Purcell on “Lay Ministry in the Church”; and a panel discussion on “What is the Church and Why Would I Want to Serve It?”

“The Catholics On Call Young Adults Conferences are opportunities for young adults to explore their hopes, dreams and vocations,” said Catholics On Call Director, Robin Ryan, C.P. “We hope to make this opportunity available to more men and women considering service in the Church by offering two conferences this year.”

Catholics On Call, funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc., is able to offer the Young Adult Conferences free of charge, which includes meals, lodging and planned entertainment. Participants are responsible only for their travel expenses to and from Chicago. For more information on the conferences, please call 773.371.5431 or visit the website: www.catholicsoncall.org.
Peacebuilders Initiative

By Megan Kennedy-Farrell, Director of Peacebuilders Initiative

When asked what adult parish leaders should know about youth, Luis Reyes of Our Lady of Tepeyac Parish said, "We're here. We want to work hand-in-hand with you." Luis was one of four alumni of Peacebuilders Initiative who presented at a workshop at the Archdiocese of Chicago's pastoral leadership day. "Called to Serve: Coworkers in the Vineyard" on February 17, 2007. When Peacebuilders Initiative at CTU was asked to offer a workshop on youth leadership in parishes at the event, we turned to our growing community of alums and asked them to provide the workshop's content.

Peacebuilders from Our Lady of Tepeyac and St. Dismas parishes spoke about the peace projects they created and their own roles as leaders in their parishes. They inspired those present at the workshop as they described their dreams for the Church and the role of youth within that dream.

This past December marked the end of the initial grant period for Peacebuilders Initiative. Begun by a four-year, $2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, Peacebuilders Initiative has now touched the lives of approximately 250 high school students and 50 high school and parish communities. These 250 Peacebuilder alumni, currently in high schools all across Chicagoland and colleges across the country, are practicing their faith and exercising their leadership for peace and justice in these many communities.

In September, the Lilly Endowment awarded CTU a four-year matching grant totaling $600,000 to sustain the work of Peacebuilders Initiative.

Rev. Jeffrey Kirch, C.PPS. (M.Div ’04) was recently promoted to Assistant Professor of Religion at Saint Joseph’s College in Rensselaer, Indiana. He also serves as chaplain and director of Campus Ministry. Rev. Dennis Chriest, C.PPS. (M.Div ’98) was elected a member of the North American Academy of Liturgy in January, 2007. He has recently published The Fifty Days of Joy: Easter Season Reflections for New Catholics with World Library Publications.

Sister Joan Schullian, O.SF (Certificate in Pastoral Studies ’00) celebrated her golden jubilee on June 24, 2006 at the Motherhouse of Hospital Sisters of St. Francis in Springfield, Illinois.

Thanks to the generosity of Toni and Richard Berkman and Family, in memory of Allen and Selma Berkman, the Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., the Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation, and the Bernardin Center’s Rabbi Haym Goren Perelmuter annual conference, applicants who are selected to participate will receive full scholarships for the seminar, including travel expenses, accommodations and meals. The course is also available for academic credit or continuing education credit through the CTU Summer Institute.

Faculty members are Latina/o Catholic theologians and leaders in pastoral ministry, together with Jewish scholars and other Catholic scholars who are committed to advancing Christian-Jewish understanding. The faculty include: John Pawlikowski, O.S.M., Rabbi David Sandmell and Carmen Nanko-Fernández from CTU; Rabbi David Rosen and Rabbi GARY Greenbaum from the AJC; and Jean-Pierre Ruiz from St. John's University.

In the words of Bishop Plácido Rodriguez, Chair of the Committee on Hispanic Affairs and a member of the Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "the seminar is consistent with the bishops’ goals to deepen our mutual identities, Catholic-Jewish, and grow as Comunidades and with Convivencia."

For more information on Comunidades y Convivencia go to: http://www.ctu.edu/bernardin_center/Signature_Issues_Initiatives/Latino-Jewish_Program.html

Pope Benedict XVI greeting Rabbi David Rosen, President of IJCIC, the International Jewish Committee that represents World Jewry in its relations with other world religions.

ALUM NEWS

Jerry Galipeau (D.Min ‘99) will soon release his latest publication Appointed to Christ: Activities for Practicing the Catholic Way of Life. He is also Worship Resources Editor for World Library Publications in Franklin Park, Illinois.

The commitments of Catholic Theological Union to both Catholic-Jewish relations and to the Latino/a Catholic community are certainly not new. Catholic-Jewish studies date to the school’s founding in 1968. The Hispanic Ministry Program will celebrate its 25th anniversary in the 2007-2008 academic year. The intersection of these two commitments is at the heart of an exciting new initiative scheduled for June 12-17, 2007 titled: “Comunidades y Convivencia: A Seminar on Catholic/Jewish Relations for Latino and Latina Catholics in Ministry.”

Born of a partnership between the CTU Bernardin Center for Theology and Ministry and the American Jewish Committee (AJC), the program seeks to cultivate an ongoing positive relationship between Hispanics, the community with the largest growing presence in the U.S. Catholic Church, and our Jewish brothers and sisters. Recognizing the influence of leaders in faith communities, CTU and AJC invite Latino/a Catholics enrolled in seminary and graduate programs in theology and ministry, as well as those who are currently engaged in ministry, faith formation and religious education, to apply for participation in the seminar.


Begins This June

Comunidades y Convivencia: A Seminar on Catholic/Jewish Relations for Latino and Latina Catholics in Ministry

By Carmen Nanko-Fernández, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministries

Thanks to the generosity of Toni and Richard Berkman and Family, in memory of Allen and Selma Berkman, the Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., the Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation, and the Bernardin Center’s Rabbi Haym Goren Perelmuter annual conference, applicants who are selected to participate will receive full scholarships for the seminar, including travel expenses, accommodations and meals. The course is also available for academic credit or continuing education credit through the CTU Summer Institute.

Faculty members are Latina/o Catholic theologians and leaders in pastoral ministry, together with Jewish scholars and other Catholic scholars who are committed to advancing Christian-Jewish understanding. The faculty include: John Pawlikowski, O.S.M., Rabbi David Sandmell and Carmen Nanko-Fernández from CTU; Rabbi David Rosen and Rabbi GARY Greenbaum from the AJC; and Jean-Pierre Ruiz from St. John’s University.

In the words of Bishop Plácido Rodriguez, Chair of the Committee on Hispanic Affairs and a member of the Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, “the seminar is consistent with the bishops’ goals to deepen our mutual identities, Catholic-Jewish, and grow as Comunidades and with Convivencia.”

For more information on Comunidades y Convivencia go to: http://www.ctu.edu/bernardin_center/Signature_Issues_Initiatives/Latino-Jewish_Program.html

Pope Benedict XVI greeting Rabbi David Rosen, President of IJCIC, the International Jewish Committee that represents World Jewry in its relations with other world religions.

ALUM NEWS

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### Calender of Events

**June**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Workshop on Workplace Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-8</td>
<td>Catholics on Call Young Adult Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-18</td>
<td>Summer Institute and Create Your Own Open House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-17</td>
<td>Comunidades y Convivencia – A Seminar on Catholic Jewish Relations for Latino and Latina Catholics in Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-23</td>
<td>Peacebuilders Initiative Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-23</td>
<td>ForMission Conference</td>
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**July**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-25</td>
<td>National Religious Vocation Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-28</td>
<td>Institute for Liturgical Consultants</td>
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**August**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>Catholics on Call Young Adults Conference</td>
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**September**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fall Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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To receive CTU’s “Reflections Newsletter” – a weekly e-newsletter, containing a short reflection based on the Sunday Gospel message, written by one of CTU’s world-renowned faculty members, visit: http://newsletter.ctu.edu/ and click on Newsletters At CTU.