

Inside the Institute

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New Collegeville Institute Grants

The Collegeville Institute has received two new grants to extend its work on vocation and calling.

The **Communities of Calling Initiative** is a five-year, \$1.5 million grant funded through the Lilly Endowment's "Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative." The Collegeville Institute's program will create a new ecumenical "innovation hub" for congregations to explore vocation in their local context.

This program will provide 14 congregations with a grant of up to \$30,000 each to support a project that helps their members discover and deepen their sense of God's calling in their lives. The Collegeville Institute will convene congregational leaders over a five-year process, focusing on theologies of vocation as well as building skills for evaluating and sustaining congregational ministries.

Leadership teams from the congregations (consisting of the pastor, a staff member, and a lay leader) will meet each summer in Collegeville. Participants will share findings from their local projects and learn from experts on vocation. Teams will participate in an opening retreat and online gatherings between annual meetings. Some participants will take a pilgrimage to Israel in summer 2021 to explore biblical narratives of calling.

Laura Kelly Fanucci, Research Associate for the Collegeville Institute Seminars for the past 8 years, will serve as the Program Director.

Jessie Bazan, graduate of Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary ('17) and Youth Formation Minister at Pax Christi Catholic

Community in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, will serve as Program Associate.

Congregations interested in applying can learn more at communitiesofcalling.org. Applications are due Sunday, July 1, 2018, and materials are available from lkfanucci@CollegevilleInstitute.org.

The Collegeville Institute was also awarded a five-year, \$2.6 million grant to coordinate the "**Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative**" for Lilly Endowment, Inc. The Endowment has funded 13 innovation hubs around the country, and staff from each hub will meet annually in Indianapolis. They will also have the opportunity to join research seminars on a particular aspect of vocation, congregational learning, or innovation design theory. The coordination grant will extend the Collegeville Institute Seminars' research on vocation by inviting hub leaders to develop seminars on specific topics related to vocation in the Christian life.

Kathleen Cahalan, Professor of Practical Theology at Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary and Director of the Collegeville Institute Seminars, will serve as the director of the coordination grant.

The Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson, Assistant Professor of New Testament at the Seminary of the Southwest and member of the Seminar on Vocation Across the Lifespan, will serve as Associate Director. Jessie Bazan will serve as Program Associate.

Congregations are the best places for God's people to be inspired and equipped to live out their callings each day.
~ Jack Fortin

New Multi-Religious Fellows Program

The Multi-Religious Fellows Program brings together a group of young leaders, five to fifteen years into their professional careers, from five of the largest religious communities in the seven county Metro area. These emerging leaders – totaling 11 individuals from the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim communities – are meeting with leaders from the world of government, business, education, criminal justice, health care and the non-profit sector. Participants in the program are also building networks of relationships outside their religious communities, and will work together on community projects.

Over two years, the Fellows hope to attune themselves to the complexity of important civic issues of common concern. Meetings and conversations facilitated by the Collegeville Institute will help enable these leaders to address difficult public matters in an informed way, and to enhance civic life.

By being in conversation with civic and professional leaders, participants in the Multi-Religious Fellows Program, we hope, will sharpen their skills in social analysis, gain the confidence necessary in taking on leadership roles around matters of public significance, and, in general, themselves become wise religious and civic leaders.

The Multi-Religious Fellows met for the first time on Sunday, November 12 and Monday, November 13, 2017 under the direction of **Barry Cytron**, who served for 25 years as a congregational rabbi, first in Des Moines, Iowa and then in Minneapolis. Barry has spent years working in interreligious settings, writing about religion, and teaching at the College of Saint Benedict, Saint John’s University, and Macalester College. The first gathering featured four guest presenters: **Abbot John Klassen** of Saint John’s Abbey; **Tim Marx**, CEO of Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis; **Gary Reiersen**, former director of the Collegeville Institute Fellows Program; and **Don Ottenhoff**, executive director of the Collegeville Institute.

Staff Updates

Jessie Bazan is the Program Associate for the Communities of Calling Initiative and the Collegeville Institute Seminars. Jessie earned her Master of Divinity degree from the Saint John’s University School of Theology and Seminary and her Bachelor of Arts from Marquette University. In addition to her work with the Collegeville Institute, Jessie serves as the Youth Formation Minister at Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie, MN and Outreach Coordinator for the Saint John’s Abbey Vocations team. She also writes regularly for U.S. Catholic magazine.

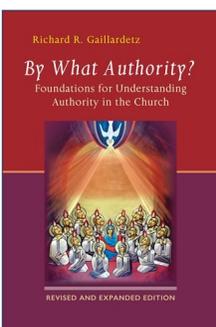


Br. Elias Eichorn is a new member of the Saint John’s monastic community. Elias earned a Master of Arts in Systematics and Master of Theology from Saint John’s University School of Theology and Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Saint Joseph Seminary in Louisiana. He has worked in past years at the Collegeville Institute as a summer student worker, and now is a Communications Assistant.



Upcoming Resident Scholar Lectures

Richard R. Gaillardetz (Resident Scholar, Fall 2015) is the Joseph Professor in Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston College, current chair of the theology department, and a past president of the Catholic Theological Society in America.



He will deliver a lecture at Saint Benedict’s Monastery on **Thursday, February 15 at 3:00pm** in Rosamond A titled “Beyond Dogmatism: Ecclesial Belonging in an Age of Scandal.” The lecture will highlight his recently published book, *By What Authority?* (Liturgical Press, 2017).

Toshihoro (Toppo) Takamura is a 2017/18 resident scholar. He is a pastor of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church and Ph.D. candidate at United Lutheran Seminary (ELCA) in Pennsylvania. On **Thursday, February 15 at 7:45pm** he will present a lecture titled “Shusaku Endo as a Theologian of the Cross: *Silence* through a Lutheran Perspective” in Quad 264.

Jaisy Joseph is a 2017/18 resident scholar and a Ph.D. candidate in Systematic Theology at Boston College, where she is completing her dissertation on the catholicity of the U.S. Church in light of migration and globalization. On **Thursday, March 22 at 7:45pm** she will present a lecture titled “*The Migrant’s Double Vision: Understanding Pope Francis’s Culture of Encounter*” in Quad 170.