

NEUMANN INSTITUTE NEWS
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Visiting Scholar

We are pleased to welcome Sr Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ who joins Neumann University as a Visiting Scholar from August 18 through November 24, 2009. Sr. Mary Beth is a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange, California. She holds a Ph.D. in Medieval Philosophy from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland and is Professor of Philosophy at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. Sr. Mary Beth has published several books and numerous articles on the thought of John Duns Scotus, Franciscan philosopher-theologian. She is a frequent presenter at Franciscan gatherings. Sr. Mary Beth currently serves as President of the American Catholic Philosophical Association.

Many of us will remember Sr. Mary Beth as the presenter at our August 2007 Welcome Back celebration where she explored with us the theme of *Beauty* in the Franciscan tradition. Faculty members from philosophy, theology, and education also had the privilege of engaging with Sr. Mary Beth around ways to integrate the Catholic and Franciscan intellectual traditions into the classroom.

In addition to her presentation on Welcome Back Day on August 26, Sr. Mary Beth will present a Faculty Lecture on the topic *Faith Seeking Understanding: The Relationship of Reason to Faith in Catholic Higher Education* (date to be determined) and a lecture for graduate students and faculty on the topic *Mindful of Our Dignity: The Human Person and Scotus' Moral Perspective* on Wednesday evening, October 14 in the Franciscan Spiritual Center.

Sr. Mary Beth will lead a round table discussion of her forthcoming Franciscan Heritage Series book *Rejoicing in the Works of the Lord: Beauty in the Franciscan Tradition*. This short and inexpensive book (84 pages; under \$10) is appropriate for use with college students and faculty at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The nature of the publication lends itself to several disciplines, including but not limited to: theology, philosophy, ethics, literature, and the arts. Participants in the round table discussions (probably 4-5 sessions) will receive background information on the Franciscan tradition and suggestions for using the book with students and/or for professional discussions. Participation is limited; please contact the NIFS office to reserve a place at the table. Staff members who want to learn more about the Franciscan tradition are also welcome.

In addition to her public lectures, Sr. Mary Beth will serve as a consultant to the philosophy department and will engage university faculty in discussion of the value and construction of capstone courses.

University-wide Theme for 2009-2010
A Joyful Affirmation of Our Core Values

Each year the university invites us to focus on a value related to our Catholic Franciscan mission and identity. This year our theme is *A Joyful Affirmation of Our Core Values*. Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ will explore with us this theme in her presentation at the Welcome Back Day celebration on August 26. We invite everyone to use Sr. Mary Beth's remarks for personal reflection and conversations with colleagues during the coming year. On Welcome Back Day we will distribute to everyone cards highlighting the theme of Joy and our new Identity, Mission, Vision, and Values statements.

Core Values of Neumann University

Can you name the identity, mission, vision, and five core values of our university? To assist each of us in understating and living our mission and values, the university has prepared a laminated card containing the newly endorsed Neumann University identity, mission, vision, and values. The card also contains a brief articulation of the actions to which our values call us. An explanation of the **Core Values** is also available on the Mission and Ministry website. We challenge you to find creative ways to use the cards to extend and bring to life our mission and values.

800th Anniversary of the Franciscan Movement

In the year 1209 Pope Innocent III approved the Rule of Life that St. Francis of Assisi had written for his followers. Francis's original vision was that his followers would live the Gospel, following in the footprints of Jesus. As we celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Franciscan movement we encourage everyone to take advantage of the many opportunities for growing in knowledge of the Franciscan tradition. The **Program Preview for 2009-2010** lists programs available at Neumann University and also at the Franciscan Spiritual Center. The **Web Resources** and **Print and Media Resources** found on the NIFS website include websites, publications, and media available for personal and group student and reflection and use with students. In addition, we are pleased to extend an invitation to all (faculty, staff, and students) to Villanova University's six-part series on *The Relevance of the Franciscan Tradition*. The lectures at Villanova are free and open to the public. Please notify the NIFS Office if you wish to attend.

Celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

The week surrounding the feast of St. Francis always includes several special activities and celebrations. This year the Feast of St. Francis falls on Sunday, October 4. We will announce the schedule of activities by e-mail as soon as they are confirmed.

Advent Dinner and Evening of Reflection

This year we welcome Bishop Thomas Gumbleton as presenter for our Advent Dinner and Evening of Reflection on Monday evening, December 7, in the Franciscan Spiritual Center. Dinner will begin at 5:15 followed by the presentation at 6:30 PM. Bishop Gumbleton was named Bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit in March 1968. A tireless

advocate for peace-making, Bishop Gumbleton founded Pax Christi in 1972. Pax Christi International is a non-profit, non-governmental Catholic peace movement, spread over 30 countries and 5 continents, with over 60,000 members worldwide. Pax Christi has a specific focus on demilitarization, security and arms trade, development and human rights, and ecology.

Caritas in Veritate

The latest encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI has been reviewed widely in both secular and religious press. The themes of the encyclical remind us that authentic human development emerges from living the Truth in Love. This theme echoes the Neumann University motto: Live the Truth in Love. The encyclical and extensive commentaries are available at the **Education for Justice** website and at the Villanova University Mission website <http://www3.villanova.edu/mission/CaritasinVeritate/front.htm>

During Lent, we will offer a discussion series on the encyclical. Look for further details in the beginning of the Spring semester.

Mentoring for Mission Program

In response to the University's strategic plan and in collaboration with the Offices of Mission and Ministry and Academic Affairs, the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies will again offer a Mentoring for Mission program for new faculty members. Other staff members who wish to participate in the program are welcome. Topics include: the history, identity and mission of American Catholic and Franciscan higher education; the meaning of sponsorship and the relationship with the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia; and the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition within the context of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

Presentations will be scheduled to accommodate participants. Anyone who wishes to participate in any of the sessions is welcome to contact the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies Office.

Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official international humanitarian agency of the United States Catholic community, promotes human development in more than 100 countries around the world. In particular, CRS focuses on health, water and sanitation, education, microfinance, agriculture and peace-building. CRS is increasing efforts to collaborate with colleges and universities in order to foster within young women and men an understanding of global issues and the ability and desire to act to improve life for all. Cabrini College and Villanova University have major partnerships with CRS. This summer, Neumann University was invited to participate in the Global Solidarity Network Study eBroad Program. This web-based program will allow students and faculty to explore social justice topics and to engage with students in other colleges and universities and with CRS experts throughout the world. The Web programs are offered as two-week modules. Students may participate during class time or on their own time. This year's

program will include: International Development (October), Human Trafficking (November), Human Trafficking (February), Food Security (March), and Afghanistan and Iraq Redevelopment (April). To learn more about the program and how you can enroll your students, please contact the NIFS Office.

Franciscan Action Network

In March 2007, friars, sisters, secular and ecumenical Franciscans created an organization called Franciscan Action Network (FAN) to encourage the larger U.S. Franciscan Family to “speak with one Franciscan Voice in order to effect the transformation of national social policy.” Franciscan Action Network has a number of resources related to care for creation, peacemaking, poverty, and human rights. The staff of FAN is anxious to collaborate with Franciscan colleges and universities, and they are willing to present lectures to classes on topics related to the areas on which they focus. FAN also has faith-based advocacy days in March. During this time students travel to Washington to learn about various issues and to speak with Congresspersons. Please take some time to visit the Franciscan Action Network website at <http://www.franciscanaction.org/>

Resources on our Identity as Catholic in the Franciscan Tradition

The Neumann Institute has a number of print and media resources available on our mission as a Catholic university in the Franciscan Tradition. Visit the Mission and Ministry and Neumann Institute websites for more information.

2008 – 2009 Retreats

During the 2008-2009 academic year, the Mission Unit offered eight days of reflection for members of administration, faculty and staff (October 13, 20; November 11, 2008; January 13, 29; February 20; March 9; and April 2, 2009). A total of 210 employees (98 staff members; 71 out of 97 full and part-time faculty; 41 out of 53 members of the College Management Team) attended these reflection days. In addition, there was a half day of reflection on Saturday, April 17, 2009, offered for faculty of the Continuing Adult and Professional Studies and Strategic Leadership programs. Eight faculty members participated in this day.

A total of 105 participants completed evaluation forms. Recommendations from the evaluations are being reviewed by the Neumann Institute and Mission and Ministry offices. Where appropriate, suggestions will also be shared with others. As a result of feedback received and discussions among the NIFS Committee members, the following actions have been taken:

- ❖ The **webpages** of Mission and Ministry and the Neumann Institute have been updated to include information on our identity, mission, vision, values, and heritage.
- ❖ A laminated bookmark containing the newly approved identify, mission, vision, and values has been developed and will be distributed on Welcome Back Day.

- ❖ A brochure with ideas for integrating our mission and values into classes and within units will be distributed to members of the University Management Team and to all faculty members.
- ❖ An annotated bibliography of **print and media resources** related to our identity and mission has been placed on the NIFS website.
- ❖ A half-day retreat will be offered for all Neumann personnel.
- ❖ The NIFS Office will offer educational sessions on “the basics” (Mass, Advent, Lent, Easter).
- ❖ There will be a Lenten series to study and discuss the encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*.
- ❖ Retreats for graduating students according to majors are being considered (a retreat for graduating education majors will be piloted this year).
- ❖ A summary of the evaluations of the retreat days has been shared with faculty, staff, and administrators.

Peace and All Good as we begin another academic year!

Patricia Hutchison, OSF, Ed.D.