



THE CAPSTONE

RESEARCH. DIALOGUE. RENEWAL.

SPRING
20
20

PLANTING SEEDS AND WATERING

CELEBRATING THE NEXT SEASON FOR FR. JIM HEFT, SM AND THE INSTITUTE

In one of his parables, Jesus tells the story of a farmer who planted. Seeds fell on different kinds of soil, with very different results: The seed that ended up on a path got trampled; the seed that ended up in the midst of thorns or among rocks, died before it could grow. The seed that fell on good soil, however, produced an abundant harvest.

Jesus likened the seed in the parable to God's word. The idea, he explained, is that if a person listens to God's word and hears it—really hears it and allows it to sink in and germinate—good things will grow.

It's an apt parable for Fr. Jim Heft's life, and for his work at the Institute that we celebrate in this newsletter. The Institute began, as you'll see on p. 4, with the planting of the seed of an idea. And, as befits Jim, the seed was planted not by a fellow Roman Catholic scholar, but by a Protestant colleague. Since that seed was planted almost 40 years ago, Fr. Heft has watered and nourished the idea of an Institute dedicated to continuing the ancient practice of faith seeking understanding by welcoming scholars—of all religions and no religion at all—to address humanity's enduring questions and contemporary problems.

We hope you will enjoy reading the accolades contributed by colleagues and looking at the timeline of the Institute—the fruit of Jim's work. Clearly, he has succeeded: the seed has yielded an abundant harvest. Like all good farmers, however, he knows that the work is never done, and he has prepared the Institute well for the next season of growth under the leadership of Fr. Dorian Llywelyn, SJ.

The words attributed to St. Oscar Romero serve as a fitting prayer as we wish Fr. Heft God's best blessings in his new role as president emeritus—and continue the work he began.

Becky King Cerling
Executive Director

We invite you to send your congratulations to Fr. Heft at iacs@usc.edu. Please watch for announcements of a celebration for him when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

**It helps, now and then,
to step back and take
the long view.**

**The Kingdom is not only
beyond our efforts,
It is even beyond
our vision.**

**We accomplish in our
lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent
enterprise that is God's work.**

**Nothing we do is complete,
Which is another way of saying that
The Kingdom always lies beyond us.**

**We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
Knowing that they hold future promise.**

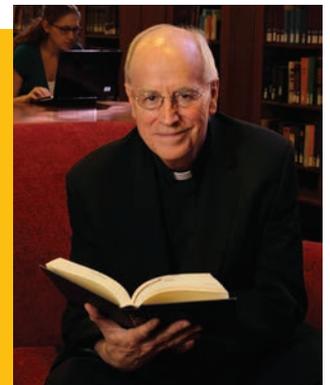
**We lay foundations that will need
further development.**

**We provide yeast that produces effects
far beyond our capabilities.**

**But that is the difference
Between the master builder and the worker.**

**We are workers, not master builders,
Ministers, not messiahs.**

We are prophets of a future that is not our own.



LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER



Fr. Jim Heft is a force of nature. He has an extraordinary intellect, which perhaps explains his drive and desire to create and maintain the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies. Jim has also been a dear friend for some 15 years, since we first met at the University of Dayton. We both were trained at the University of

Toronto, and both played basketball, but he's a Marianist priest from Ohio, and I'm a Muslim who was born in Pakistan. There's a story I heard once that Jim was dedicated to interfaith work from the time he was in second grade, and a Catholic teacher told him that his father (who was a Protestant), wouldn't go to heaven, as heaven was reserved for Catholics. Jim told the teacher he didn't believe it. I love that image, a child who understands at an early age that there is something profoundly wrong with what he is being taught. I did mention Jim's intelligence earlier.

I came to interfaith work through my master in Toronto, the blessed Wilfred Cantwell Smith, Canada's greatest scholar of religion, who with his wife Muriel lived in Lahore (coincidentally, the city of my birth) for six years before Partition and Independence. They returned a year later to see the aftermath of the religious violence that had killed so many Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus. Over 70 years later, we see continuing issues of religious violence and intolerance in India. For some 55 years, since *Nostra Aetate* came out of the Second Vatican Council, interfaith dialogue, especially with Jews and Muslims, has been a key part of the Catholic Church. Jim Heft has lived out that dialogue since he was in second grade. In 2016, I was privileged to have a fellowship to the Institute with Rabbi Reuven Firestone and Catholic scholar Pim Valkenberg. The theme for that semester was "Race, Faith, and Violence". Sadly, those issues are still with us, reminding us of the importance of interfaith dialogue. We need to learn from each other if we are going to live with each other. Jim understands that as well as anyone I've ever met.

Amir Hussain
Professor of Theological Studies
Loyola Marymount University

IN GRATITUDE TO FR. JIM HEFT AND THE INSTITUTE



The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies changed the trajectory of my career. Subsequently, it has also had a profound impact on my life. In 2014, a perfect storm of circumstances meant my career wasn't moving forward despite my best efforts. The academic job market had changed dramatically and not surprisingly, systemic racism

in the Catholic Church wasn't a hot topic for publication! Things started to turn around for me the day I received a listserv notice calling for applications for a symposium sponsored by the Institute on the Sociology of the Catholic Parish. I'd devoted a significant amount of space in my dissertation on just this issue. After years of disappointment, rejected publications, and being told I wasn't "a good fit," this was my last best hope for a career in academia. Being accepted to the symposium altered the trajectory of my career. The people I met, friends I made, and opportunities that came my way after the symposium in the Summer of 2015, shifted my career from a dead-end path to a road with more possibilities than I could count.

Currently, I'm fortunate enough to participate in a second program through the Institute. As a Mullin scholar, I'm able to be a member of the 2019-21 Generations in Dialogue cohort. Through this program, I am able to collaborate with other sociologists and build the type of networks that are essential now that I am an independent scholar.

The numerous opportunities that have come my way in the five years since I first participated in an IACS program have changed my career in profound ways. For this, I owe a debt to Fr. Heft and the Institute. Without the Institute, I'm not sure I would have been able to find a way to continue doing the work I love. For that, I am deeply, deeply grateful.

Thank you.

Tia Noelle Pratt, Ph.D.
President and Director of Research,
TNPratt & Associates, LLC

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR



I met Father Jim Heft more than two decades ago when he first came to USC seeking a home for his dream of creating a scholarly, humanistic and activist institute that would deepen understanding of Catholicism and the unity of faith and reason, while simultaneously exploring the great contributions of other, non-Catholic

spiritual traditions. He succeeded brilliantly, to my mind, because he has the rare qualities of a razor-sharp intellect along with a humanism and love that naturally attracts all kinds of people. He is like a magnet. He brings together people of diverse backgrounds and manages to get them to explore the things we tend to neglect or avoid.

My experience with Jim deepened my learning and understanding of religion in general, Catholicism in particular, and endowed me with a fuller sense of the Almighty's presence everywhere. Among various projects for which Jim invited my involvement, I participated in three international IACS conferences: "Beyond Violence," "Spiritual but not Religious," and the Intellectual Humility project. These experiences enabled me to improve my scholarship on these and other issues. More important, they enabled me to clarify my understanding of my own religious tradition of Judaism through intense and loving interactions with my religious neighbors and colleagues that IACS brought together.

I think the acme of my experience with Jim was in the fall of 2016 as a fellow at IACS, a full-time, one-semester opportunity to live in professional community with two other academic fellows, the Catholic Pim (Wilhelmus) Valkenberg (Catholic University of America) and Muslim Amir Hussain (Loyola Marymount University) along with Father Heft. We fellows shared an office at USC's Caruso Catholic Center, regularly attended Mass there, and engaged in our own ongoing dialogue through co-teaching a USC course, presenting public programs on various topics on and off campus, and in ceaseless private conversations.

Father Heft is an enabler in the most positive sense of the word. I have watched him enable students, lay people and faculty to think anew about some of the most challenging issues that we often take for granted. He has enabled me to rethink many of my own assumptions about religion in

general and Catholicism in particular. He has also enabled me to dig deeper into my own emotions and to more fully release the love that sometimes remains locked in. There is something about him that is just, well, *enabling*.

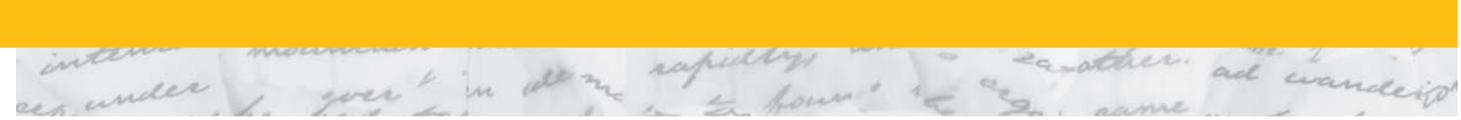
A very recent example is the latest of the occasional notes he sends out from IACS. Just yesterday I read what he released along with IACS executive director Becky King Cerling on loving one's neighbor in the midst of this terrifying Corona-virus emergency. IACS is a non-profit organization that exists because of the generosity of its donors. Like all non-profits, it is in constant need of contributions. Yet this missive appealed to loving one's neighbor by contributing – not to IACS – but to organizations whose mission is to serve neighbors directly in such a critical time of need. He and Becky wrote, "Learning how to love our neighbors—helping those who for a time are sick or poor or lonely, and discovering the causes of their pain—lies at the heart of most religious traditions and certainly at the heart of the Christian faith and the Catholic intellectual tradition." This simple sentence could be Jim's résumé. It captures the heart along with the intellect and the welcoming inclusivity of his deeply Catholic worldview. I consider myself blessed to be his friend and colleague.

Reuven Firestone
Regenstein Professor in Medieval Judaism and Islam
Hebrew Union College, Senior Fellow, Center for Religion
& Civic Culture, University of Southern California

"It's so important for us to have a critical and objective voice when discussing religion in the public sphere, to have a place that convenes faith practitioners, research scholars and the community to address the challenges of the 21st century. The Institute is just such a place, and offers just such a voice."



— Dr. Varun Soni, Dean of Religious Life at USC



THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED CATHOLIC STUDIES: A TIMELINE OF RESEARCH, DIALOGUE & RENEWAL

Bringing together scholars for extended conversations about issues confronting humanity today, the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies draws on a rich intellectual and spiritual tradition of over 2,000 years and continues an ancient and worthy practice: **faith seeking understanding**. The Institute brings scholars together who, with the aid of both faith and reason, address contemporary problems and enduring questions. It welcomes ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. It seeks to heal rather than divide. It pursues truth, humbly but fearlessly, in conversations with religious leaders and scholars in all the branches of human knowledge.

A Seed is Planted: In 1983 a Protestant colleague and graduate of Princeton University said to Fr. Heft, "Princeton has an Institute for Advanced Studies. Why don't you Catholics establish one? You've been at it a lot longer than we have." In the mid-1990s, as university professor and chancellor at the University of Dayton, Fr. Heft, S.M., begins thinking about ways to strengthen institutionally the Catholic intellectual tradition.



September 29, 1998: The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies is **incorporated** in the District of Columbia. The purpose of the Institute is to "sponsor and conduct research and scholarship on all aspects of the Catholic tradition; to disseminate the results of such research and scholarship; and to support and encourage the preservation and renewal of the intellectual, spiritual, and cultural/ ecclesial heritage of Catholicism."

In addition to Fr. Heft, constituting members of the Board were: Dr. Michael Lacey, Director of the American Studies Program at the Wilson Center

in Washington D.C.; the Honorable Judge John J. Noonan, U.S. Court of Appeals; Dr. Francis C. Oakley, President Emeritus of Williams College; and Mr. Paul Caron, head of J.P. Morgan in Belgium and Switzerland.

2000: For three weekends spread over eighteen months Fr. Heft leads an international group of twenty-five scholars, including Charles Taylor and David Tracy. A charter is written and the search for a location begins.



2003: The board of the Institute chooses to **locate the Institute at the University of Southern California** rather than at Yale or Princeton.

2004: *Beyond Violence: Religious Sources of Social Transformation in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* is published by Fordham University Press.

2005: *Believing Scholars: Ten Catholic Intellectuals* is published by Fordham University Press.

2006: The Institute moves to the campus of **The University of Southern California** in Los Angeles, CA. Fr. Heft begins as the Alton Brooks Professor of Religion.

2006: *Passing on the Faith* is published by Fordham University Press.

2007: The **public lecture series** begins, initially sponsored by Elizabeth & Robert Plumleigh and now continued through the generosity of Julie & Tom Condon. The series annually features four – six well-established scholars, addressing wide-ranging topics, including inter-religious dialogue, art, astronomy, film and economics.



Dr. Sana Tayyen begins her 2017 lecture, "Being American Muslims."



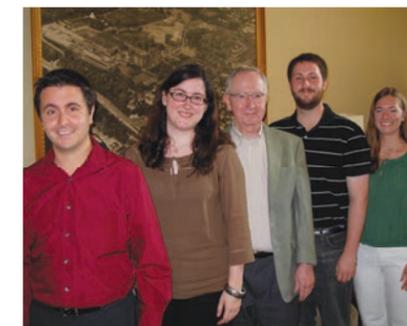
Paul Caron, Fr. Heft and Dan Finn

2008: St. John's University Collegeville professor Dan Finn and Paul Caron organize the first **True Wealth of Nations** conference to study Catholic social thought and economics. This research program produces five books: *The True Wealth of Nations: Catholic Social Thought and Economic Life*; *Distant Markets, Distant Harms: Economic Complicity and Christian Ethics*; *The Moral Dynamics of Economic Life: An Extension and Critique of Caritas in veritate*; *Empirical Foundations of the Common Good: What Theology Can Learn from Social Science*; and one forthcoming from Georgetown University Press.

2010: The **Vatican** hosts the Institute's conference on Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical, *Caritas in veritate* (*Love in Truth*) to examine how its teachings apply to the United States.



2010: The first group of **Generations in Dialogue** (GID) scholars convenes. Focused on the study of Modern Catholicism, John O'Malley, S.J. is the senior scholar. GID invites a widely-recognized senior Catholic scholar to share time, expertise, and wisdom with several junior scholars. For four weekends spread over two years, these scholars convene for discipline-specific discussions, personal reflection, shared prayer, and presentations from distinguished scholars and public intellectuals.



GID Cohort 1: Matthew I. Gaetano, Bronwen C. McShea, John O'Malley, SJ, John McCormack, Anne McGinness

2011: The second cohort of **Generations in Dialogue** convenes around the discipline of Christian Spirituality under the direction of senior scholar Bernard McGinn.



GID Cohort 2 at work. Clockwise from center left: Bernard McGinn, Phillip Haberkern, David Albertson, Diane Vincent, Bo Karen Lee, Dominic Doyle, Sandra Schneiders, Michon Matthiesen.

2011: The Institute publishes five volumes. Four from Oxford University Press: *Catholicism and Interreligious Dialogue*; *Catholic High Schools: Facing the New Realities*; *Learned Ignorance: Intellectual Humility Among Jews, Christians and Muslims*; *The Crisis of Authority in Catholic Modernity*, and one from Notre Dame Press: *Engineering Education and Practice: Embracing a Catholic Vision*.



2012: *After Vatican II: Trajectories and Hermeneutics* is published by Eerdmans.

2013: The third **Generations in Dialogue** group, "The Writer and the Arts" begins to meet with senior scholar Greg Wolfe.



Greg Wolfe and GID cohort 3 participant, David Griffith

2015: Imagining the Future of Catholic Literature Conference at USC. Conceived and co-hosted by Institute supporter and USC Judge Widney Professor Dana Gioia, the three-day event draws 400 participants and features acclaimed authors Julia Alvarez, Tobias Wolff, Ron Hansen, Kevin Starr and poet Angela Alaimo O'Donnell.



Dana Gioia

2015: Secularism, Catholicism, and the Future of Public Life: A Dialogue with Ambassador Douglas W. Kmiec is published by Oxford University Press.

2015: The Institute co-sponsors **The American Parish Project** with the Louisville Institute. 17 scholars revitalize the sociological study of parishes across the United States. Their study, *American Parishes: Remaking Local Catholicism* is published in 2019 by Fordham University Press.



Dr. Gary Adler, IACS Director of Research, 2011-2015, led the American Parish Project.

2016: The Institute partners with the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in the fifth iteration of True Wealth of Nations. Scholars meet at the Vatican for a symposium entitled "**Centisimus annus (The Hundredth Year): 25 Years Later**" to reflect on economic, political and cultural changes after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1989.

2016: *In the Logos of Love: Predicament and Promise in Catholic Intellectual Life* is published by Oxford University Press.

2016: "Race, Faith & Violence: Learning from Three Religions." In collaboration with the Caruso Catholic Center, the Institute sponsors for a semester three residential scholars, Rabbi Reuven Firestone, Amir Hussain, and Pim Valkenberg, who conduct research, give presentations, serve on panels and are available to students and faculty.

2017: Along with centers from across USC, the Institute organizes an all-day **Homelessness Roundtable**. Over 50 religious and civic leaders, including Archbishop José Gomez, gather to share ideas regarding the homelessness crisis and how the religious communities of Los Angeles can speak with a single moral voice.

2018: Fr. Heft asks the board to begin a search for a new president.



(L-R) Rev. Najumah Smith-Pollard, Rev. Zachary Hoover, Fr. James L. Heft, Rabbi Noah Farkas and Brie Loskota, executive director for USC's Center for Religion and Civic Culture

2018: Research begins on **unaffiliated young adults** who have left the religion in which they were raised or who have never embraced any religion. Key findings of the research are published in a brochure, "Youth, the Catholic Church, and Our Future," which Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez takes to Rome for the Bishops' Synod on *Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment*. It is widely distributed to schools and parishes.

2019: 4th Generations in Dialogue cohort is chosen with senior scholar, John A. Coleman, S.J. in sociology of religion.



Clayton Fordahl, Andrew Lynn, Tia Noelle Pratt, Jane Lanke, Fr. John A. Coleman, SJ, Brad Vermurlen

2020: Fr. Dorian Llywelyn, S.J. is chosen as the second president of the Institute. Educated in England, Spain and United States, as well as in his native Wales, his intellectual interests include nationalism and religion, and the theology of popular religiosity. Fr. Llywelyn will begin serving as president at the end of July.

FROM FR. DORIAN LLYWELYN, SJ



Fr. Ted Hesburgh, CSC famously described Notre Dame as "a place where the Church does its thinking." The Institute is another of those much-needed places and I am inspired by the radical decision to house it at the University of Southern California, the premier university in the globally significant, multicultural city of Los Angeles.

Where faith is in open-hearted, thoughtful conversation with the academy and the wide world on the burning issues of the day, all parties can be enriched.

Succeeding a visionary founding leader is a humbling prospect, but I am eager to contribute my own energies and vision and build on the many successes achieved so far. I am quietly hopeful that my own particular contributions can help advance the mission of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies in its next stage of life.

"Interfaith research and scholarship at the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies provide the foundation for new conversations on far-reaching issues. Drawing from ideas and traditions that span multiple disciplines, it encourages deeper appreciation of our social and cultural commonalities as well as our differences. In building this environment where broad perspective meets empathy and reason, the Institute is helping to engender a more enriched, educated, and tolerant world. We are proud to have this unique resource housed at USC Dornsife."



— Amber Miller, Dean of USC Dornsife

FINDING A HOME AT USC



When the Institute first sought a home, it looked to Europe. Several leading European cardinals recommended locating the Institute in the United States where it already had a number of suitors, some of them drawn from our most prestigious institutions. USC was an early suitor and an ardent one. USC beat out the competition because of a number of factors:

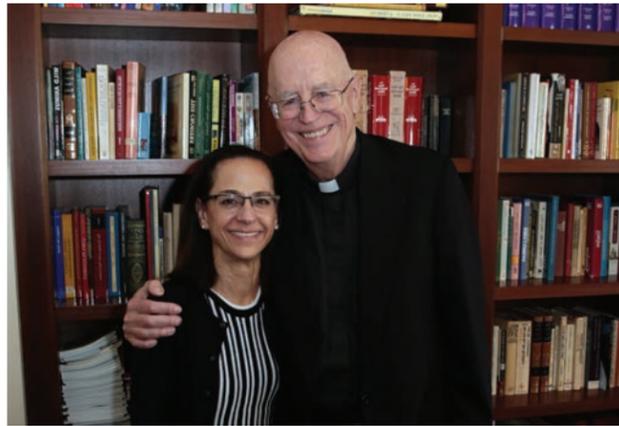
- USC is a nonsectarian institution and offers neutral ground for interreligious and ecumenical dialogue and research.
- USC is a private institution with a deep tradition of fundraising on which the Institute could piggyback.
- Although nonsectarian, USC had a major Catholic presence. It boasts a Catholic student body larger than Notre Dame.
- The Los Angeles Catholic Archdiocese had established a parish right next to the USC campus.
- That parish was about to embark on a fundraising program which resulted in a major facility housing both religious and secular space.

The success of that fundraising campaign which drew on the USC Catholic community, led by USC trustee Rick Caruso, provided hospitable contacts for the IACS. Indeed, the Institute, an academic operation apart from the parish, has flourished over the years led by Father James Heft, S.M. It's fair to say that it is the envy of comparable organizations throughout American higher education. Heft has brought his special talents in establishing the Institute's prestige and influence. Heft is now about to step down and the transition is critical for the future of IACS.

We ask that your prayers be with us during this transition.

Alan Kreditor
IACS Board Member
Professor, USC Price School of Public Policy
Senior Vice President Emeritus, University of Southern California

JOURNEYING TOGETHER



My friendship with Jim began in 1978, when I began taking classes from him at the University of Dayton (UD). Over time, as Jim moved from faculty member, to provost, to chancellor at UD, and I moved from an undergraduate, to graduate student, to a faculty member at Washington State University, we kept in regular contact. In the early '90s, while provost, Jim began thinking about a free-standing institute of advanced studies that was devoted to scholarship on the Catholic intellectual tradition. By 1997, while chancellor, his vision of this institute was drafted into a proposal, and IACS began to take shape.

A concern of Jim's was the marginality of religious thought and practice in American academic life: Catholic intellectual life was not flourishing. He argued that we needed scholarship that focused on the Catholic tradition in all its expressions, for example, textual, liturgical, and artistic. He also thought we needed research that addressed contemporary concerns that individuals and the Church confronted. Thus, there was a blending of the past, from which we had more to learn, with present societal and cultural affairs.

He maintained that a self-governing organization was needed in higher education that focused on religious thought. At the heart of this Catholic, independent institute, situated in a major metropolitan area, would be a residential scholar's program. The program would draw national and international scholars who were interdisciplinary and interfaith. They would contribute to deepening and elaborating Catholic religious thought and scholarship and bring it to bear on current issues in the modern world.

By 2000, Jim was juggling work as part-time president of the Institute, as part-time president and full-time chancellor at UD. In 2004, the Institute was established at the University of Southern California (USC) in LA. Over time, the travel back and forth from Dayton to LA was wearing on him. In 2006, he left his Dayton home of 20+ years to devote himself full-time to developing the Institute in LA. He packed up his belongings, and he and his brother drove across country. He would live with the Vincentians on Adams Avenue for years until he established a Marianist community a few blocks away. Leaving UD was difficult for Jim. He loved UD, and he was loved on campus. His departure left a hole for many.

In 2002, I moved to the University of California, Riverside, so I began to "see" up close what Jim was building. Our conversations increasingly centered on the Institute. It was on his mind a lot; he wanted it to be successful. I have come to know Jim better these past 20 years than the first 20 years of our friendship. I think this is because one gets to know the core of another when the person is building something important.

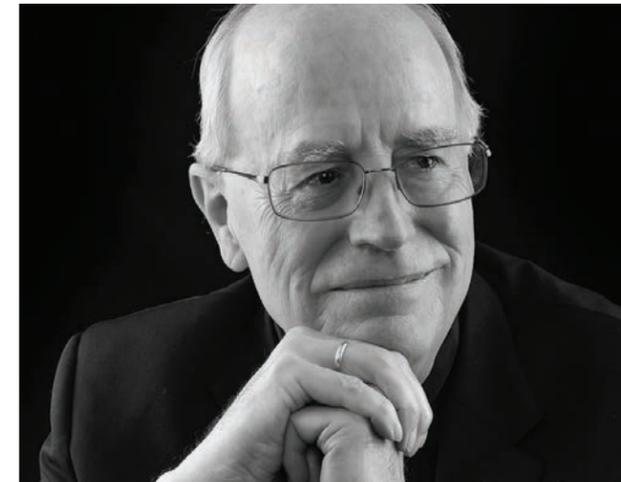
Jim has demonstrated unwavering commitment and endless energy to bringing the Institute to life for the Church. To watch it unfold over the years has been moving and inspiring. There have been struggles. However, he has been resilient given the challenges including where to locate, how to build from the ground up, and with whom to connect to foster its growth. Along the way, he also has been a good listener and an effective communicator of the Institute's mission. And, given his love for people and their love for him, he has been able to move others to a place in which they support and participate in the Institute's mission.

This journey hasn't been easy for Jim, but nothing of value is easy. He has had great support from many, and I know he is deeply appreciative of that support. I am so grateful and proud of what Jim has accomplished with the Institute. I look forward to what his future brings as he steps away from this undertaking and begins a new one.

Jan E. Stets
IACS Academic Advisory Council Member
Professor of Sociology, UC Riverside and
Director of the UC Riverside Social Psychology
Research Laboratory

THE NEXT BLESSINGS

I look forward to the next years. I will be able to continue to be a part of this wonderful project, the building of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, supporting our next president, Fr. Dorian Llywelyn, S.J., who with his many talents and vision for the Institute will take it now onward and upward. It has been a wonderful run, but I look forward now to trotting. I will continue to teach at USC, and am filled with gratitude for all the wonderful people I have met, friends of the Institute, colleagues at USC, and my own Marianist brothers with whom I live just two blocks north of campus. When the world returns to normal, I hope to see you personally again. I am grateful.



"I was intrigued and a bit incredulous to hear they were starting an Institute at USC rather than at a Catholic university, but then I saw that it was because of Steve Sample's attitude and openness. I applaud USC and President Sample for embracing it. I admire Jim Heft's entrepreneurial streak—migrating from a position of a chancellor of a university to a new state, a new field, a new venue with no financial support to speak of—it's pretty gutsy."

— Peter Mullin, founder and former president of Mullin Consulting and Institute board member



"Questions that do not fit neatly into existing specialties are too easily deferred, unless there are strong incentives to address them ... Centers for advanced study are less tightly confined to the issues and approaches of existing disciplines, and, since they do not depend on the departmental structures of the university, can identify and pursue promising new paths of inquiry ... At their best, the sense of community they build encourages scholars to do their most creative work."

— W. Robert Conner, former president of the National Humanities Center in The Chronicle, Jan. 17, 2003.



President of USC, Carol Folt, greets Fr. Heft and Dr. Robert D. Newman, president and director of the National Humanities Center, at his Oct. 2019 lecture, "Humanities in the Age of Loneliness," cosponsored by IACS and USC Dornsife.



Fr. Heft with former USC president, Steven B. Sample.

A SALUTE TO FATHER JIM HEFT

PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED CATHOLIC STUDIES



I am very blessed to have been part of the extended Marianist family for over 40 years. My family and I are fortunate to have Father Jim in our lives all these years. My husband Tom and Jim have known each other since both joined the Marianist Order in 1963. I have heard many great stories, especially of their college years together

at the University of Dayton. Tom left the Order at 27 and became a Math Chairman at a high school in Fort Lauderdale where my brother also taught. I will let you connect the dots. We married in 1976 and started an HR Consulting firm in 1979. But Tom had brought Fr. Jim into our lives even before that. So, over the years, we were aware of Father Jim's rapid career growth and his significant impact on the University of Dayton. However, it wasn't until 2005 when our youngest son Kyle entered Chapman University near Los Angeles, that we rekindled our strong friendship with Father Jim. It was at that very same time that the Institute began its partnership with USC. Father Jim moved to LA and we would connect during our visits to see Kyle.

Fr. Jim's excitement about the Institute was contagious. Soon we were brainstorming together and helping him market and spread the word about this marvelous Institution. As our children were growing up we always told them the two most important gifts we can give them is the gift of faith and education. As we listened to Father Jim, we realized how important it was to continue to enhance our Catholic faith and leave a legacy for generations to come.

What better way to do this than through the groundbreaking research environment of the IACS? In 2012 Father Jim invited me to serve on the Board of Trustees. How privileged I felt to be part of this compelling mission. I always knew Father Jim was a gifted educator, inspiring priest and a trusted friend. But his compelling passion to bring the IACS to a level of worldwide impact is a true tribute to his creative vision.

We are excited to see the future potential of the IACS. We salute Fr. Jim for his achievements, wish him well as he retires, and we know that IACS will continue to thrive and grow because of the firm foundation his entrepreneurial leadership has built.

**Maureen A. Shea, IACS Board Member
CEO, Right Management – Florida/Caribbean**

AFTER 13 YEARS

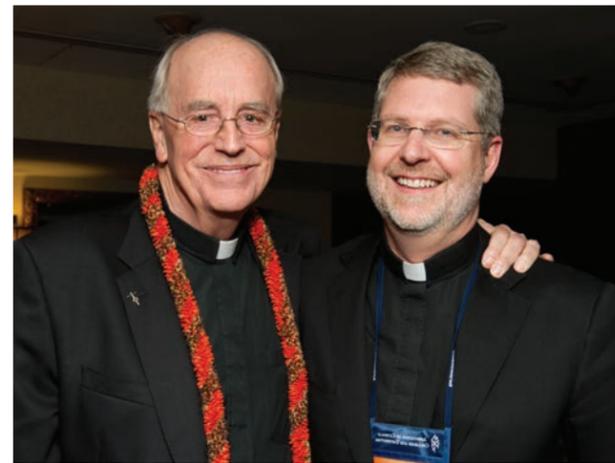
It has been my privilege to have been Fr. Jim's assistant for nearly thirteen years. Working at the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC has allowed me to witness on a daily basis, the intersection of religion, faith and reason. I thank Fr. Heft not only for a job, but for a deeper understanding of our faith and how it affects our world. I will truly miss his humor and that big booming voice. You have earned your retirement, enjoy it!



“The Institute lifts up and promotes a positive, public and proactive language about not just the Catholic community and tradition and identity, but about a religious identity, period. I believe this is an absolutely necessary element to a thriving life in our century and beyond.”



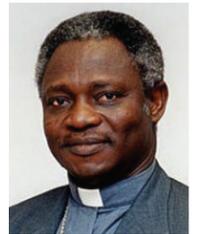
— Eboo Patel, Founder and Executive Director of Interfaith Youth Core, author and member of President Barack Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships



Current chair of the board, Fr. Dennis Holtschneider, CM and past chair of the board, Ellen Hancock, celebrate at the 2011 ceremony awarding Fr. Heft the ACCU Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh award for outstanding contributions to Catholic higher education.



“The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies is dedicated to serious reflection on Catholic thought. Its aim is to help all people, through opportunities for careful and focused study on the Catholic intellectual tradition, to come to a greater understanding, and by extension, a greater acceptance of the wisdom, and indeed, the treasure of the Catholic faith and its teachings.”



— Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, former president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace



Fr. Heft and Cardinal Turkson at the Institute's conference on *Caritas in veritate* in Rome.



CONSIDER HELPING CONTINUE THE WORK OF FR. HEFT AND THE INSTITUTE

A gift of any size will help the Institute fulfill our mission, and there are several ways to contribute.

Online:
www.ifacs.com/support-us

Or mail a check to:
The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies
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Fr. Heft interacting with USC students at the series they dubbed "Hefty Talks."



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