



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jason Zenk joins IACS Board of Trustees

The Catholic leader has served key leadership roles at academic institutions and corporate organizations.

LOS ANGELES, August 10, 2022 — Jason Zenk, a Catholic leader and veteran corporate executive with nearly three decades of experience in investment management, has joined the Board of Trustees of the [Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC](#).

As a member of the [18-member board](#), Zenk will provide governance and oversight while helping chart the Institute’s future direction. IACS trustees also serve as ambassadors, helping communicate the Institute’s initiatives, programs and goals within their networks and among the public.

“Jason is a visionary Catholic philanthropist with an unwavering commitment to the important mission of supporting Catholic higher education, especially in its growing edges,” said IACS President Rev. Dorian Llywelyn, S.J. “He is a collaborative and experienced leader with a proven record of success in investment management, corporate strategy and higher education governance. We proudly welcome him to IACS and the USC family.”

A native of Tacoma, Wash., Zenk is a senior managing director at EnTrustGlobal, an alternative investment firm based in New York City. Previously, he was CEO of Marco Consulting Group, an investment advisory firm based in Chicago, where he specialized in asset allocation, manager selection and trustee education for multibillion-dollar institutional clients. Zenk was appointed by Gov. Gary Locke in 2005 as an advisor to the Washington State Employee Retirement Benefits Board. He also served on the City of Tacoma’s Urban Policy Committee.

He has extensive experience in higher education leadership. He currently serves on the [Santa Clara University Board of Regents](#) and previously served as a member of the university's [Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education](#) Advisory Board. Zenk and his wife, Lisa, created in 2018 the Anna and August Zenk Endowment for Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education Immersion Programs. They are members of Santa Clara University’s [Bergin Society](#).

Zenk is also an [Ignatian Legacy Fellow](#), participating in a year-long program that helps participants better understand how they can use their gifts in service to others.



“I’m honored to join the IACS Board of Trustees and grateful for the opportunity to help further our Institute’s important mission of expanding the reach of Catholic thinkers,” he said. “I look forward to working with Fr. Dorian and my colleagues on the board to ensure IACS remains on a path of vibrant and sustainable growth that will expand its work and deepen its impact.”

As he joins the Board of Trustees, Zenk has donated a generous gift that will help the Institute expand its global footprint, with a specific focus on Africa.

“Africa is the future of the Catholic Church,” said Zenk, who has traveled extensively across the continent. “Faith there is a significant part of daily life for Catholics, with parishes not only representing places of faith and spirituality, but also serving as centers for food, clothing, safety and education.”

Africa is home to the [world’s fast-growing population of Catholics](#). There are 237 million Catholics living in Africa — representing about 20 percent of the global Catholic population, [according to statistics](#) released in February 2022 by the Vatican. There is a large college-age population and, in the small number of Catholic universities, intellectual life is vibrant as it addresses important questions from a Catholic and African perspective.

The Institute’s work abroad will focus on dialogue and academic partnerships that strengthen bridges between Catholics in the West and those in Africa, while supporting intellectual work among international Catholic scholars, Zenk said.

“I’m very impressed to see that IACS works collaboratively — it’s not about conversion, but rather about conversation,” Zenk added. “The project in Africa will involve learning from African Catholic intellectuals about their experiences, so we can help chart a path together for the way we think about our faith and live it from a global perspective.”

Zenk earned a bachelor’s degree in political science with a minor in religious studies from Santa Clara University, and a master’s degree from Georgetown University. The Zenks have two children: a 11-year-old son, August, and a daughter, Anna, who is studying at the University of Michigan.

About the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC:

The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies (IACS) is a globally-focused research center located at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. IACS works to create dialogue, spark ideas and sustain academic research on Catholic thought, creative imagination and lived experience. Led by President Rev. Dorian Llywelyn, S.J. and Executive Director Becky Cerling, Ph.D., IACS supports scholars and creative artists, produces books, hosts academic conferences and cultural events, and furthers the intellectual work of the Catholic Church. Learn more at iacs.usc.edu