

An overview of
Endowed Fellowships at the
Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies
at The University of Southern California



THE INSTITUTE
FOR ADVANCED
CATHOLIC STUDIES
AT USC



An Endowed Fellowship

At the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies

- 1. What is an Institute fellowship?** Institute Fellowships provide outstanding scholars with a unique opportunity to engage the depth and richness of the Catholic intellectual tradition. Successful applicants for these highly competitive positions devote a full academic year to study issues of great importance to the Church, religions and the world.
- 2. What is an endowed fellowship?** It is typically a 1.5 M investment whose proceeds support a different scholar dedicated to research, dialogue and publication. The proceeds of the donor's endowment are typically matched by the scholar's home university, thus matching the donor's initial outlay. A fellowship may be endowed by more than one person.
- 3. Who can apply for fellowships?** Senior scholars will certainly apply. The Institute also welcomes applications from promising junior scholars who, during their nine-month residency, will form friendships with other scholars who share their interest in the Institute's mission. Two world-class Catholic scholars will be in residence for five years, acting as mentors to scholars from around the world.
- 4. Will fellowship benefit only scholars?** Institute fellows will write not just for other scholars, but for people without academic backgrounds. The Institute fellows will include not only theologians and philosophers, but also scientists, social scientists, poets, business leaders, artists and architects who, working together, will create intellectual resources that society most needs. The Institute will publish regularly in various forms of media reports on the work of the scholars.
- 5. How long does a Fellowship Last?** As endowments, they last forever! All fellowships are "evergreen," in that only the dividends will be used to support fellows; the principal will be untouched. Therefore, because of a fellowship, a scholar will be in residence every year doing important research. The combined financial experience of the board of the Institute brings extensive financial expertise that will ensure the careful guardianship of these funds.
- 6. How does an Institute fellowship differ from a typical sabbatical?** Rather than working alone, Institute fellows work together for an extended time forming a stimulating intellectual community. In this unique academic community, friendships are forged, new avenues of scholarship are opened, and different religious traditions, especially Catholicism, are deepened, critiqued and enriched.

- 7. Are Fellowships tied to Subjects for Research?** Donors who fund fellowships may have the fellowship named in their honor, and indicate a preferred area of research. Thus, a fellowship might be named the "John Doe Fellowship in International Relations," or the "Mary Rosenberg Fellowship in Interreligious Dialogue." A history of the donor will be attached to the fellowship.
- 8. What will the Institute do the three months when it won't have any scholars in residence?** We will organize workshops and symposia that bring together for one or two weeks, people who wish to go in-depth on major current issues such as medical ethics, school reform, inter-religious dialogue, economics and social justice.
- 9. Is there anything like the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies in the World?** There are other Institutes for Advanced Studies, such as the Princeton Institute and the National Humanities Institute in North Carolina. Because of the separation of Church and State, none of these research institutions does serious research on religion, and certainly none on Catholicism. The Institute will focus not only on interdisciplinary and interreligious dialogue, but will create a dynamic intergenerational arrangement that will enhance the quality of scholarship. The Institute fills a gaping hole in the scholarly world today. There is no other research institute like it.
- 10. Why is the Institute located in Los Angeles and at the University of Southern California?** The institute has chosen as its home one of the most religiously diverse cities in the world, the largest Catholic archdiocese in the United States. It has become the doorway to Latin America and is located on the Pacific Rim, and at one of the top research universities in the United States. USC, a private research university, is neither secular nor sectarian: it fosters the spiritual life of its students and supports the study of all religions. Committed to inter-disciplinary and inter-faith research and the renewal of Catholic intellectual life, the Institute has found a perfect home for its unique mission.

James L. Heft, S.M. President