

# Veritas

*Barry University's Department of Theology and Philosophy promotes the ongoing search for truth and the practice of justice by interpreting the historical and contemporary world, engaging human experience, and responding to God's revelation through the Catholic and Dominican traditions of reasoned analysis and faith.*

## From the Chair

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the department, I want to thank you for your interest and support for theology and philosophy at Barry University! Through this new electronic newsletter format, we highlight the many accomplishments of students, faculty, and alumni. At Barry we continue to be a leader in educating new voices in theological, ministerial, and philosophical perspectives in church and academy. Our programs are meeting the needs of a changing church and society. For this we are very proud. Many of our students are enthusiastic about being a part of a welcoming and inclusive community of learning. I want to thank you for your support and helping to make our department accomplish our mission.

Fr. Mark Wedig, OP, PhD



## Barry University co-sponsors National Symposium on Catholic Hispanic Ministry

Barry University recently served as an institutional sponsor at the National Symposium on Catholic Hispanic Ministry in Sierra Madre, California, June 23-25, 2014. Barry was joined by six other leading Catholic universities in the country in sponsoring the symposium.

The National Symposium on Catholic Hispanic Ministry promotes dialogue, collaboration, and pastoral education among ministerial leaders and theologians who work in diverse Hispanic/Latino contexts in the areas of leadership development, parish life, multi/intercultural and intergenerational diversity, ecclesial movements, new technologies, and social media. The Symposium seeks to link Christian faith with the pursuit of justice, thus embodying the Church's identity and mission to proclaim the reign of God.

Barry had the largest contingent of any institutional sponsor with 12 members of the community in attendance. The school was represented by faculty, graduate students, and alumni from the Department of Theology. Alumni Sister Hilda Mateo and Dr. Patricia Jimenez both presented papers at the gathering. Dr. Elsie Miranda led the Hispanic Ministry and Education

Group and is one of the editors of the book that will be produced as one of the outcomes of this gathering.

This year's symposium was hosted by Loyola Marymount University. Other sponsoring institutions included the Congar Institute for Ministry Development, Santa Clara University, Boston University, Fordham University, Notre Dame, and Seattle University.



*From left: Rafael Capó, SchP; Victor Valenzuela; Francisco Castillo, DMin; Rodolfo Vargas; Fr. Mark Wedig, OP, PhD; Elsie Miranda, DMin; Hilda Mateo MGSps, DMin; Maria Montes-Lara, OP; Jorge Presmanes OP, DMin; and Patricia Jiménez, DMin.*

### Theology course earns service-learning designation

The Department of Theology and Philosophy earned the new service-learning designation for its course THE 201: Faith, Beliefs and Tradition. The designation is given to courses that meet the standards of community engagement set by the university's Center for Community Service Initiatives.

The department was able to have every section of THE 201 officially designated as a service-learning course (S-L). As a result, students have been involved in some outstanding service projects this past year:

- The THE 201 course taught by Associate Professor Dr. Sara Fairbanks focused on immigration issues. Her students visited Krome Detention Center with Friends of Miami-Dade Detainees and participated in a Coalition of Immokalee Workers protest against Publix in Lakeland, Florida. They also helped undocumented immigrants begin their citizenship paperwork at a Citizenship Clinic in Miami that was sponsored by Florida New Americans. They also read to children at the Haitian Youth and Community Center in Miami.
- Adjunct Professor Steffano Montano's class participated in community organizing, working closely with the La Paloma Neighborhood Association, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, and Miami PACT (People Acting for Community Together). The La Paloma Neighborhood Association hosted its first carnival for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which Barry students helped to staff. The carnival included booths from Barry University's Office of Admissions, BRANCHES United Methodist Outreach, as well as booths on literacy and community gardening.
- Assistant Professor of Theology Dr. Raymond Ward IV taught two service-learning classes. In Dr. Ward's Sexuality, Sex and Morality course,



*Florida New Americans Citizenship Clinic*

students participated in Miami Dream Center's outreach to South Beach hotels about the dangers of human trafficking. They also worked with Pridelines, an LGBTQ safe space in Miami Shores. Dr. Ward's Theology course also tackled the theme of gang violence. Students became positive peer mentors at the Juvenile Detention Center. In the hopes of breaking the school-to-prison pipeline, they also engaged in literacy training at BRANCHES United Methodist Outreach in North Miami and Fulford, two areas of Miami experiencing high instances of gang activity.

- Fr. Mark Wedig, the department chair, has taken up the theme of violence in his THE 201 course. Students were involved in advocacy to end the death penalty in Florida, a Hot Spot reading program focusing on areas of the city with high incidents of gang violence, and human trafficking outreach through Miami Dream Center.



*Protest with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in Lakeland, Florida*



*Miami PACT Assembly*



# 2014 Yves Congar Award recipient explores Vatican II impact on women religious



*Sandra M. Schneiders, IHM*

The Yves Congar Award recognizes the contributions of today's theologians who embody the spirit of Cardinal Yves Congar, OP (1904-1995), by working, writing, and teaching in light of

tradition while moving that tradition forward to meet the challenges of modern times.

This year's recipient is Sandra M. Schneiders, IHM, professor emerita of New Testament Studies and Christian Spirituality at the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Schneiders accepted the award in January at Barry University's Miami main campus and presented the lecture, "Buying the Field: Women Religious in a Renewing Church."

Schneiders explored how the Second Vatican Council has affected women's ministerial religious life, the struggles that precipitated it, the current state of women religious in the Catholic Church, and what the future may hold.

A renowned theologian and scholar, Schneiders is a noted writer on the Christian Gospels and contemporary religious life. She has authored the recent three-volume series *Religious Life in a New Millennium* by Paulist Press



*From left: Barry University President Sister Linda Bevilacqua, Associate Professor Sara Fairbanks, 2014 Yves Congar Award recipient Sandra M. Schneiders, and Fr. Mark Wedig, chair of theology and philosophy.*

*(Photo by James Davis)*

*From left: Student Luis De Prada with Sandra Schneiders, and Assistant Professor Dr. Marc Lavallee.*



## Mark Your Calendar

### 2015 Yves Congar Award for Theological Excellence

**With Lisa Sowle-Cahill, PhD  
Wednesday, January 14, 2015  
at Barry University**

Lisa Sowle-Cahill, PhD, has accepted the Department of Theology and Philosophy's invitation to be the 2015 Yves Congar Award recipient. Dr. Cahill is the J. Donald Monan Professor at Boston College, where she has taught theology since 1976.

## Student News

### Alternative Spring Break heads to New Orleans

Dr. Ruth Tallman, assistant professor of philosophy, ethics, bioethics, and aesthetics, volunteered with a group of Barry University students at APEX Community Advancement Inc. in New Orleans. APEX, which stands for Always Pursuing Excellence, is a youth center located in the heart of uptown. APEX works with at-risk, inner-city youth, and provides a positive, supervised, and structured atmosphere to play, learn, work, and dream. Dr. Tallman's students planted trees and flowers, and completed other facility upgrades.



*For Alternative Spring Break, Barry University students planted trees and flowers at APEX, a youth center in New Orleans.*

### Doctoral student named chaplain-priest at two South Florida hospitals

This past spring, Doctor of Ministry student Pedro Toledo was named the chaplain-priest at Mercy Hospital and Kendall Regional Medical Center. As chaplain-priest, Toledo must meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of patients, family members, and hospital staff. At Kendall Regional, Toledo is leading the establishment of the Spiritual Care Department. He divides his days at both hospitals, working at Mercy in the morning and at Kendall Regional in the afternoons. Toledo was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Thomas Wenski of the Archdiocese of Miami in February 2014. He began his duties as chaplain-priest in March.

### Ethics Bowl Team Competes in International Championships

The 18th Annual Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl International Championship was held in Jacksonville, Florida, on February 27. Barry University's team participated in the event, which brought together over 180 undergraduate students, along with faculty coaches, judges, and moderators from across the United States and Canada. Each fall, students and faculty coaches compete in 10 regional competitions. Only the top winning regional teams are invited to participate in the international championships, which are held each

spring in conjunction with the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics annual conference.



*The Ethics Bowl Team included (from left) Cheryl Frazier, Jason Southworth (lecturer), Ruth Tallman, PhD (coach), Laura Loomer, Enrique Alvarado, Natalie Diaz, Rashel Calixte, and Dianna Bellian. Not pictured: Coaches Sandra Fairbanks, PhD and Joel Wilcox, PhD.*

## Spring 2014 Ceremonies

### Commissioning and Recognition Ceremony

The Department of Theology and Philosophy held its Spring Commissioning and Recognition Ceremony on May 2, 2014, at Cor Jesu Chapel. Patricia Jiménez and Sergio Ramos were commissioned



*(From left) Sergio Ramos, John Finol, Patricia Jiménez, Luis De Prada, Gerardo Gonzalez, and David Carden*

in partial fulfillment of the Doctor of Ministry degree. John Finol and Gerardo Gonzalez were recognized for their Master of Arts in Theology and Philosophy. Luis Perez was recognized for his Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Philosophy, and David Carden was recognized for his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy.

### Induction Ceremony

The Department of Theology and Philosophy held its annual Honors Society Induction Ceremony for the Phi Sigma Tau and Theta Alpha Kappa Honor Societies on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at Cor Jesu Chapel.



*Theta Alpha Kappa Inductees (from left): Edmund Newborn, Paolo Guazzini, Mesmin Augustin, Leslie Redmond, Luis De Prada, and John Finol*



*Phi Sigma Tau Inductees (from left): Cheryl Frazier, Enrique Alvarado, and Philip Corr*



## Doctoral alumna's website focuses on U.S. Hispanic Ministry

As part of her Doctor of Ministry project, Patricia Jiménez developed USHispanicMinistry.com in the hope of giving voice to the Hispanic ministry community in one central location.

"With the increasing number of Hispanic/Latinos engaged in New Media, I found it important to embrace new mediums to reach out to Hispanic/Latino Catholics and those who serve them," she says.

Through the bilingual website, she strives to showcase unique and diverse voices from the spectrum of Hispanic ministry, from immigrants who may only speak Spanish to third and fourth generation Hispanics born in the U.S. who may only speak English. The website, founded in 2011, publishes work from 18 contributors, including Hispanic ministers and theologians from across the country. Eight contributors are students or alumni from Barry University's Institute for Hispanic/Latino Theology and Ministry.

"Each month we continue adding new contributors with the hope of someday providing multiple daily articles and video posts," Jiménez says.

She serves as the site's webmaster and has worked for over 20 years in the areas of youth ministry, catechesis, and teaching and administering lay formation programs. Jiménez maintains the site with her husband, Vince Olea, a Doctor of Ministry candidate at Barry University and director of the Santa Teresita Youth Conference Center in the Diocese of Fresno in California. The website was originally created to serve their Fresno community, but has expanded its reach, with visitors from 49 states and 96 countries.



*Patricia Jiménez (left) with Dr. Elsie Miranda and Vince Olea.*

In addition to posts from regular contributors, the website includes a job board and a list of resources, organizations, formation centers, and opportunities for networking. Visitors can also sign up for a monthly newsletter. The feedback has been positive.

"In presenting our website at national gatherings and conferences, pastoral agents across the nation have met this small attempt with much excitement and support as they begin to share our articles, and comment on our site and social media networks," Jiménez says.

The website also gave Jiménez and Olea to opportunity to provide consultation to the Diocese of Boise as it prepared for its Hispanic Ministry Convocation in June. Jiménez also recently completed a national survey on the use of technology and new media for members of national Hispanic ministry organizations.

In October, she will present her findings at Raices y Alas, the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Jiménez says that her formation at Barry has been an incredible gift in regard to her projects.

"I believe it has the strongest courses on methodology for ministry. Its contextual approach has really helped shape the manner in which I approach ministerial questions, develop programs, and respond to the needs of those I serve," she says.



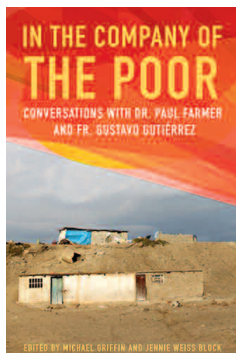
## Alumni Spotlight

### Jennie Weiss Block, OP, DMin

Jennie Weiss Block, OP, DMin, is a Dominican laywoman and a practical theologian. Since 2009, she has served as chief advisor to renowned physician and humanitarian Dr. Paul Farmer, and was his chief of staff in his role as United Nations deputy special envoy under President Bill Clinton. Working closely with Dr. Farmer, Dr. Block assisted in the relief and recovery efforts in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake, including the creation of a center for displaced and orphaned children.

Dr. Block has a master's degree in business administration, a master's degree in theology, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Barry University. At Barry, she was the founding director of the Center for Dominican Studies and an adjunct professor of theology. She has lectured widely on a variety of topics including disability, theology, Christian hospitality, social justice, and Dominican life.

She is the author of *Copious Hosting: A Theology of Access for People with Disabilities*, widely considered to be a seminal text in the development of a theology of disability. She is the co-editor of *In the Company of the Poor: Conversations with Dr. Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez*. In January, she interviewed Dr. Farmer about his latest book, social justice, medicine, and lessons from his lifelong experience of living and working among the poor, at an event co-sponsored by Barry University's Department of Theology and Philosophy, Book and Books, and Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart.



Dr. Jennie Weiss Block interviews Dr. Paul Farmer about his latest book, *In the Company of the Poor*, which she co-edited.

## Library News

Lubomir Markov, associate professor of mathematics, recently donated the book *The Rila Monastery: Mural Paintings, Icons, Gonfalons, and Painters* by Tosho Kostadinov Peykov to the Monsignor William Barry Memorial Library. This limited edition work contains beautiful color plates of the extensive religious art found in the Orthodox Christian Rila Monastery in Bulgaria.

Barry is one of only three institutions in the United States that owns a copy of this book. Dr. Markov, who is a native of Bulgaria, has made several donations in recent years to the Barry library of books and recorded music documenting Eastern Christianity in this country.



Religious paintings at Rila Monastery in Bulgaria

(Photo courtesy of Dr. Lubomir Markov)



## Faculty Highlights

**Charles (Gerard) Austin, OP, STD,** Dominican Scholar in Residence, was awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa, during the commencement ceremony May 10, 2013 at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri.



Charles (Gerard) Austin, OP, STD (left) with David Caron, OP, president of the Aquinas Institute of Theology



**Sandra Fairbanks, PhD,** professor of philosophy, ethics, philosophy of law and political theory, and **Joel Wilcox, PhD,** professor of philosophy, greek

philosophy, Asian philosophy, and philosophy of art, have a chapter titled "Human Rights and the Environment" in *Perspectives on Value and Reality* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2013) and presented a paper, "Is Human Behavior Natural?", at a conference in Finland in May.



Dr. Wilcox is currently working on other papers in environmental philosophy and aesthetics.

**Drs. Fairbanks and Wilcox** presented papers at a conference on "Culture, Values and Justice" at the University of Vaasa in Finland, May 21-23.

Dr. Fairbanks' paper, "Technology and Virtue in American Culture," is an examination of the impact of technology on morality, with an emphasis on social media. Dr. Wilcox's paper, "To What Extent is Human Behavior Natural," examines how and to what extent human behavior may be considered natural, given the enormous role that culture plays in human life.

**Deena Grant, PhD,** associate professor of theology and Hebrew Scriptures, published *Divine Anger in the Hebrew Bible*. The book explores the



aim, expressions, and outcomes of God's anger in the Hebrew Bible. It considers divine anger against the backdrop of human anger in order to discern those aspects of it that are recognizably human from those facets of it that are distinctly divine. Furthermore, it examines passages from a range of literary contexts across major biblical collections in order to distinguish those features of divine anger that are elemental to its definition from those that are limited to individual collections. The sum of these conclusions forms the answer to the question: What does the Bible mean when it describes God as angry? Dr. Grant's book is available at <http://catholicbiblical.org>.

**Marc Lavallee, PhD,** assistant professor of practical theology and director of the Master of Arts in Practical Theology and Ministry, presented papers at two international theological society conferences in spring 2014. At the annual conference for the College Theology Society, Dr. Lavallee presented, "A Little Rule for Beginners: Benedictine Spirituality and the New Monasticism." At the biennial conference for the Association of Practical Theology, Dr. Lavallee presented, "New Pope, New Public: Reforming the Roman Catholic Church's Public Voice in the United States." In November 2014, Dr. Lavallee will present to the American Academy of Religion, "Practical Theology from the Perspective of Catholic Spirituality: A Hermeneutic of Discernment."



**Alicia C. Marill, DMin,** associate professor of theology, practical theology and ministry, and director of the Doctor of Ministry program, was a key speaker at the 13th Annual Theological Symposium in the Diocese of San Bernardino, California. She addressed 400 participants of the Ministry Formation Program on "The Challenges for the Church in the Modern World." Dr. Marill spoke in four sessions, including "Praying with the Gospel: Cardinal O'Malley's Homily at U.S.-Mexico Border," "Reading the Signs of the Times: Evangelii Gaudium and Formation," and "The Challenge of Immigration and Reconciliation." The sessions were in English and Spanish.



# Barry University

## Department of Theology and Philosophy

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## Faculty Highlights

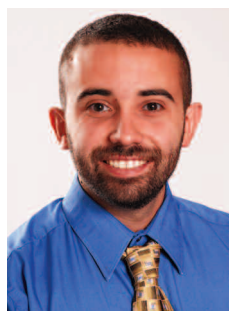
### **Elsie Miranda, DMin,**

associate professor of practical theology and director of ministerial formation, led a conference at the shrine of El Cobre and ran a workshop in the Diocese of Santiago, Cuba, July 28-August 1. The conference, operated by the Archdiocese of Santiago de Cuba, assists the Cuban people by offering education and formation courses to Cuban educators, both Catholic and non-religious. Dr. Miranda lectured on Catholic identity and reconciliation between Cubans on the island and those in the exile.



### **Steffano Montano, MAPT,**

coordinator of service-learning and adjunct instructor of theology, spoke at various conferences this year regarding service-learning, including the Barry University Center for Community Service Initiative's symposium in March, the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Upper-Midwest Regional Conference in April, and the 13th Biannual Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities in June.



### **Gloria L. Schaab, SSJ, PhD,**

associate professor of systematic theology, director of graduate programs in theology and ministry, and associate dean for general education, College of Arts and Sciences, published three new articles: "Grace: The Strange Attractor in an Evolving Cosmos" (THEOFORUM 43), "Incarnation as Emergence: A Transformative Vision of God and the Cosmos" (The Heythrop Journal LIV), and "Charism: The 'Strange Attractor' in Religious Life" (The Occasional Papers 43). She also contributed two entries to the Encyclopedia of Sciences and Religions on relational ontology and divine creativity. Dr. Schaab also presented two invited lectures on "Science and Theology in Context: Seeing from Where We Stand," the first at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, for Evolution Weekend 2013 and the second at St. Mary's College of California on April 2, 2014.



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