



REFUGEES LEAVING THE BOMBARDED TOWN OF ENGHEIN (1939-1940), IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

# JCST Graduate Program



## Annual Newsletter 2017

### IN THIS ISSUE

## Refugees: World War II and Now

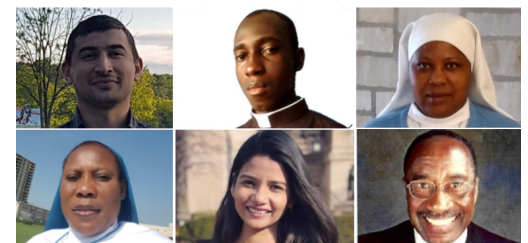
By Lawrence E. Frizzell

On March 8, 2017 more than 75 educators and other participants attended the Jewish-Christian Studies (JCST) Graduate Program's professional development study day, **Refugees: World War II and Now**, which examined the devastation wreaked upon those who survived World War II. Reviewing the history of Displaced Persons of that time, four experts deepened our awareness of the current situation of those who have recently fled from Syria, Iraq and other nations and led us to consider how this knowledge challenges us in 2017.

Avinoam Patt, Ph.D., the Philip D. Feltman Professor of Modern Jewish History in the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford and the Director of the Museum of Jewish Civilization, was the keynote speaker. He opened the study day with the two-part presentation, "No Place for the Displaced: The Jewish Refugee Crisis Before, During, and After WWII" and "From Destruction to Rebirth: Holocaust Survivors and the Creation of the State of Israel." Participants then broke up into groups and attended one of the three following workshops :

- Workshop 1 focused on "Literature and the Holocaust" and was led by keynote speaker, Dr. Avinoam Patt. Drawing on his extensive knowledge and research on modern European history and Hebrew and Judaic studies, Dr. Patt offered many insights into the difficulties and struggles of Jewish displaced persons and the various ways many of these Jewish refugees responded to their persecution in the aftermath of the Holocaust. To keep up with Dr. Patt's research and publications, visit his University of Hartford Faculty Page at [www.hartford.edu/a\\_and\\_s/greenberg/faculty/patt.aspx](http://www.hartford.edu/a_and_s/greenberg/faculty/patt.aspx).
- Workshop 2 centered on "Survivors and Holocaust Historiography in Israel: A Story of Awakening" and was directed by Monika Rice, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of Catholic Studies and Jewish-Christian Studies in the Catholic Studies Program at Seton Hall University. A specialist in Holocaust studies, Catholic-Jewish relations, Polish-Jewish relations and the history of Polish Jews, Dr. Rice discussed the challenges displaced persons faced through the early accounts of Jewish survivors collected by the Jewish Historical Committee in Poland with later accounts deposited in Yad Vashem. You can learn more about her most recent publication on [page 5](#) of this newsletter.

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### New Students

Meet the new students who matriculated into the JCST graduate program in 2017.

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### Faculty Updates

Learn what JCST faculty have accomplished this year.

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### New Publication

Dr. Monika Rice's new book examines the testimonials of Holocaust survivors.

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# Welcome, New Students!

The Jewish-Christian Studies (JCST) Graduate Program was pleased to have new students from Africa, Azerbaijan, India and the United States matriculate into our program this year. We are excited to see how these students' unique cultural and religious backgrounds will contribute to their individual and group studies and accomplishments. We also look forward to exchanging new ideas and experiences that will enrich both our and their understanding of the "other" and lead to meaningful contributions in our field.

Please join us in welcoming the following students:



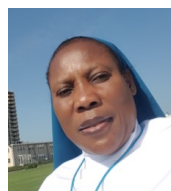
**Sarkhan Gasimov** is from Agdash, Azerbaijan. He graduated from Konya Necmettin Erbakan University in Konya, Turkey with an undergraduate degree from the Department of Religious Culture and Deontological Ethics. His native language is Azerbaijani, and he is fluent in Arabic, English and Turkish and has intermediate proficiency in Russian and Hebrew. A Religion and Ethics teacher, Sarkhan has matriculated into the JCST graduate program to concentrate on interdisciplinary, religious and Middle Eastern studies with the overall goal of learning how to facilitate dialogue among Jews, Christians and Muslims.



**Reverend Martin Adu Gyamfi** is a priest who serves in the Catholic Diocese of Konongo-Mampong in Mampong-Ashanti in South Ghana, Africa. Father Martin earned two Bachelor of Arts degrees: one in Sociology and Religion from the University of Ghana in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana and one in Theology from the Pontifical Urban University in Rome, Italy. A Religion Teacher at St. Mary's High School, Deanery Youth Chaplain and a Pastor St. Henry's Parish, Father Martin plans to instill the lessons he learns in the JCST program to the young people to whom he ministers and serves in Ghana.



**Sister Yovina Mpale**, an African Benedictine Sister of Our Lady Help of Christians from Mtwara in Tanzania, Africa, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota. She is attending the JCST graduate program to study the Jewish roots of Christianity as well as the shared fundamental values, principles, practices and traditions between the Jewish and Christian faiths. Sister Yovina plans to build on these areas so she can better promote understanding and unity among the children and adults she teaches in her home country and throughout the world.



**Sister Francisca Osuchukwu** earned her undergraduate degree from Our Savior Institute of Science, Agriculture and Technology (OSISATECH) in Enugu State, Nigeria, Africa. A teacher and member of the Daughters of Divine Love order, she is from the Imo State in Nigeria. Sister Francisca wants to learn more about the Catholic Church's social teachings. She plans to impart these lessons to those she teaches in schools, formation houses, retreats, seminars and workshops in Nigeria. Sister Francisca is also interested in learning how to facilitate interfaith dialogue and interreligious relations so she can bring together groups of people from all walks of life who adhere to different ideologies and religious beliefs.



**Sarah Stella Salvatore** is originally from the state of Jharkhand, India. She earned her Master of Arts in Data Journalism from Columbia University in New York City. A data and investigative journalist, she uncovers and writes stories about human rights violations and the refugee crisis, through a gendered lens. Sarah has enrolled in the JCST graduate program to help inform her future reporting as she covers conflicts in places such as Syria, Central America, Kashmir and Africa. She aims to gain a better understanding of religion and its practices and consequences in these places of the world and is especially keen to study the role women play in religiously-motivated conflicts.



**Clarence Seniors**, a resident Newark, New Jersey, is the founder and Chairman of Clarsen Investment Research. He has completed the course work for the Ph.D. at Stevens Institute of Technology, where he also earned a Masters of Science in Information Technology. Clarence is involved in community activities, supporting a number of arts and educational institutions and is actively involved as a mentor with the local community social action group, "Street Warriors." He is also an Honorary Chairman of the Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee in Montclair, New Jersey, and plans to incorporate the JCST lessons he learns in his work with the disadvantaged young men and women he mentors and counsels.

# Congratulations Class of 2017!

We congratulate all of our students who graduated in 2017 and earned their **Master of Arts in Jewish-Christian Studies!**

The JCST faculty thank you for your dedication and accomplishments to our field of study and wish you great success in future years as you teach others and apply what you have learned within your communities and the world at large.

We proudly salute the JCST Class of 2017:

- **Kenneth Anyanwu**  
Spring 2017, Thesis Track  
**Thesis:** *The Covenant of Deuteronomy and a Study of Ancient Israelite Jurisprudence*
- **Ravan Cottrell**  
Spring 2017, Thesis Track  
**Thesis:** *The Trials and Examinations of Jesus by Jewish Authorities*
- **Irmina Czapiewska**  
Spring 2017, Thesis Track  
**Thesis:** *Genealogical Research on Ashkenazi Cemeteries and Death, Burial and Symbolism in Traditional Jewish Life in Poland*
- **Reverend Chinonso Egbedike**  
Spring 2017, Thesis Track  
**Thesis:** *St. Augustine's Understanding of Rest with Specific Reference to the Epistle to the Hebrews on the Sabbath*
- **Victoria Marcial**  
Spring 2017, Thesis Track  
**Thesis:** *The Jews of the Philippines*
- **Sister Gemina Munyuku**  
Spring 2017, Thesis Track  
**Thesis:** *Consecrated Life and Monastic Profession*
- **Reverend Andrew Njoku**  
Spring 2017 Thesis Track  
**Thesis:** *The Ethical-Preferential Option for the Poor: Origins and Implications for Nigeria Today*
- **Eve Shea**  
Spring 2017, Non-Thesis Track

## Rose Okechi Ahaneku, O.P. — R.I.P

By Lawrence E. Frizzell



Rose Okechi Ahaneku, O.P.

The homilist at the memorial Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church for Rose Ahaneku on July 28th quoted her words as a refrain: "I have a passion for justice!" Many of us remember that Rose expressed this point from the Church's social teaching in action as well as in words.

Rose entered the Master of Arts in Jewish-Christian Studies program at Seton Hall University in 2010 as a way of developing her love for Sacred Scriptures. The personal research required for courses gave her an opportunity to study the biblical heritage and its application in the liturgy as a way to build on her foundation for a life of service in education. Two years later in August 2012, the Most Reverend Felix Alaba Job of the Ibadan Archdiocese in Nigeria received Rose's consecration as a virgin, Sister Dominic-Catherine of Jesus O.P.

Rose wrote her Master's thesis on widows in the Sacred Scripture and in the Church: "Consecrated Widowhood: A Ministry of the Early Church and Today." She traced this topic and issue of concern back to a

Mother's Day Mass celebrated in the Diocese of Ahiara in Imo State, Nigeria by Bishop Victor Adibe Chikwe in the early 1990s. In his homily he included mention of widows, so afterwards she asked him: "What programs does the Church in Nigeria have for assisting widows?" Bishop Chikwe challenged her to do something to remedy the inadequate response.

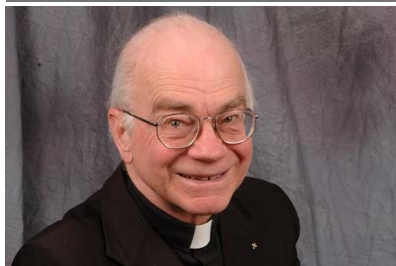
The last section of Rose's 160 page thesis discussed a proposal to foster consecrated widowhood in her home country of Nigeria. As she pointed out, widows may need financial help at times, but the deeper need is to overcome the isolation in their bereavement by developing a strong sense of community. Today Rose calls her friends to take up the challenge articulated in her thesis, which all are invited to access and read online once it has been published later this year in Seton Hall University's eRepository of Dissertations and Theses (ETDS) at <http://scholarship.shu.edu/dissertations/>.

The option for those widows who do not consider remarriage is a consecration that will enable them to live with dignity and to overcome isolation that may lead to self-pity. May Rose's work bear abundant fruit!



# Faculty News

LAWRENCE E. FRIZZELL, D.PHIL.



Learn more about Fr. Lawrence Frizzell's work and research interests on his University [Faculty Profile](#).

## KEEP UP WITH FATHER FRIZZELL



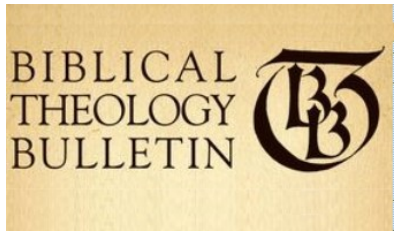
Keep up with Fr. Frizzell on his blog, <http://blogs.shu.edu/lawrencefrizzell/>, and on Twitter [@FatherFrizzell](#).

DAVID BOSSMAN. PH.D.



Visit Dr. Bossman's University [Faculty Profile](#) for a summary of his publications and teaching specialties.

## Biblical Theology Bulletin



*Biblical Theology Bulletin* is a peer-reviewed, quarterly journal containing articles and reviews written by experts in biblical and theological studies. Visit <http://btb.sagepub.com/> to learn more.

## The Reverend Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil.

**Director & Associate Professor, Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program**  
**Director, Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies**

In 2017 Father Frizzell participated in the following at Seton Hall University:

- Taught several JCST graduate courses in the areas of Hebrew language, sacred texts and scriptural interpretative development
- Supervised Master's theses for seven JCST graduate students
- Planned the Teachers Study Day, "Refugees: World War II and Now"
- Coordinated the workshop, "Working toward Peace: Applying Conflict Resolution in Religious Settings," which was co-sponsored by the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies, the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and the School of Diplomacy

Father Frizzell also served as organizer and presider of the "Jewish-Christian Studies" session at the International Medieval Studies Congress at the Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI in May and presented "Catholic-Jewish Relations: Where have we come? A Review Essay" at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Theologians at Princeton University in February.

Additionally Father Frizzell's book reviews, "A Scriptural Theology of Eucharistic Blessings" and "Sacra Scriptura: How 'Non-Canonical' Texts Functioned in Early Judaism and Early Christianity," were published in the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (Vol. 79, no 2, April 2017).

Father Frizzell also continues to serve as director of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian studies and in March, he secured a grant from the New Jersey Department of Education's Holocaust Commission to help train educators how to effectively address complex religious, ethical and social issues that promote justice and peace.

In honor of his work and scholarship, Father Frizzell received the Sister Rose Thering Fund Award in Jewish Christian Understanding, which was awarded for the first time at the 24th annual Evening of Roses on May 7, 2017.

## David M. Bossman, Ph.D.

**Professor, Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program**  
**Executive Director, Sister Rose Thering Fund**

Dr. Bossman joined a three-way dialogue featuring Jewish, Christian and Muslim speakers, "Teaching Our Children about the Holocaust," at the 32nd annual colloquium of the Hayyim and Esther Kieval Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies at Siena College (Albany, NY) on October 15-16. Participants also included Daniel Reich, curator and director of education at the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center (St. Louis, MO) and Dr. Mehnaz Afridi, associate professor of Religion and director at the Holocaust, Genocide & Interfaith Education Center (Manhattan College). Dr. Bossman also presented "Sister Rose Thering's Contribution to Holocaust Education" on October 22 at Edgemont College (Madison, WI).

In addition to teaching graduate courses and serving as Executive Director of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, Dr. Bossman also wrote the following articles for the journal, *Biblical Theology Bulletin* (BTB), of which he is Editor:

- "The Making of Religious Identities," *BTB* 47:3 (August 2017)
- "Studies in Contrast," *BTB* 47:4 (November 2017)

# Faculty News - *continued*

ALAN BRILL, PH.D.



Read Rabbi Brill's University [Faculty Profile](#) and learn more about his scholarship and academic distinctions and interests.

CONNECT WITH RABBI BRILL



Connect with Rabbi Brill any time on his blog at <https://kavvanah.wordpress.com/> and on Twitter [@kavvanah](#).

## Rabbi Alan Brill, Ph.D.

### Cooperman/Ross Endowed Chair of Jewish-Christian Studies

Rabbi Dr. Alan Brill was filmed as an expert for a Bahai documentary movie that aired on ABC September 14-15, 2017. He also taught several graduate courses and delivered numerous lectures, including:

#### Popular Lectures

- "Repentance in the Thought of Rabbi Shagar," Jewish Community Center, Manhattan, NY, December 3, 2017
- Lecture on Intermarriage, Bronfman Center, New York University, New York, NY, November 28, 2017
- Introduction for the Reverend Dr. Peter Pettit, The Twenty-Fourth John M. Oesterreicher Memorial Lecture, Seton Hall University, October 26, 2017
- "Scholar-in-Residence" lecture, Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation, Chicago, IL, September 15-16, 2017
- Lecture on Judaism and Hinduism, Yeshivat Siah Yitzhak, Israel, August 14, 2017
- Lecture on Jewish-Hindi Dialogue, Shri Krishna Vrundavana, Edison, NJ, June 11, 2017

#### Scholarly lectures

- "Hindu God, Jewish God: Breaking Boundaries beyond Same and Different," World Congress of Jewish Studies, Israel, August 6, 2017
- "The Amalgam of Orthodoxy and American Spirituality," Van Leer Institute, Israel, August 3, 2017
- "We Are All Mystics Nowadays," Leon Roth Conference, University of Toronto, Canada, May 15-17, 2017

Rabbi Brill also actively posts on his blog, *The Book of Doctrines and Opinions: notes on Jewish theology and spirituality*, at <https://kavvanah.wordpress.com/>.

## Dr. Monika Rice's Newest Publication



MONIKA RICE, PH.D.

Syracuse University Press recently published, *"What! Still Alive?": Jewish Survivors in Poland and Israel Remember Homecoming*, by Dr. Monika Rice, Adjunct Professor of Catholic Studies and Jewish-Christian Studies in the Catholic Studies Program at Seton Hall University.

#### Publication Abstract

*What! Still Alive?!* is a critical study of the memories of Jewish Holocaust survivors that examines the process of the creating a collective memory of postwar encounters of Holocaust survivors with their Gentile neighbors in a transnational context. Based both on testimonies recorded in Poland immediately after the war, and on others recorded later in Israel, this comparative analysis reconstructs the world view of a tiny minority of survivors of a once vital Jewish community in Poland, and clarifies shifts in how they understood their surroundings amid a changing geo-political reality.

This project involved a first investigation of two under-utilized collections of two of the most important Holocaust archives for studying the postwar period: the Jewish Historical Institute (Warsaw) and Yad Vashem (Jerusalem). It resulted, in part, in certain unexpected conclusions regarding the survivors' actual memories of their Gentile neighbors. These conclusions call into question some of the accepted historical interpretations, whether of the allegedly uniformly negative first impressions of the survivors in their hometowns, or of the positive adaptation of the survivors in Israel.

Dr. Rice will teach JCST 6018/CAST 3020 **Jewish Dialogue on the Holocaust: A Catholic Perspective** during the Fall 2018 Spring semester. JCST graduate students who are interested in taking this course may contact Jay Wolferman, Assistant to the JCST Director, for more information at 973.761.9751 or [Jay.Wolferman@shu.edu](mailto:Jay.Wolferman@shu.edu).



*"What! Still Alive?!"*



Now available at [Amazon](#).

## Refugees: World War II and Now *-continued*

- Workshop 3 addressed "Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylees: Myths, Facts, and Challenges" and was guided by Maria Biancheri, M.P.P. and Jessica Ramirez, Esq., both of whom work for the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark and aid the Immigration Assistance Program (IAP). Ms. Biancheri assists in setting up a resettlement program for refugees from Syria, The Congo, Iraq and Afghanistan, and Ms. Ramirez is the Chief Immigration Counsel and Division Director. They debunked common misperceptions about refugees, outlined the many hardships refugees are facing today and summarized the ways in which the IAP provides assistance to refugees in our local area. To learn more about their work and how you can help, visit [www.ccannj.com/refugee\\_immigration.php](http://www.ccannj.com/refugee_immigration.php).

Two children of survivors also spoke briefly, one about Seton Hall University's courses in Jewish-Christian Studies and the second about her work at Raritan Community College.

## 2018 Spring Course Schedule

**JCST 6006 Hebrew Bible Readings III** — Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil., To Be Determined

**JCST 6013 Hebrews and Catholic Epistles** — Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil., Thursday, 6:15 pm-8:25 pm

**JCST 6015 Cross-Cultural Analysis for Jewish-Christian Studies** — David Bossman, Ph.D., Tuesday, 5:00 pm-7:10 pm

**JCST 6017 Jewish and Christian Foundations for Social Service** — David Bossman, Ph.D., Wednesday, 5:00 pm-7:10 pm

**JCST 7041 Jewish Roots of Christian Spirituality** — Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil., Monday, 6:15 pm-8:25 pm

**JCST 7047 Philosophical Perspectives on the Holocaust** — Alan Brill, Ph.D., Tuesday, 5:00 pm-7:10 pm

**JCST 7585 Comparative Study of Judaism and Christianity** — Alan Brill, Ph.D., Monday, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm

**JCST 9001 AA Thesis** — Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil., To Be Determined

Visit the [Graduate Catalogue](#) for detailed course descriptions of these and all courses.



## Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program



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