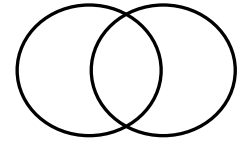


IJCS NEWS



The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies Annual Newsletter

Volume 3 | 2017



The Institute's Director added 30 new online resources to his website that students and scholars can access for free. - Page 2



Rabbi Ron Kronish offered recommendations for genuine dialogue between Israeli Jews and Palestinians during his recent lecture at Seton Hall University. - Page 3



Father Lawrence Frizzell recently presented a series of lectures about the long history of Jewish-Christian relations at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield, NJ. - Page 4



Martin Luther posting his "95 Theses" in 1517 by Ferdinand Pauwels (1830-1904)

The Reformation at 500:

Old and New Questions for Christians and Jews
by Rev. Lawrence E. Frizzell

The 24th Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher Memorial Lecture was given by the Reverend Peter Pettit, Ph.D., Director of the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. The title of his presentation, "Semper Reformanda at 500: Old and New Questions for Christians and Jews," drew attention to the major anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of the 95 theses on indulgences in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517.

Dr. Pettit reminded the audience that Luther's bitter invective against Jews was grounded on the old Christian prejudice that Jews based their relationship with God on righteousness by works in keeping the commandments. Luther's call in 1543 for violent attacks against Jewish communities did not achieve much attention in German lands in subsequent centuries, but the Nazis used these words to achieve horrendous results. See the current exhibit in Berlin, whose title is taken from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's insight: "Luther's words are everywhere, but twisted from truth into self-deception." (The Berlin exhibition highlights how the Nazis exploited Martin Luther's legacy: <http://religionnews.com/2017/10/19/berlin-exhibition-highlights-how-the-nazis-exploited-martin-luthers-legacy/>).

-continued on next page

Director Updates Website

Resources for Scholars, Educators and Students

The Institute's director, the Reverend Dr. Lawrence E. Frizzell, has a personal website and blog dedicated to biblical research, scholarship and archaeology; Jewish-Christian studies and relations; ecumenical studies; Catholic liturgy, prayer and ethics; and medieval and renaissance religious art.

One section of Father Frizzell's website, [Resources & Research](#), offers a space where scholars, educators and students can freely access databases, journals, PDFs and websites to assist them in their research, classes and studies. Father Frizzell recently added and published 30 additional free, online resources throughout the following four pages in this section of his website:

- ***Online Resources for Biblical Hebrew***
- ***Online Resources for Biblical Studies***
- ***Online Resources for Jewish-Christian Studies and Relations***
- ***Online Resources for Educators of Holocaust and Genocide Studies***

Scholars, educators and students can also access many of Father's academic works as well as the various articles he wrote for publication in *Scripture in Church* and *The Catholic Advocate* on the [Publications](#) section of his website.

To be notified of future additions to the *Resources & Research* and *Publications* sections of Father Frizzell's website, be sure and subscribe at <http://blogs.shu.edu/lawrencefrizzell/blog/>. By subscribing, you can also keep up with Father Frizzell's blog, where he posts about interesting subjects covering a variety of areas related to biblical studies, Jewish-Christian relations, ecumenical issues and much more.



The Reformation *-continued-*

The second part of Dr. Pettit's lecture recalls the valiant efforts of Lutheran communities to repudiate this part of the Reformation's legacy, in Germany from 1945 and in the United States with documents and dialogue from 1969. The next paragraph gives Dr. Pettit's written text of his topic.

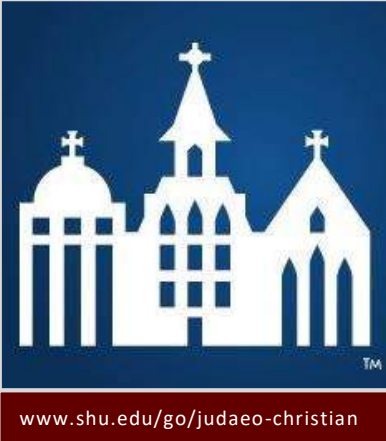
One hallmark of the Lutheran Reformation, now marking 500 years since Luther's presentation of the 95 Theses on Indulgences for debate, has been the conviction that the Church is always reforming -- Ecclesia semper reformanda, in Latin. In the arena of its relations to Jews and Judaism, it would take the Church most of the past half-millennium to realize what that reform must be and might look like. Lutherans in Europe and North America in the past 70 years have done much to assess Luther's own anti-Jewish posture and vicious invective, repudiating both its content and its effects. But what continuing reformation remains? Is there a new "Jewish question?" What does the 21st century call the Church to examine in its life and faith in relation to the Jewish people?

The new situation in Christian-Jewish relations calls for a series of activities, presented as repenting for harm done to Jews, repudiating the teaching of contempt, re-affirming God's covenant with the Jews, rediscovering Jewish roots of Christian faith and practices and re-committing to partnership with the Jews in facing challenges of our time.

These steps must be completed by re-formulating Christian theology to reject supersessionism (replacement theory), to recognize the Land of Israel as integral to Jewish faith and life and to re-examine the biblical promises. These steps are high on the list of goals to which the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies and the faculty and students in Seton Hall's Jewish-Christian Studies Program are committed. It is very beneficial to hear how many others in the Christian tradition have taken up the challenge!

To listen to the audio podcast of Dr. Pettit's lecture for free, please visit the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies' iTunes channel at bit.ly/IJCS_iTunes.

Scholarships



The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies grants the majority of its educational resources to scholarships for graduate students enrolled in the Jewish-Christian Studies (JCST) Graduate Program at Seton Hall University.

Thus far we have awarded scholarships to students from 24 countries across five continents. In 2017 we supported students from Azerbaijan, Ghana, India, Nigeria, Tanzania and the United States.

This new group joins a globally diverse group of JCST students and alumni from different faith backgrounds who work to bring about understanding, justice, peace and reconciliation in their communities.

We wish them well as they develop skills in the areas of interreligious, multicultural and diplomatic relations and learn how to effectively address complex religious, ethical and social issues that promote justice and peace throughout our world.

Follow and connect with us



Rabbi Ronald Kronish, Ph.D.

The Other Peace Process

Interreligious Dialogue, a View from Jerusalem

by Rev. Lawrence E. Frizzell

Rabbi Ron Kronish, the Founding Director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI), has visited Seton Hall University campus on several occasions in the past. On September 13, 2017 we celebrated the publication of his new book, [*The Other Peace Process: Interreligious Dialogue, a View from Jerusalem*](#) (Hamilton Books: 2017) with a lecture and book signing.

Educated at Brandeis University (B.A.), Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (New York) and the Harvard Graduate School of Education (Ph.D.), Rabbi Kronish has published numerous articles and essays on Jewish politics, faith communities and the peace process, as well as education, culture and contemporary issues in America. He also blogs regularly for the *Times of Israel* and the *Huffington Post*.

During his lecture at Seton Hall, Rabbi Kronish discussed various aspects of the development of his interreligious work in Israel, where he has lived for nearly 40 years. He also offered the following recommendations for genuine dialogue between Israeli Jews and Palestinians:

- 1) Begin with a personal encounter in which the participants emphasize listening to each other;**
- 2) Overcome misconceptions by studying each other's texts;**
- 3) Discuss problems and contemporary issues so that participants become sensitive to the other's story; and**
- 4) Ensure this process leads to action, but be mindful that careful preparation is essential for joint projects to succeed.**

Rabbi Kronish's other recent book, [*Coexistence and Reconciliation in Israel: Voices for Interreligious Dialogue*](#) (Paulist Press, 2015) draws attention to quiet efforts over the decades to bring Jews, Muslims and Christians into settings that foster mutual understanding and promote peace.

The Institute of Judaeo-Christian studies wishes Rabbi Kronish many blessings in his active retirement!



The Temple Emanu-El Synagogue (Reform) in Westfield, New Jersey

From Seton Hall to the Temple in Westfield

Interfaith Lecture Series Focusing on Jewish-Christian Relations

by Rev. Lawrence E. Frizzell

The Adult Education program at Temple Emanu-el (Reform) in Westfield, NJ explored the idea of an interfaith experience, so Mrs. Marlene Moscovitz, President of the Foundation for Judaeo-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University, suggested that I offer a series of lectures. The result was four presentations covering the long history of Jewish-Christian relations.

First, the ideals of Jewish faith and practices were reviewed as the context for the events in the Land of Israel under Roman domination. The confrontations between Jesus of Nazareth and various Jewish leaders were set within the tensions between Sadducees and Pharisees of the period, along with the reclusive people of the Qumran (Dead Sea) Scrolls. By the second century most Christians were of Gentile background; they interpreted the Gospel accounts of inner-family debates to indicate total alienation between the Christians and the Jews of the earlier period. Although subsequent Jewish history should not be defined only by relations with the larger society, Jewish-Christian relations were often dark and dismal, marred by polemics and persecutions. The complexities of Europe in the 19th century laid the ground for the horrendous period of Nazi domination from 1933-1945. Most participants had considerable knowledge of that era and of the post-War developments that led to the Second Vatican Council in the Catholic Church.

The last session reviewed aspects of Catholic teaching relating to Judaism and the Jewish people. Subsequent Vatican texts and recent Jewish responses were provided by links to internet sources as preparation for discussion. Words of Pope John Paul II constituted a challenge for the future: "As Christians and Jews, following the example of the faith of Abraham, we are called to be a blessing to the world. This is the common task awaiting us. It is therefore necessary for us, Christians and Jews, to first be a blessing to one another" ([50th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising](#), 1993).

Under the leadership of Rabbi Charles Kroloff, Temple Emanu-El began early to develop ways to reach out to the wider community. He and his wife, Dr. Terry Kroloff, gave a course on modern Jewish thinkers in Seton Hall's Jewish-Christian Studies MA program in 1978, sponsored by the Chataqua Society. Rabbi Kroloff's successors have continued that initiative, and I am pleased to have this invitation to join them!

Our Weekly Radio Program

The Kinship of Catholics & Jews

Tune in to WSOU 89.5 FM every Sunday morning from 8:30 a.m.—9:00 a.m. to listen to the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies' (IJCS) radio program, *The Kinship of Catholics & Jews*.

Our show has been promoting the shared values of Christians and Jews for 28 years when it was established by our founding director, Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher, and first broadcast from Seton Hall University in 1990. Now moderated by current IJCS Director, the Reverend Dr. Lawrence Frizzell, the radio program continues to feature a wide variety of special guests, including local peace activists, Catholic theologians, Seton Hall faculty and Jewish and Christian academics and specialists.



Can't tune in every Sunday morning or want to hear a particular show again? No problem! You can listen to some of our most popular shows any time from any computer, iPhone, iPad or mobile device for free on *The Kinship's* iTunes channel. Our oldest audio podcast is a historic one from 1990, and it features Monsignor Oesterreicher and Father Frizzell. On this show, the two scholars discuss different aspects of first century Judaism, with a focus on the Sadducees. [Start listening now](#) to this remarkable conversation!

The IJCS has another iTunes channel where we publish video and audio podcasts of presentations made during our events, from 2013 through the present, including the annual Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher Memorial Lecture. Visit this iTunes channel at [bit.ly/IJCS iTunes](http://bit.ly/IJCS_iTunes), and begin watching free videos and audio recordings of lectures and conferences that are led by renowned scholars who are sharing their expertise on topics such as Catholic-Jewish Relations; Jewish Dietary Laws; environmental issues; and much more!

Letter to the Editor

Kudos to New Jersey Jewish News

In case you missed it, our director wrote a letter to the editor of the *New Jersey Jewish News* (NJN), in response to an article that reported on a reprimand by the Hudson County's interfaith leaders and heads of the Islamic Center of Jersey City (ICJC) of an Egyptian-born imam who made repeated anti-Semitic comments from his pulpit this past December 2017.

Below is our director's letter, which can also be viewed online on NJN's website at <http://njewishnews.com/community/letters/letter-kudos-to-njnn>:

Kudos to NJN

January 10, 2018

Re "[Under fire, Jersey City imam apologizes for anti-Semitic slurs,](#)" December 27

Thanks to Robert Wiener for "[Under fire, Jersey City imam apologizes for anti-Semitic slurs,](#)" (Dec. 28). The bigoted and volatile content of Sheikh Aymen Elkasaby's sermon required an apology and a form of re-education that should be part of the training of clergy in every tradition. If salutary change is to be achieved, this process should involve the careful examination of the texts that lend themselves to such harmful rhetoric.

In the same issue, "Developing an app bridges cultural, geographic divide" by Johanna Ginsberg provides hope for the young generation with their positive use of the internet. May such endeavors be multiplied!

Lawrence Frizzell

Jewish-Christian Studies

Seton Hall University



Dr. Gregory Baum, Oct. 27, 2013

Gregory Baum, R.I.P.

by Rev. Lawrence E. Frizzell

One of the last survivors of Augustin Cardinal Bea's Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity passed away on October 18, 2017 at the age of 94. Gregory Baum's credentials for assisting in the preparation of schemata (drafts) for discussion by the Bishops and Abbots at the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) were exemplary: a doctorate on the Popes and ecumenism from Fribourg University in Switzerland and a book, *Is the New Testament Anti-Semitic?* (Paulist Press, 1958, reissued under the title *The Gospel and the Jews* in 1961). He also worked on drafts for the Decree on Ecumenism and for the Church's Relations to Non-Christian Religions (*Nostra Aetate*).

Dr. Baum was a peritus (theological expert) in the Secretariat from the first session in November 1960, joined later by Abbot Leo Rudloff of Jerusalem, formerly of New Jersey, as a member of the hierarchy, and IJCS founding director, Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher, as a consultor.

On September 22, 2013 Seton Hall held a conference in memory of Msgr. Oesterreicher, in which Dr. Baum gave a paper on his memories of John. A month later on October 27, Dr. Baum returned from Montreal to hear the lecture given by the Reverend Dr. Thomas Stransky, the Paulist Father who was Secretary of the Secretariat and now its only surviving member. Ms. Judy Banki of the American Jewish Committee at the time of the Council, also attended the lecture. (See <http://njewishnews.com/article/19047/eyewitness-remembers-intrigues-of-vatican-ii#.WfjIzeHG5S0>).

Gregory Baum is remembered for the wide range of his research and his numerous publications; he taught first at St. Michael's College in Toronto and later at McGill in Montreal. Often his positions were controversial and his Introduction in Rosemary Reuther's *Faith and Fratricide* (1974) brought a strong reaction from Msgr. Oesterreicher. Years later, when Seton Hall professor John Mitchell invited Dr. Baum to speak on the papal encyclical *Laborem exercens*, Dr. Baum was embraced by John Oesterreicher. I overheard John say: "We're not that far apart."

Dr. Baum will be remembered for his life-long commitment to the theologian's service of faith seeking understanding, for the gentle way he reacted to intense discussions and his word of surprise that differences remained as an encounter came to an end. May his soul rest in peace!

Conflict Resolution and Peace-Making

Partnering with Seton Hall University's School of Diplomacy and International Relations

by Rev. Lawrence E. Frizzell

Over the years a number of students from West African countries, especially Nigeria and Cameroon, have matriculated into the Jewish-Christian Studies (JCST) Graduate Program at Seton Hall University. To widen the experience of these students in peace-making between Christians and Muslims, professors in the School of Diplomacy and International Relations offered to provide a perspective that would complement the courses in the JCST program. The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies co-sponsored the event with the Center for Peace Studies and the School of Diplomacy.

With kind assistance of Ms. Elizabeth Halpin, Associate Dean of External Affairs and a graduate of our JCST graduate program, and with the guidance of Dean Andrea Bartoli, a program "Working toward Peace: Conflict Resolution Techniques in a Religious Setting" was presented on March 31, 2017. Dr. Borislava Manojlovic led the morning sessions with a discussion of reconciliation after the genocide in the Balkans in the mid-1990s, with application to the current situation in northern Nigeria and the Central African Republic. The first session in the afternoon was led by Dr. Wang Zheng, Director of the School of Diplomacy's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, followed by Dean Bartoli on "Priests and the Peace Process."

The Institute looks forward to other occasions when our students and friends can benefit from the expertise of professors in Seton Hall's School of Diplomacy.



**Your loving-kindness is better than life!
(Psalm 63:3)**

Please consider supporting the mission of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies by making a donation.

Your gift will help us continue to unite and empower scholars, educators and students who are dedicated to exploring and promoting their shared values, practices, traditions and peaceful pursuits.

All donations are tax deductible and may be sent to:

Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies
Attention: Lawrence Frizzell
400 South Orange Avenue
South Orange, NJ 07079

For more information, please contact the Reverend Dr. Lawrence Frizzell directly via email at lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu or by phone at (973) 761-9751.

Website: www.shu.edu/go/judaeo-christian

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