

Fall 2012

Ten Years of Ex Corde Ecclesiae at Duquesne University

James McCloskey

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-horizons>

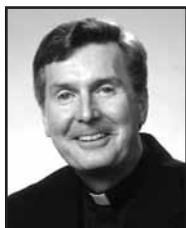


Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

McCloskey, J. (2012). Ten Years of Ex Corde Ecclesiae at Duquesne University. *Spiritan Horizons*, 7 (7). Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-horizons/vol7/iss7/13>

This Soundings is brought to you for free and open access by Duquesne Scholarship Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritan Horizons by an authorized editor of Duquesne Scholarship Collection.



James McCloskey, C.S.Sp.

James P. McCloskey, C.S.Sp. has been the Vice President for Mission and Identity at Duquesne University since 2009, when the position was created by the University's Board of Directors. Under McCloskey's leadership, the Office of Mission and Identity maintains and promotes the Catholic identity and Spiritan mission of the University and the values it espouses.

A member of the Duquesne University Board of Directors since 1994, he also served as Vice President for University Relations from 2002 until 2003, overseeing all aspects of university advancement including fundraising, marketing, alumni affairs, and public relations.

Father McCloskey has also held several leadership positions within the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. In 2003, he was elected provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit – United States East Province. He served in that post for one year when he was elected to the General Council of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit in Rome, with special responsibility in the area of education.

LIVING OUT THE CATHOLIC MISSION OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

TEN-YEAR REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION OF EX CORDE ECCLESIAE

Introduction

Ex Corde Ecclesiae (From the Heart of the Church) is an Apostolic Constitution issued by Pope John Paul II on the mission and identity of Catholic colleges and universities. Promulgated in 1990, but with effect beginning in 1991, the aim of the document is the renewal of Catholic Universities, both as “Universities” and as “Catholic.” Quoting from an address delivered in 1980, Pope John Paul II states, in the opening paragraph of the constitution, that a Catholic University’s privileged task is “to unite existentially by intellectual effort two orders of reality that too frequently tend to be placed in opposition as though they were antithetical: the search for truth, and the certainty of already knowing the fount of truth” (John Paul II, Discourse to the “Institut Catholique de Paris,” 1 June 1980).

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved and published *The Application of Ex Corde Ecclesiae for the United States*, with effect as particular law in 2001 for the more than two hundred Catholic colleges and universities in the country. On the tenth anniversary of that document, each Catholic college and university president was invited to meet with his/her local bishop for a review of progress in the implementation of the United States Bishop’s Application guidelines. The following report is an outline of the uniquely Catholic character of Duquesne University in response to that invitation.

The Catholic Identity of Duquesne University

At Duquesne, the Catholic character of the university is manifest in the myriad forms that define most Catholic colleges and universities; namely, a strong department of theology, a core curriculum that places emphasis upon a Catholic world-view and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, the leadership of the President and senior administrators for whom Catholic identity is a vital issue in the daily life of the university, and the presence of the founding religious congregation, the Spiritans, who continue to minister actively in all aspects of campus life at Duquesne, including the classroom. The Board of Directors understands the critical importance of Catholic identity and mission – and a separate committee devoted to this issue reports regularly to the full Board at its meetings. Hiring for mission is an important

**James McCloskey,
C.S.Sp. (cont.)**

He earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, in 1980. He was awarded a Master of Theology degree from Weston School of Theology in 1988 and a Master of Education degree from Boston College in 1995. His Ph.D in Education was granted by Fordham University in 2002.

*Mission orientation
programs for faculty,
staff, administrators,
and students...*

consideration at the university – and mission factors are included in annual performance appraisals for all university employees, including faculty and administrators. And finally, but not least, the presence of an active campus ministry program supports the spiritual and moral formation of our student community in matters of faith, virtue, and vocation.

Programming for Catholic Identity and Mission

There is a regular cycle of activities that have direct, explicit bearing upon consciousness of Catholic identity and mission formation at the university. These activities include the following:

- Liturgical celebrations (both campus wide and group specific) that strengthen mission awareness
- Mission orientation programs for faculty, staff, administrators, and students
- Special programming, in the form of symposia, conferences, or events that feature the Catholic and Spiritan mission of Duquesne as its primary focus
- Service programs for students and faculty, including collaboration with immediate neighbors in the Hill District
- Faith formation programs
- Pastoral and spiritual counseling
- Ecumenical and interreligious dialogue

A sampling of these many programs is detailed below:

- **The liturgical life of Duquesne** – Daily Eucharist is celebrated at the university, at multiple times during the day, in the university chapel, the Spiritan residences on campus and in the Towers dormitory on Sundays. The university also celebrates cross-cultural Masses and numerous holy and feast days throughout the academic year. The academic year begins with the celebration of the Mass of the Holy Spirit, presided by the Bishop. The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every day of the academic year, along with frequent (approximately seventy) celebrations annually of the Sacrament of Matrimony. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) culminates each year in the Baptism of a number of young people into the Catholic Church. Special liturgical ceremonies are frequently held, including prayer services for particular schools of the university (commissioning ceremonies for pharmacy students, for example) and special seasonal services, such as Ash Wednesday and Advent liturgical prayer services.

- **Service Programs** – In addition to the Center for Service Learning and an array of community service partnerships offered through the Health Sciences and other Schools of the university, a large panoply of volunteer and service-oriented programs and projects is offered regularly to students and staff at Duquesne. These popular offerings include cross-cultural mission experiences in Immokalee (Florida), New Orleans, West Virginia, and the Dominican Republic. The Laval Project seeks to prepare students to understand the deeper issues of social justice underlying systemic poverty while engaging in active service to the poor. Spring Clean-Up, an annual event that involves more than 600 volunteers from the university and local community, serves to involve students in both service and consciousness of larger environmental issues. The St. Vincent de Paul Society serves the indigent poor in downtown Pittsburgh with food and clothing, while large scale projects such as support for Haiti and the Sudan through Catholic Relief Services are strong, regular events at Duquesne.
- **Faith Formation and Retreat Programs** – Weekly Catholic Bible Study gatherings for faculty, staff, and students, retreats (such as the Faith Alive Program for Freshmen), the Theology on Tap program for young adults, Spiritual Life formation programs in the residence halls, and other unique offerings such as My Life With the Saints, Liturgical Arts Retreats, or Libermann Luncheons for faculty and staff provide regular spiritual and theological formation for the university community.
- **Centers, Institutes, and Endowed Chairs** – The Center for Healthcare Ethics, the Center for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, and the Center for Spiritan Studies complement the formal discipline of theology and the study of pastoral ministry at Duquesne. Endowed Chairs in Social Justice for Vulnerable Populations, Mission, Newman Studies, and the Integration of Science, Philosophy, Theology, and Law further reinforce the Catholic identity and foundation of education at Duquesne.

*...the center supports
a community-wide
emphasis on central
Catholic and Spiritan
values such as social
justice, peace, and the
integrity of creation.*

- Established in 2012, the **Center for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition** expands upon Duquesne's long history of considering – and contributing to – the Catholic intellectual tradition in both the historical and the modern contexts. Its mission is to promote and advance the Catholic intellectual tradition across the entire spectrum of the University's pursuits: research, teaching, faculty networking, and programs that apply Catholic ideas and ideals to a broad range of issues. As part of the Office of Mission and Identity and in concert with Duquesne's Strategic Plan, the center supports a community-wide emphasis on central Catholic and Spiritan values such as social justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

- The **Center for Spiritan Studies**, inaugurated in 2005, is a collaborative project between the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and Duquesne University that promotes research into Spiritan history, tradition, and spirituality. The Center seeks to prepare a new generation of Congregational experts in Spiritan history and spirituality, encourage the enculturation of the Spiritan charism, particularly in Africa and Latin America where the Congregation is expanding, and develop publications and other appropriate materials to train professed Spiritans and Spiritan lay associates to meet the demands of contemporary mission.

- Founded in 1993, the **Center for Healthcare Ethics** provides scholarly and professional training in healthcare ethics consistent with the Catholic and Spiritan identity of the University. The Center's programs, scholarly pursuits, and professional outreach engage interdisciplinary perspectives, including religious traditions (especially Catholic, Christian, and Jewish perspectives) as well as clinical, organizational, professional and research approaches related to medicine, science, law, policy, social science, and the humanities.

Lecture Series, Conferences, and Symposia :

- **The Catholic Intellectual Tradition Lecture Series** – The first lecture, entitled *Six Challenges Facing Catholic Higher Education*, was delivered on March 10, 2011 by James Heft, SM, the Alton Brooks Professor of Religion at the University of Southern California and president of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies. Father Heft has recently been awarded the Reverend Theodore Hesburgh CSC award for distinguished contributions to Catholic higher education by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. Other lecturers in the series have included Margaret O'Brien Steinfels, co-director of the Center for Religion and Culture at Fordham University and Darlene Fozard Weaver, director of the Duquesne Center for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition

Monsignor Rice lectures focus upon issues of human rights, social justice, and Catholic Social Teaching.

- **The Monsignor Rice Lecture Series** – Sponsored by the Center for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, this lecture series focuses upon issues of human rights, social justice, and Catholic Social Teaching. The topics of such lectures have included health care reform, globalization, environmental concerns such as the Gulf Oil Spill, and, most recently, a lecture delivered on the topic of torture by Mark Altman, a scholar in the area of post-war ethics and the just war theory. His recent book on war, peace, and the Christian tradition was recently awarded the College Theology Society Book of the Year Award (2009).

- **Celebrating Fifty Years of Vatican II: The Contributions and Challenges of the African Church** – This two day symposium included lectures on such topics as Conciliar and Post Conciliar African Theology, From Theology in Africa to African Theology, Interreligious Dialogue and Its Impact on the African Church, and the Challenges of Marriage and the Family in Africa Today.

Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, delivered a keynote

address entitled *Vatican II and the Challenge of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation in Africa*. He was also awarded an honorary degree from the university on September 29, 2012.

- **The Rita M. McGinley Symposium** - This program in the School of Nursing examines today's most important healthcare issues through the lens of social justice. A recent symposium topic was entitled *Exploring Social Justice for Vulnerable Populations: The Face of the Elderly*. The Symposium offered four keynote speakers, including Fr. William J. Byron, S.J., Professor of Business and society at St. Joseph's university and past president of The Catholic University of America, and Fr. Brian V. Johnstone, C.Ss.R., Warren Blanding Chair of Religion and Culture at The Catholic University of America.

- **The Holy Spirit Lecture and Colloquium** – This ongoing series of lectures and colloquia is intended to encourage the exploration of ideas pertaining to the theology of the Holy Spirit within an ecumenical context and in dialogue with contemporary issues. The 2011 lecture, entitled *The Unexpected God: How Christian Faith Discovers the Holy Spirit* was delivered by Rev. Brian E. Daley, S.J., the Catherine F. Huisking Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame.

- **The Paluse Faculty Research Grant** - Sponsored by the Center for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, Paluse Faculty Research Grants are intended to support research and scholarship which reflects Duquesne's mission and identity. The grants are open to tenured and tenure track faculty working in any academic discipline. Papers recently presented from faculty members in theology, rhetorical studies, and psychology, included a presentation from Fr. Jocelyn Gregoire, C.S.Sp. on the *Examination of the Impact of the Roman Catholic Church on the Individual and Collective Racial-Cultural Identity Development of Mauritian Code*.

- **Founder's Week** –Celebrated during the first week of February, the theme for the week is chosen upon recommendations from the Mission and Identity Advisory Committee and the Directors of the Division of Mission and Identity (Campus Ministry, the Center for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, and the Center for Spiritan Studies). The theme for Founders Week 2011 was *Refugees, Migrants, and the Spiritan Tradition*. Four Spiritans who are directly engaged in ministry with refugees and migrants, including the director of refugee services for the international congregation, presented overviews of their ministries with migrants and refugees.

In early 2013, the university community will gather to celebrate the ministry of the Spiritan Congregation and peacemaking, on the 50th anniversary of the publication of the papal encyclical Pacem in Terris by Pope John XXIII.

In early 2013, the university community will gather to celebrate the ministry of the Spiritan Congregation and peacemaking, on the 50th anniversary of the publication of the papal encyclical *Pacem in Terris* by Pope John XXIII. Guests will include theologian Kenneth Himes (Boston College), Dr. Miguel Diaz, US Ambassador to the Holy See, Gervase Taratara, C.S.Sp., Director of the Office of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation for the Spiritan Congregation in Rome, Brian Starcken, C.S.Sp. former provincial of the Irish Spiritan province and member of Caritas International, and Bishop Oscar Ngoy, C.S.Sp., Spiritan bishop of Eastern Congo.

- **Mission Presentations** - Presentations and “conversations” on mission and identity are scheduled frequently throughout each semester. The target audience for each session varies widely from new employees to division/department leaders to student groups. Some presentations focus upon the Catholic character of the university, others upon the Spiritan charism of the institution, and still others upon particular aspects of the mission such as the qualities of Spiritan leadership or mission and finance.

- **Catholic Relief Services** – Strengthening ties with Catholic Relief Services, a program was held to raise consciousness about the Sudan. Through “Social Justice Theater” presentations in dining halls and general meeting places, the placement of table tents about peacekeeping efforts and Catholic Social teaching in Africa, “Teach-Ins,” (a distribution of informational materials on the current political and social climate of the country), and advocacy efforts, students were invited to participate in this unique program.
- **Leadership for Mission** – Offered through the School of Leadership and Professional Advancement, this program, based in Rome and Manila, offers an advanced degree to women religious from developing nations in leadership. Courses include strategic planning, organizational behavior, personnel management, and the spirituality of leadership.
- **Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation** – This distance education program is designed for those who minister in difficult social, economic, or environmental conditions. Pilot programs currently underway in Zimbabwe, South Africa, the Philippines, and India engage students in issues of social analysis, conflict resolution, economics, theology, and the environment. Course offerings are developed by faculty members at Duquesne and delivered through on-line or DVD instruction.

Conclusion

Deeply committed to the founding vision of Duquesne as Catholic and Spiritan, the university attempts to build a culture of faith and service – in its classrooms and residence halls, among its alumni and friends, and for the wider Church of the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the world. Outreach to Africa forms a critical component of the university’s strategic plan – and has been translated into a Center for African Studies and new service initiatives throughout the African continent. Duquesne’s commitment to Haiti continues through its micro-lending program (Fonkoze) in the School of Business and its support for Spiritan educational endeavors there. Research directed towards the alleviation of poverty, systemic injustice, global health care,

*Deeply committed to
the founding vision of
Duquesne as Catholic and
Spiritan, the university
attempts to build a culture
of faith and service...*

James McCloskey, C.S.Sp. and conflict resolution and peace occupies Duquesne's academic and professional attention. And reverence for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition – and attempts to inform the curriculum and form faculty and students in this tradition – are strong. The commitment of the university to its Catholic identity and mission is unwavering.