

# Collegium News

Volume 4/Issue 4

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## Member Institutions

Alverno College  
 Assumption College  
 Avila University  
 Benedictine University  
 Boston College  
 Chaminade University  
 College of Mount Saint Vincent  
 College of New Rochelle  
 College of Saint Benedict  
 College of Saint Scholastica  
 College of the Holy Cross  
 DePaul University  
 DeSales University  
 Dominican University  
 Duquesne University  
 Fairfield University  
 Fontbonne University  
 Fordham University  
 Franciscan Missionaries  
 of Our Lady University  
 Georgetown University  
 Georgian Court University  
 Gonzaga University  
 Iona College  
 John Carroll University  
 King's College, Pennsylvania  
 King's University College, Ontario  
 La Roche College  
 Le Moyne College  
 Lewis University  
 Loras College  
 Loyola Marymount University  
 Loyola University Maryland  
 Manhattan College  
 Marian University  
 Marquette University  
 Notre Dame de Namur University  
 Notre Dame of Maryland University  
 Regis University  
 Rockhurst University  
 Saint Catherine University  
 Saint Francis University  
 Saint John's University, Minnesota  
 Saint Louis University  
 Saint Mary's College of California  
 Saint Mary's College, Indiana  
 Saint Mary's University, Minnesota  
 Saint Mary's University, Texas  
 Saint Michael's College  
 Saint Norbert College  
 Saint Thomas More College,  
 University of Saskatchewan  
 Seattle University  
 Seton Hall University  
 Stonehill College  
 University of Dayton  
 University of Detroit Mercy  
 University of the Incarnate Word  
 University of Notre Dame  
 University of Portland  
 University of Saint Francis  
 University of Saint Thomas,  
 Minnesota  
 University of San Diego  
 Ursuline College  
 Xavier University



"Pause at 25" was held at St. Catherine University of St. Paul, Minnesota, June 21-24, 2017  
 Click on the picture for a "video short" from this year's conference

## Pause at 25

Collegium celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a special gathering at Saint Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota, June 21-24. Stepping back from our annual colloquium format, the "Pause at 25" conference gathered Collegium alumni and administrators from member institutions to celebrate its achievements, reflect on the present challenges facing Catholic higher education, and envision new strategies for its flourishing in the coming decades. Monica Sylvania of LeMoyné College, Chair of the board of directors, characterized the gathering as a reunion that would engage participants in fresh conversations about the shared mission of Catholic higher education.

In his opening address, Collegium Director Tom Landy outlined the vision for the conference and the significant changes that have shaped Collegium over the past twenty-five years. While evolving significantly since 1992, Collegium was originally conceived from a broad range of challenges and opportunities that emerged in the quarter century after the Second Vatican Council. That period saw the decline of priests and religious in Catholic higher education and the growing prominence of lay and non-Catholic leadership on campuses. Collegium sought to address these changes while seeking new ways to engage, live, and adapt Catholic teaching to diverse cultural and intellectual contexts.

While this remains its mission, many of the fears that surrounded the early years of Collegium have not come to fruition. Some "dystopian" visions from the 1990s predicted a growing secularization of Catholic institutions. Yet more attention is now paid to mission on campuses than 25 years ago. If Collegium once stood out in its goal, it now operates in a crowded field where mission offices and programs now do important work in recovering and appropriating traditional Christian concepts in ways that resonate with increasingly diverse campuses. Likewise, despite fears that *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* would decimate academic freedom, this has not really occurred. Collegium was conceived to connect scholars who took faith seriously as part of their academic vocation. Today,

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# *Announcing a New Restorative Justice Network of Catholic Campuses (RJNCC)*

Recognizing a natural alignment between the philosophy of restorative justice and the guiding ideals of the Catholic Social Tradition, the RJNCC encourages Catholic campuses to articulate and cultivate restorative principles and to assist each other in strengthening interest, commitment, and implementation of restorative practices on their campuses.

## **What is Restorative Justice?**

Chris Marshall is a theologian and professor of restorative justice at the Victoria University in New Zealand and author of *Compassionate Justice: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue with Two Gospel Parables on Law, Crime, and Restorative Justice*. According to Marshall, “Restorative justice is a way of responding to wrongdoing and conflict that seeks, above all else, to repair the harm suffered, and to do so by actively involving the affected parties in mutual dialogue and decision-making. The process brings victims, offenders and their supporters together, in a safe and controlled environment, with trained facilitators to talk truthfully about what has happened, the impact it has had on their lives, and what is needed to put things right again and prevent recurrence.”

Restorative justice is now the subject of research and coursework on Catholic campuses across the country. Susan Sharpe is the Advisor on Restorative Justice at the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Social Concerns and a member of the RJNCC Planning Team. “I see RJ as a way to help Catholic schools put feet to the principles of Catholic Social Tradition, and I’m excited by the prospect of Catholic campuses supporting each other in that work. I am happy to serve on the planning team in hopes of making it easier for Network members to connect and encourage each other.”

Many campuses are also applying the principles of restorative justice as they respond to incidents of student misconduct and work to create a safe and welcoming campus climate for students from diverse backgrounds. A pioneer in this work is the University of San Diego. Sean Horrigan, a director in USD’s Office of Student Affairs and also on the planning team, believes that “restorative justice has been a set of values and practices that have helped me live into our Catholic mission through its focus on

human dignity and concern for the common good.” You can learn more about USD’s RJ Program on their website.

For Sara Kitchen, a professor at Chestnut Hill College, her participation with the RJNCC is driven by RJ’s potential to address major social issues. “As a member of the Colleges of the Sisters of St. Joseph, we teach and live for unity and reconciliation. Restorative justice is the future direction for this work. In more practical terms, we must address the societal crime of mass incarceration and its repercussions for our nation and its citizens. Restorative justice is the hope for healing on the micro and macro level. I look forward to connecting and planning for the future with kindred spirits.”

If you have an interest in restorative justice, we welcome your participation in this new network. The following list identifies some of the goals of the RJNCC.

## **The RJNCC promotes:**

- Scholarship on the theory and practice of RJ and the convergence of RJ philosophy and Catholic social thought.
- Civic engagement, including campus support, internships, and community engaged learning for community-based and prison-based RJ initiatives and in K-12 schools.
- Community-building circles practices in classrooms, residential life, athletics, and student organizations;
- Community-concern circles to improve campus climate, particularly around conflicts regarding race, religion, gender, and the red/blue political divide;
- Restorative responses to student misconduct, including binge drinking, academic dishonesty, bias incidents, sexual misconduct, and intimate partner violence;
- Restorative responses to faculty and staff misconduct and conflict that create a hostile workplace environment;

The RJNCC welcomes active involvement of community members on Catholic campuses. Join our [RJNCC Google Group](#) for more information or contact [David Karp](#).