

**PRESS RELEASE:**

September 27, 2023

## Cardinal Newman Society Names Three Eucharistic Fellows in Crucial Year of Eucharistic Revival

The Cardinal Newman Society announced today the selection of three research fellows for its Eucharistic Education Task Force, which is expanding substantially in 2023–2024 during this crucial year of the U.S. bishops' Eucharistic Revival effort.

The fellows will develop guidance and resources for Catholic school, homeschool, and college educators on teaching the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist across the curriculum and increasing reverence and beauty in student Masses, Eucharistic adoration, Eucharistic processions, and prayer. The Cardinal Newman Society will then get these materials into the hands of school and college chaplains, teachers, professors, principals, presidents, superintendents, and others who have the ability to strengthen Catholic education.

"For many decades, families have seen diminished reverence in Mass, weak catechesis, and infrequent Adoration in many Catholic schools and colleges," said Robert Laird, senior counselor to the president and director of the Eucharistic Education Task Force at The Cardinal Newman Society. "But the evidence at faithful Newman Guide schools and colleges shows that young Catholics today are eager for traditional practices that lift the soul to God and evidence the Real Presence of Christ at Mass."



**David Bonagura, Jr.**, is the 2023–2024 Cardinal Newman Society Fellow for Eucharistic Education. He is an adjunct professor of theology at Catholic Distance University, which is recognized in the Society's Newman Guide for faithful Catholic education; adjunct professor of classical languages at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y.; and Latin teacher at Regis High School in New York City. He is the author of *Steadfast in Faith* (Cluny Media, LLC, 2019) and *Staying with the Catholic Church* (Sceptor Press, 2021), and he is the translator of *Jerome's Tears: Letters to Friends in Mourning* (Sophia Institute Press, 2023). He also serves as religion editor of *The University Bookman*. He has three master's degrees in religious studies, adolescence education, and the classics. He is a regular contributor to *The Catholic Thing*.

Professor Bonagura's fellowship will focus on the importance of teaching the Eucharist within all levels of Catholic education and integrating that teaching across the curriculum. He will also work with other educators to identify the best publishers, textbooks, literature, video, materials, supplies, lesson plans, etc., to teach students the Real Presence, reverence for the Eucharist, the importance of the Mass, and more.

[cardinalnewmansociety.org](http://cardinalnewmansociety.org)

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**Father Jonathan Duncan** is the 2023–2024 Cardinal Newman Society Fellow for Eucharistic Devotion. He is the chaplain of St. Joseph's Catholic School in Greenville, S.C., one of the first high schools recognized in the Society's Newman Guide for faithful Catholic education, and chaplain of the Furman University Catholic Campus Ministry in Greenville. Father Duncan served several years in ordained ministry within the Anglican tradition before he and his family were received into full communion with the Catholic Church in 2013. With degrees in both medieval studies and theology and graduate studies in liturgy and church music, Father Duncan has a unique perspective on faithful Catholic education rooted in a passion for the gospel.

With an emphasis on the Mass but also Catholic retreats, Eucharistic preaching, and Liturgy of the Hours, Father Duncan will explore how Eucharistic liturgy and theology can be better integrated in the life of Catholic schools, homeschools, and colleges. Anticipated projects include devotional aids for students and educators, homily tools for chaplains, and resources explaining the essential role of Eucharistic liturgy and prayer in Catholic education at all levels.



**Dr. Randall Smith** is the 2023–2024 Cardinal Newman Society Fellow for Eucharistic Liturgy. He is a Professor of Theology at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Tex., which is recognized in the Society's Newman Guide for faithful Catholic education. He holds a Ph.D. in medieval studies and philosophy and an M.M.S. from the University of Notre Dame, as well as an M.A. in theology from the University of Dallas (also a Newman Guide college). He serves on the board of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars and is president of the International Catholic University (now CatholicThinkers.com).

Dr. Smith brings a vast array of experience in the intersection of the Catholic faith and culture, and his fellowship will focus on reverence and beauty in student liturgy. His books include *From Here to Eternity: Reflections on Death, Immortality, and the Resurrection of the Body* (Emmaus Press, 2022), *Aquinas, Bonaventure, and the Scholastic Culture of Medieval Paris: Preaching, Prologues, and Biblical Commentary* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), *Why Believe? Answers to Life's Questions, vol. 2* (Augustine Institute, 2018) (chapters 2 through 9 on moral theology), and *Reading the Sermons of Thomas Aquinas: A Beginner's Guide* (Emmaus Press, 2016). He writes regularly for *The Catholic Thing*.

In unison with the U.S. bishops' Eucharistic Revival campaign, The Cardinal Newman Society launched its Eucharistic Education Task Force in June 2022, collaborating with faithful Catholic educators to advance:

- a revival of Eucharistic literacy, by teaching young people the truth of the Real Presence in the Eucharist
- a revival of Eucharistic liturgy by improving liturgical music, prayer, and reverence in Catholic school and college liturgies.
- a revival of Eucharistic devotion, by increasing devotion to the Eucharist among young people through prayer and adoration, and
- a revival of Eucharistic living, by forming young people in lifestyles that conform to the reality of Christ within them.

For more information about the Eucharistic Education Task Force of The Cardinal Newman Society visit <https://EucharisticEducation.org>.

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