

**“...like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom
both the new and the old.” (Mt. 13:52)**

Dear Friends,

St. Matthew’s gospel concludes its rich assemblage of Jesus’ parables on the Kingdom of God with the one-liner noted above on the scribe “who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven.” As a newcomer to the Center and as I reviewed its accomplishments, this passage came to mind in reflecting on the Center and the work of Sister Barbara Quinn, RSCJ, in her nine and a half years of leadership of the Center. With both the old and new from the treasure of the University community and initiatives of the Center, she and her colleagues have provided a rich sampler of the University’s knowledge and talent in exploring with the San Diego community the intersections of personal spirituality, professional life, academic life, and social justice. Many thanks and best wishes to her as she continues her dedicated ministry at Boston College.

The Center will continue its mission to serve the educational, pastoral and spiritual needs of the Catholic, Christian, and inter-faith communities of the San Diego region. It will continue the legacy of the Society of the Sacred Heart, founder of the San Diego and College for Women and responsible for the endowment which has helped to make the Center possible since 1985.

The Center’s goals include the desire to be a conduit for sharing resources of the University with the community at large for theological understanding, personal spiritual growth, and the exploration of Gospel values and their integration with life in a pluralistic society.

The invitation on the reverse of this page exemplifies the work of the Center. Fr. John O’Brien is a visiting scholar at USD this semester, hosted by USD’s Center for Catholic Thought and Culture. Having shared with many campus groups and the general public in a major lecture, the Center now welcomes him to a small gathering of those in touch with the Center on a day and at a time that might be more accessible to those not on campus.

Returning to Matthew 13, Jesus’ parables of the Kingdom are rich in promise and challenge – seed and sower, weeds and wheat, mustard seed, yeast, pearl of great price, a great treasure, and net thrown into the sea. It is within us and among us. We frequently ask that this kingdom “may come,” be realized more fully. In its small way the Center hopes to be supportive in the future, as it has been in the past, of that work of God in building up the Kingdom, within us and among us.

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. John D. Keller, O.S.A.

P.S. You can help us stay in touch with you with announcements of upcoming opportunities by filling out your up-dated contact information and returning it to us in the enclosed envelope. And as always we appreciate your input on topics of importance to you which the Center and various schools and programs of the University might be of help in addressing. We’ll be happy to hear from you.



An Advent Reflection: Giving an Explanation For Our Hope

Rev. John O'Brien, CSSp

Fr. John O'Brien, CSSp, is a Visiting Fellow at the University of San Diego's Center for Catholic Thought and Culture. He has presented the inaugural Emile Switgall Lecture, "Christian-Muslim Dialogue from Below: Spiritan Perspectives from Pakistan," based upon his ongoing experience in Pakistan in ministries with housing cooperatives, adult education, youth work and pastoral ministry especially among urban "sweepers."

Since his arrival on campus he has met with faculty, student groups, and presented in the Explorations in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition series on the topic, "Solidarity and the Option for the Poor."

As we approach Advent, the Center for Christian Spirituality invites you to join Fr. O'Brien to share his reflections on the encouragement of St. Peter's first letter (1 Pet. 2:15):

**"Always be ready to give an explanation
to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope."**

The presentation will include breakfast in the University's dining room, La Gran Terraza, and the Saturday date will offer accessible parking. We hope you can join us for this opportunity to deepen our understanding of Christian hope.



When: Saturday, November 12, 2011, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Where: La Gran Terraza, Hahn University Center, USD.
Fee: RSVP required. \$15.00 Light breakfast included.
 Registration must be submitted by November 7, 2011.
 To register online please visit www.sandiego.edu/ccs

SOME USEFUL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION: No refunds are possible except for medical or personal emergencies.

TAPING: Individuals are not permitted to tape CCS sessions due to copyright considerations. We ask your cooperation. An exception to this policy may be made only at the discretion of the program director.

PARKING: Enter through the Main Entrance (East Entrance.) A visitor parking permit is required and available at the kiosk. Parking is permitted in any legal parking space. The Mission Parking structure is located closest to the event.

INFORMATION: Please telephone (619) 260-4784 or e-mail: ccs@sandiego.edu. You can also visit our website: www.sandiego.edu/ccs



REGISTRATION FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011

An Advent Reflection: Giving an Explanation for Our Hope

NAME: _____ COST \$15.00
 EMAIL: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____
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