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USJ Annual Buckley Lecture to Feature Reverend John T. Pawlikowski, OSM, Ph.D. “Transforming the Church in the World: Human Rights and Interreligious Relations Fifty Years after Vatican II”



WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (March 23, 2015) – The University of Saint Joseph’s 2015 Buckley Lecture for Religious Studies will feature Rev. John T. Pawlikowski, OSM, Ph.D., priest of the Servite Order, professor of Social Ethics at the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago, Ill., and the Director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies Program in the CTU’s Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Center. Rev. Pawlikowski will present “Transforming the Church in the World: Human Rights and Interreligious Relations Fifty Years after Vatican II” on Monday, April 13, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. in the Crystal Room, Mercy Hall, located on the University’s main campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue in West Hartford. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Rev. Pawlikowski is the author of more than 15 books and contributor to numerous journals. He served for six years as President of the International Council of Christians and Jews; was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Council in 1980, and was reappointed to three successive terms by Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton. He is the recipient of various awards, including the most recent and prestigious John Court Murray Award in 2014. He was recently appointed as one of the representatives from the Council of the Parliament of the World’s Religions to the United Nations.

Rev. Pawlikowski’s presentation will focus on GAUDIUM ET SPES, the II Vatican Council’s declaration on the Church and the modern world, and how it significantly expanded

Catholicism's notion of what it means to be a church. “This document inserted the Church into present-day global society and forced it to think anew about its relations with other Christian churches, as well as people of other religious and spiritual traditions,” said Rev. Pawlikowski. “It required the Church to rethink its stance on religious freedom and other human rights issues.” Rev. Pawlikowski will address the significance of this expanded ecclesial perspective.

For further information, contact Reverend Joseph Cheah, OSM, Ph.D., at jcheah@usj.edu or 860.231.5349.

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master’s and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 25 majors and seven pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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