



Dean Gorman to Become Research Professor

June 29, 2011 — Fr. Thomas R. Hurst, President Rector of St. Mary's Seminary & University, has announced that after more than 18 years in the Dean's office of the Ecumenical Institute of Theology, Dr. Michael Gorman will step down at the end of the 2011–2012 academic year, **June 30, 2012**. Dr. Gorman, who is also a full professor of Scripture at St. Mary's, will assume the newly created position of Distinguished Research Professor of Sacred Scripture on July 1, 2012.

In making the announcement, Fr. Hurst expressed his gratitude to Dr. Gorman for his many years of leadership in the E.I. "Dr. Gorman has steadily guided the E.I. to the place of academic, spiritual, and ministerial strength that it is today. We are all thankful for his commitment and hard work during the last two decades."



Dr. Gorman joined the E.I. faculty in 1991, becoming Associate Dean in 1993, Acting Dean in 1994, and Dean in 1995. During his tenure as Dean, he has established two new academic programs, the M.A. in Church Ministries and the Certificate of Advanced Studies. Dr. Gorman has significantly increased the E.I.'s endowment, been a leader in bringing world-class scholars to campus for lectures and seminars, and, most importantly, raised the profile of St. Mary's and the Ecumenical Institute of Theology in the greater theological world.

In addition to his work as Dean, Dr. Gorman is known for his teaching excellence and his scholarship. "Many of our students, alums, and friends may not know that Dr. Gorman is a leading interpreter of the New Testament, especially the writings of the apostle Paul," said Fr. Hurst.

During his time as Dean, Dr. Gorman has found time to write seven books (including four on Paul) and edit another, while also publishing some 30 articles and an equal number of book reviews. He has also given hundreds of talks at scores of churches, as well as public lectures at various universities and seminaries (including Duke and Princeton), and delivered academic papers at national and international scholarly conferences. Dr. Gorman is also on the editorial board of two journals of biblical interpretation and on the steering committee of two scholarly groups devoted to the theological interpretation of Scripture.

"St. Mary's has been a wonderful place for me to develop and share my gifts and passions," said the outgoing Dean. "I remain very grateful for this historic institution. I am especially grateful to Fr. Hurst for creating this exciting new opportunity."

In his new position, Dr. Gorman will continue to teach in both the seminary and the E.I., and he will have more time for his scholarly activities. “I love to teach,” said Dr. Gorman, who has offered more than 40 different courses during his 20 years at St. Mary’s, often teaching three or even four courses per term in St. Mary’s two divisions. In 2009, during one of his two sabbaticals while Dean, Dr. Gorman was Visiting Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School. In 2005 he received the Fortress Press award for excellence and innovation in theological teaching.

“Mike’s exemplary giftedness in teaching has been experienced by current students and alums, both near and far—including me,” said E.I. alum Dr. Pat Fosarelli, the E.I.’s Associate Dean and Director of the M.A. in Church Ministries. “He has a unique ability to encourage collaboration by individuals from disparate groups in the classroom, on the faculty, and on the E.I. Board.”

“For nearly two decades, Dr. Gorman has been the face of the E.I., not only in the Baltimore area but also nationally,” Dr. Fosarelli added. “Even as we look forward to a new Dean, we are delighted that Mike will be staying at St. Mary’s in his new position.”

A search committee for the new Dean is being formed, and a national search will be launched in the very near future.

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