



Michael J. Gorman Appointed to St. Mary's Raymond E. Brown Chair



October 11, 2011 — St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, Maryland is pleased to announce its appointment of Dr. Michael J. Gorman to the Raymond E. Brown Chair in Biblical Studies and Theology. Dr. Gorman, who has taught at St. Mary's for 20 years, is the first scholar named to the new chair, established in honor of the late Raymond E. Brown, S.S., an internationally renowned Sulpician biblical scholar who died in 1998. The appointment is effective July 1, 2012.

Raymond E. Brown, S.S. was widely regarded as the premier Roman Catholic biblical scholar in the United States. A Sulpician priest and alumnus, and a former faculty member of St. Mary's Seminary, Fr. Brown was the author of more than 25 books on the Bible and hundreds of scholarly articles. He was internationally recognized for his two-volume commentary on the Gospel of John. For over twenty years, Fr. Brown was the Auburn Distinguished Professor of Biblical Studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York. He served twice, by papal appointment, as the first American member of the prestigious Pontifical Biblical Commission.

From 2002 to 2005 the Luce Foundation funded a professorship and conference in honor of Fr. Brown. New Testament scholar Rev. John R. Donahue, S.J. was named to the professorship in 2002 and organized an international conference on the Gospel of John in 2003 in honor of Fr. Brown. As the Raymond Brown Professor Emeritus, Fr. Donahue continues to publish and lecture prolifically.

As a formal and permanent commitment to Raymond Brown's work, the United States Province of the Society of St. Sulpice endowed this new chair to recognize Fr. Brown's outstanding contributions to New Testament studies, to seminary formation, and to ecumenism and interfaith relations. With this chair St. Mary's Seminary & University now has six endowed chairs generously funded by benefactors in core disciplines. The other chairs include the France-Merrick University Chair, the Richard and Barbara Fisher Chair, the Henry and Marion I. Knott Chair, the Bunting Family Chair, and the Robert F. Leavitt Distinguished Service Chair.

Dr. Gorman received his M.Div. and his Ph.D. in New Testament from Princeton Theological Seminary. He joined the faculty of St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute of Theology in 1991 and the Seminary faculty in 1993, when he was also appointed Associate Dean of the Ecumenical Institute. He became the Ecumenical Institute's 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

Ecumenical Institute'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. Earlier this year it was announced that his tenure as Dean would end on June 30, 2012, when he would become a distinguished research professor.

A leading interpreter of the New Testament, during his time as Dean Dr. Gorman has written seven books (including four on Paul) and edited another, while also publishing dozens of articles and book reviews. Several of his books are standard texts in the field, and three have been translated into Korean. Dr. Gorman is a renowned speaker, having given hundreds of talks at churches of all denominations, 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.

“Dr. Michael Gorman has steadily made his way into the front rank of North American New Testament scholars,” said the Right Reverend Professor N. T. Wright, Research Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of St Andrews in Scotland and the Ecumenical Institute's 40th-anniversary lecturer in 2008. “His work, always thoughtful, patient, creative and wise, has changed forever the way we think about some key issues. He is, in addition, a living embodiment of the new commitment we see in many Christian traditions to hearing God afresh in Scripture—and to doing so together, across older ecumenical divisions. I congratulate St Mary's on this splendid appointment.”

Commenting on the appointment, Very Rev. Thomas R. Ulshafer, S.S., Provincial Superior of the U.S. Province of the Society of St. Sulpice, said, “During his many years at St. Mary's—and in addition to serving as an effective dean of the Ecumenical Institute—Dr. Gorman has been an outstanding scholar and teacher.”

Dr. Gorman's scholarly work in New Testament studies, his outstanding teaching, and his dedication to ecumenical and interfaith activities make him eminently qualified to hold this chair in honor of Raymond E. Brown.

Professor Gorman may be reached at mgorman@stmarys.edu.

For further information, contact Betty Visconage.
bvisconage@stmarys.edu / 410-862-4261