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October 27, 2012

Professor Tina Beattie  
Department of Humanities  
Digby Stuart College  
Roehampton University  
Roehampton Lane  
London SW15 5PH

Dear Dr. Beattie,

It has come to my attention that an invitation was extended to you to be a Frances G. Harpst Center of Catholic Thought and Culture Visiting Fellow at the University of San Diego and, in that capacity and as a Catholic theologian, to deliver public lectures.

The Center's primary mission, consistent with the intentions of those who have financially supported the Center, is to provide opportunities to engage the Catholic intellectual tradition in its diverse embodiments: doctrinal, spiritual, moral, literary, artistic and social. This would include clear and consistent presentations concerning the Church's moral teachings, teachings with which you, as a Catholic theologian, dissent publicly. In light of the contradiction between the mission of the Center and your own public stances as a Catholic theologian, I regretfully rescind the invitation that had been extended to you. I hope that you understand the difficulties associated with this decision, one to which I arrived with great and thoughtful consideration.

We are prepared to reimburse you for any travel-related expenses you may have incurred to date to prepare for your visit to the University and hope to mitigate any inconvenience this decision may have created for you.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Lyons, Ph.D.  
President