

## Frances G. Harpst Center for Catholic Thought and Culture



In essence, the CCTC's mission is concerned with helping USD and its neighbors to explore, understand and celebrate everything it means to participate in a university community that calls itself Catholic in the twenty-first century.

### [Statement on the Tina Beattie Case](#)

This semester we were very much looking forward to hosting, as CCTC Visiting Fellow, Professor Tina Beattie, an internationally respected theologian and Catholic who is tirelessly dedicated to the Church. In October, a campaign against Prof. Beattie was launched which, as Professor Beattie has strongly argued in public, grossly distorted her writings and misrepresented her academic views and opinions, taking small parts of her writings entirely out of context. Many will now be aware that Prof. Beattie was contacted by USD President Mary Lyons on Oct 27 and told that the invitation to USD had been rescinded.

A number of people have contacted the CCTC to protest this decision. In order to avoid misunderstanding, it is necessary to point out further facts already in the public domain, namely that Gerard Mannion, CCTC Director, and Professor of Systematic and Moral Theology, was not consulted at any stage about such a decision nor informed in advance. It is on record that he strongly disagreed with the decision. Speaking personally, as a university professor, he wishes to reiterate here his commitment to academic freedom and to freedom of speech and intellectual enquiry in the church.

The CCTC is planning an event featuring an expert panel on '**Academic Freedom in the Catholic University**' and details will be announced very soon.

### **The Role of the Center**

In its mission to enable and foster the engagement between USD's Catholic identity and its academic mission, the Center for Catholic Thought and Culture seeks to:

- *Develop* thought-provoking programs that will engage the university and local community in critical dialogue with the Catholic intellectual and cultural traditions
- *Promote* Catholic Social Teaching and its integration into the academic and institutional life of the university community
- *Organize* conferences, liturgical and cultural events and exhibits that showcase the Catholic Church's rich heritage and its contributions to the arts, letters and sciences and to all which ennoble humans to pursue what is right and just

- *Provide* faculty with opportunities and support for development and to create quality courses that expose students to the Catholic intellectual and cultural traditions
- *Showcase and Facilitate* the many exciting and important areas of USD life that embody the foundational ethos, vision and ongoing mission of the University through collaborative and bridge-building ventures across campus and beyond
- *Contribute* to key discussions pertaining to the Christian cultural, ecclesial, intellectual and social life at local, national and international level through research initiatives, projects and the ongoing core activities of the Center

From its inception, the Church has been a community of faith and service. Historically, Catholicism has also always been a community of inquiry, learning and reasoned discourse. The catholicity of the University of San Diego is aptly captured in the gospel-inspired principle 'all are welcome'. Though the focus of CCTC's programs and cultural events is Catholic, people of all faith traditions and people of none, are most welcome to attend CCTC sponsored events and benefit from the exchange of ideas.

Thank you for taking a moment to visit our Web site.

From the **News Center**



[Celtic Christianity in the Land of Saints and Scholars](#)

09.25.12

[Portman Lecture: 'Greening' of Catholicism](#)

09.21.12

**Events**



NOV

12

[Women's Creative Ventures into Dialogue and Peace-Making](#)

DEC

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[Lessons and Carols: A Festival of Word and Song to Prepare for Christmas](#)