

Lonergan Research Institute Bulletin Summer 2018

Transitions

The Lonergan Research Institute has been undergoing a number of significant transitions as of late. The most obvious is the hire of a new Executive Director, and speaking as that director I am excited, honoured, and frankly humbled to be joining this storied institution. The transition to a new director accounts in large part for the delay in getting the Lonergan Studies Newsletter to subscribers, for which I apologize.

We also have two new Graduate Research Assistants joining us: Erica Lee and Fiona Li. They join the existing team of Robyn Boéré and Matthew Thollander. I cannot say enough good about this team. They are simply amazing. Brian Bajzek and Justin Schwartz have moved on to bigger and better things, after several years of service as Graduate Research Assistants: Brian, as assistant professor at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, NY, and Justin as senior pastor at First Christian Church in Louisburg, KS. We wish them both the best, and extend our gratitude for their many contributions to the LRI.

A less obvious transition is that the Collected Works Project is nearing completion. Volume nine should be out in the next few weeks, and the final volume (twenty-five) should be out in 2019. As the Collected Works Project wraps up, we are now presented with an occasion to consider the future directions not just of the Lonergan Research Institute but of Lonergan studies overall.

New Directions

The Lonergan Research Institute was founded to preserve, promote, develop, and implement the thought of Fr. Bernard Lonergan. The Collected Works Project fell predominantly within the realms of preservation and promotion. As this project wraps up, I foresee the LRI redirecting much of its energy towards development and implementation. We aim in part to work upon building significant bridges with disciplines that have not historically engaged much with Lonergan's thought. My own work at the intersection of biblical and Lonergan studies has given me a sense of how we might begin to go about building such bridges, and I am excited to do so.

Remembering the Foundations

As we move in new directions, we must always remember the foundations upon which we build. None of what we do would be possible without the scholarship of Fr. Lonergan, or the institution-building work of such persons as Fredrick Crowe, Robert Doran, Gordon Rixon, Michael Shields, and Michael Vertin. Michael Vertin honoured us this October 19 by delivering the Annual Lonergan Lecture, and Fr. Shields recently provided me with a succinct written history of the Lonergan Research Institute. As we move forward my aim is to expand upon this written history, in order to furnish future stewards of the Lonergan Research Institute with the benefit of this knowledge.

Thank you all for your continued support of our work.

Jonathan Bernier
Executive Director