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**Catholic Theological Union Wins Grant to Engage Science in Curriculum and Culture**

July 19, 2019 CHICAGO – This fall, as one of nine seminaries granted funding by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to begin integrating science into their core curricula, Catholic Theological Union (CTU) will present a program of nine courses and multiple campus events exploring the theme “Science and Saving Stories That Shape Us: Engaging Science and Religion in Our Curriculum and Culture.”

The innovative program is organized by the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion Program in partnership with the Association of Theological Schools, and funded by the John Templeton Foundation. CTU Vice President and Academic Dean Richard Benson, CM says, "This project is an outstanding opportunity for the CTU community to deepen the cordial relationship between science and Catholic theology that is so essential to an authentic understanding of the reality of God in the universe."

Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF, Professor and holder of The Erica and Harry John Family Endowed Chair in Catholic Theological Ethics and Dr. Anne McGowan, Assistant Professor of Liturgy, are leading the project. It will kick off for the entire CTU faculty at the beginning of the school year with Fall Faculty Study Days, and include a workshop with science and theology experts in pedagogy. Invited experts will provide lectures, discussion exercises, hands-on syllabi preparation, and field trip excursions.

In the spring, Nothwehr and McGowan will lead a day-long public event with an internationally renowned Keynote Lecturer, activities or lectures by science and theology colleagues from Chicago area Catholic colleges, educators from the Chicago science-oriented museums, and presentations on the implications of scientific topics for mission and ministry in the “real world,” where science and religion frequently overlap.

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**About Catholic Theological Union:** Catholic Theological Union is a Roman Catholic graduate school of theology and ministry located in the Hyde Park university neighborhood and affiliated

with the University of Chicago and DePaul University. Its mission is to prepare effective leaders for the Church, ready to witness to Christ's good news of justice, love, and peace. CTU's over 4,500 vowed religious women and men and lay graduates are serving in 60 countries worldwide.

CTU was founded in 1967, in the immediate wake of the Second Vatican Council, a time of dramatic renewal in the Catholic Church. Fifty years later, CTU has grown to be a premier school of theology, sponsored by twenty-four religious communities, and enjoying a global reputation for academic and pastoral excellence.

**About AAAS DoSER:** The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the Science family of journals. AAAS was founded in 1848 and includes 261 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving millions of individuals. Science has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world, with an estimated total readership of 1 million. The nonprofit AAAS is open to all and fulfills its mission to "advance science and serve society" through initiatives in science policy, international programs, science education, public engagement, and more. Building upon its mission, AAAS established the Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program in 1995 to facilitate communication between scientific and religious communities. For the latest information and news about AAAS DoSER and the Science for Seminaries Project, visit [AAAS.org/DoSER](http://AAAS.org/DoSER) and [ScienceforSeminaries.org](http://ScienceforSeminaries.org).