

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Madison Chastain, communications@ctu.edu, 773.371.5416

Catholic Theological Union Appoints Ferdinand Okorie, CMF as Vice President and Academic Dean

May 17, 2022 – Chicago. Catholic Theological Union has named Rev. Ferdinand Okorie, CMF as the new Vice President and Academic Dean. A member of CTU’s Bible faculty, Okorie is a New Testament scholar and leads CTU’s Biblical Lands Study and Travel Programs. In addition to his CTU faculty appointment, Okorie has served as editor-in-chief of **US Catholic** since July 2020.

Okorie brings to this role his proven ability as a scholar, administrative experience, skills in relationship-building, and a passion for forming effective ministers who are missionary disciples. His appointment is effective July 1, 2022.

Okorie belongs to the Claretian Missionaries, a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to seeing the world through the eyes of the poor and to improving the world from these same communities.

Okorie received both his MDiv and an MA in Theology from CTU and his PhD in New Testament and Early Christianity from Loyola University Chicago. His research interests include the Greco-Roman context of Early Christianity, the relationship between Paul’s letters and the Pastorals, the formation of Christian identity and the intersection between religion and culture.

CTU President Sr. Barbara Reid, OP said, “I believe Ferdinand is the perfect choice for CTU at this pivotal point in the life of Church and CTU’s role in developing missionary disciples. We believe that Ferdinand’s voice will help CTU be even more responsive to the needs of the Church, including attracting a new generation of students and people from underrepresented populations.”

“Ferdinand’s promotion from within the ranks of CTU’s faculty is also an important step in honoring CTU’s commitment to the diversity, equity, and inclusion, reflective in our leadership,” said Reid.

Okorie replaces Roger Schroeder, SVD who has served as the interim Academic Dean for nearly 18 months and will be returning to the faculty in his previous role as the Louis J. Luzbetak, SVD, Professor of Mission and Culture.

About Catholic Theological Union

Catholic Theological Union is a Roman Catholic graduate school of theology and ministry located in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago. CTU shares alliances with De Paul University, Dominican University and the University of Chicago. Its mission is to prepare effective leaders for the Church, ready to witness to Christ's good news of justice, love, and peace. More than 4,500 CTU alumni, vowed religious and lay women and men, have gone on to minister in 60 countries worldwide.

CTU was founded in 1968, following the Second Vatican Council, during a time of dramatic renewal in the Catholic Church. Fifty years later, CTU has evolved into a premier school of theology and ministry, sponsored by twenty-four men's religious communities and enjoys a global reputation for academic and pastoral excellence.

[Catholic Theological Union](#)

###