

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Catholic Theological Union Brings On Three New Directors

July 5, 2022 – Chicago. Beginning in July, Catholic Theological Union is welcoming three new directors to its staff and faculty: Dr. Kevin Considine, Director of the Robert J. Schreiter Institute for Precious Blood Spirituality; Dr. Karen Ross, Director of *Pathways*; and Sr. Chioma Ahanihu, Director of the Center for the Study of Consecrated Life.

In February, CTU announced a partnership with the newly established Precious Blood Spirituality Institute (PBSI) to form the Robert J. Schreiter, CPPS Institute for Precious Blood Spirituality, in honor of the late Fr. Robert Schreiter, CPPS. The Institute will offer courses, workshops and support academic research in Precious Blood spirituality.

Bill Nordenbrock, CPPS, speaking on behalf of the PBSI, shared his excitement about the creation of the Robert J. Schreiter Precious Blood Institute at CTU and the naming of Kevin Considine as its inaugural director. "With the selection of Dr. Kevin Considine, PhD as the initial director of the Schreiter Institute, we are confident that we have found the person to lead the Schreiter Institute, said Nordenbrock. "Dr. Considine not only has a solid grasp of the work of Robert Schreiter, he also has the necessary academic expertise to further the development of the theology and praxis of reconciliation, as an important element of our Precious Blood Spirituality."

Considine holds a PhD in Theology from Loyola University Chicago along with an MA in Theology from Catholic Theological Union, where he was a Bernardin Scholar. He earned both degrees under the mentorship of Robert J. Schreiter, CPPS. He also holds a Catholic *mandatum* conferred by Bishop Dale Melczek of the Diocese of Gary. With an extensive teaching record, Considine taught his first course at CTU in 2021, and will return as adjunct professor of Spirituality in addition to his role as Director. "It is an honor and a privilege to be the inaugural Director of the Schreiter Institute," says Considine, "I knew Fr. Schreiter for more than 15 years, was mentored by him, and look forward to the challenge of integrating the Precious Blood's spirituality of reconciliation and peacemaking into the curriculum and life-blood of CTU."

In late 2021, CTU received a grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. with the central mandate to increase the number of young adult ministers inspired to serve as leaders in the Catholic Church. The grant was awarded through the Lilly Endowment's *Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative*, designed to help theological schools as they prioritize and respond to the most pressing challenges they face as they prepare pastoral leaders for Christian congregations both now and into the future. CTU has appointed Dr. Karen Ross as the inaugural program director for the grant project, *A Pathway for Tomorrow: Co-Creating the Church of Tomorrow*.

Dr. Ross comes to CTU with a PhD in Integrated Studies in Ethics and Theology with a concentration in Catholic Social Ethics from Loyola University, Chicago. She has experience in teaching and administration at the graduate level as well as in grant management. From her time living in an intentional community as an undergraduate student to the numerous connections she has made in the Chicago area, particularly with communities of color, Dr. Ross has the experience and connections necessary to design a successful and inclusive *Pathways* program.

Reflecting on the potential for the *Pathways* program and her leadership, Ross says, "I am so excited to join such a warm and vibrant community like CTU in order to help shepherd in this important grant work. My professional interests and personal passions have always centered on standing with those on the margins of society and our church in order to practice a faith that does justice, and I look forward to working with faculty, staff, students, and community partners to 'co-create the Church of tomorrow!'"

Sister Chioma Ahanihu, a Sister of the Living Word, will succeed Sr. Maria Cimperman, RSCJ as Director of the Center for the Study of Consecrated Life (CSCL). As Director, she will oversee the launch of a new three-year project in collaboration with the National Black Sisters Conference, *Moving Along the Arc: Women Religious as Agents of Reconciliation and Transformative Action toward a More Racially Just Church and World*, a symposium for religious congregations made possible by the generous support of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

Sister Chioma brings to CTU a wealth of experiences that span continents and disciplines. Most recently, Sr. Chioma served in social work ministry through Catholic Charities of Chicago, providing pastoral counseling to clients in need. Her engagement in religious life runs deep through her experiences as Vocation Director for her congregation the Sisters of the Living Word and as a Core Team Leadership Member of Giving Voice, a peer-led organization that creates spaces for younger women religious. Sister Chioma received her undergraduate degree from Misericordia University, a Master's in Social Work from The Catholic University of America, and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies from Catholic Theological Union. She plans to complete her Doctor of Ministry with a concentration in Spirituality at CTU in 2024.

All three appointments provide pivotal affirmation of the direction CTU is heading in its diverse commitments to justice.

### **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.