



SISTER BARBARA REID, OP

President, Carroll Stuhlmueller, CP, Distinguished Professor of New Testament Studies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Catholic Theological Union President Sister Barbara Reid, OP, Announces Transition of Leadership

Chicago, IL – The Board of Trustees of Catholic Theological Union (CTU) convened on October 28, 2024, during which Sister Barbara Reid, OP, shared her decision to conclude her term as President on June 30, 2025. This announcement comes after much prayer and discernment.

President Reid, who assumed the presidency in January 2021, reflected on her initial reservations due to her background as a Biblical scholar and her status as a religious Sister beyond retirement age. Despite these concerns, her passion for CTU and its mission to prepare ministers to spread Christ's message of justice, love, and peace fueled her commitment.

"Just look at some of what we were able to accomplish together," President Reid remarked, highlighting key achievements during her tenure:

- Completion of the sale of 5401 South Cornell and retirement of all institutional debt, setting a clear path to a balanced budget with surplus revenue.

- Welcoming long-time collaborators Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and McCormick Theological Seminary to share CTU's campus, thus enhancing CTU's ecumenical commitments.

- Investments in technology for distance learning, ensuring the safety of students and faculty during the pandemic, and expanding reach to students globally.

- Increased outreach to Muslim students and revived tri-faith dialogue programs, alongside the establishment of the Schreiter Institute focused on peacebuilding and reconciliation.

- Launching the expanded Oscar Romero Scholars Program, which provides opportunities for Spanish-speaking students to earn a Master of Arts in Ministry degree.

President Reid noted that she is not retiring but will shift her focus back to her faculty role, engaging in teaching, research, and writing. She expressed her willingness to support the new President in any capacity needed. The search for her successor will begin immediately, with plans for the new President to take office on July 1, 2025.

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Tom Brown, Chair of the Board of Trustees, observed: "In 2020, when we appointed Sr. Barbara Reid as our new president, we knew it was a truly historic and exciting moment for CTU. Sr. Barbara is the first woman to serve as our president, and the first president who is not a priest. Little did we fully appreciate at the time that the world was experiencing another historic moment as the pandemic rapidly became an international crisis, with daunting consequences for every academic institution. Sr. Barbara, an internationally esteemed scholar, succeeded brilliantly in meeting all ensuing challenges. We are deeply indebted to Sr. Barbara for her very capable stewardship of our beloved institution during her administration."

President Reid extended her gratitude to the CTU community for their support and collaboration throughout her presidency. "It has been my honor to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with each of you," she stated.

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About Catholic Theological Union

Catholic Theological Union (CTU) is one of the largest Catholic graduate schools of theology and ministry in the United States, committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment for students preparing for ministry and service in the Church.