

***Ex Corde Ecclesiae* and Its Application to Benedictine University**

Summary of Work at Benedictine University

Ex Corde Ecclesiae

- There is much history of how *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* came about, how the United States universities led, assisted and resisted, etc. Ultimately,
- the Vatican promulgated *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* as an Apostolic Constitution on August 15, 1990.
- One of the General Norms in *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* (Part II, Article 1, Section 2) is that the national conferences define how these Norms are to apply to colleges and universities in their purview.
- There is much history of the (somewhat public) negotiation between the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Vatican on the application of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* to the United States. Simultaneously, the USCCB was discussing these topics with Presidents of United States Catholic colleges and universities, including President Carroll. Ultimately,
- the USCCB Bishops published “*Ex Corde Ecclesiae* The Application to the United States” on June 3, 2003.

History of this work at Benedictine University:

- Many faculty have attended and participated in “Collegium, A Colloquy on Faith and Intellectual Life” summer institutes (Lisa Townsley-Kulich in 1993, John Kloos in 1994, Don Taylor in 1995, Ted Jelen in 1996, Pat Flynn in 1997, Elizabeth Kubek and Stuart Noble-Goodman in 1998, Kevin O’Connor and Peter Sorensen in 1999, John Stachniak and Alicia Cordoba Tait in 2000).
- In Summer 1995, Tom Byrnes, Barbara Grabowski, Laurel Jeris, Phyllis Kittle, Ralph Meeker, Peter Sorensen, and Fr. David Turner attended and participated in a week-long Midwest Collegium workshop at Lake Lawn Lodge in Delevan, WI on the Catholic intellectual tradition, the meaning of a Catholic University, the differences in Jesuit, Benedictine and other traditions. Fr. David Turner was one of the organizers, and gave the presentations on lectio divina (meditative praying of the Scriptures) and the opus Dei (the Divine Office).
- In Spring 2001, Fr. Philip Timko organized a faculty seminar on “The Catholic Intellectual Tradition”, reading Cernera and Morgan’s *Examining the Catholic Intellectual Tradition*. The participants were John Cicero, Mary Daly-Lewis, Pat Flynn, Joseph Herbst, Jim Ludema, Al Martin, Ralph Meeker, John Mickus, Sue Mikula, John Stachniak, Alicia Tait, Monica Tischler, Martin Tracey and Fr. David Turner.
- In Spring 2002, Fr. Philip Timko organized another faculty seminar on “The Catholic University and the Catholic Church”, reading *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* and commentaries on it. This work followed from the previous year’s faculty seminar, and built upon the learning from it. The participants were Kevin Doyle, Julie Dugger, Pat Flynn, Jim Ludema, Ralph Meeker, John Mickus, Sue Mikula, Ethel Raglund, Dave Sonnenberger, Monica Tischler, and Martin Tracey.
- In the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 academic years, various sometimes cooperating campus groups and a brand-management company worked on the University’s vision, which ultimately included the phrase “Catholic University in the Benedictine Tradition”.

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- In the 2002-2003 academic year, Fr. Philip Timko and Alicia Tait chaired Focus Group 1, a subgroup of the Benedictine University Vision Taskforce, in investigating how to enhance the reality behind the statement that Benedictine University is a “Catholic University in the Benedictine Tradition”. This work followed from the previous years’ faculty seminars, and built upon the learning from them. Focus Group 1 produced a statement on the Catholic character of the University which was approved by the Board of Trustees and is now included in the University catalogs. The participants were Keara Conness, Kevin Doyle, Ralph Meeker, Jon Miller, Sue Mikula, Laura Sramek, Monica Tischler, Bernie Toussaint, Martin Tracey, and Fr. David Turner.
- In the 2003-2004 academic year, Kevin Doyle organized and led a team in assessing Benedictine University vis-à-vis the expectations of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, and preparing recommended action areas. This work followed from the previous years’ faculty seminars and Focus Group 1’s work, and built upon the learning from them. The participants were Abbot Hugh Anderson, Ralph Meeker, Martin Tracey, and Fr. David Turner.
- In the 2003-2004 academic year Bill Carroll shared this assessment with Bishop Imesch and Cardinal George.
- In the 2003-2004 academic year, Bill Carroll shared the recommended actions with Bishop Imesch and Cardinal George (is this true?).
- In the 2003-2004 academic year, Fr. Philip Timko and Alicia Tait chaired Focus Group 1, a subgroup of the Benedictine University Vision Taskforce, in investigating how to enhance the reality behind the statement that Benedictine University is a “Catholic University in the Benedictine Tradition”. This work followed from the previous years’ faculty seminars, and built upon the learning from them. Participants were Keara Conness, Kevin Doyle, Ralph Meeker, Sue Mikula, Jon Miller, Laura Sramek, Monica Tischler, Bernie Toussaint, Martin Tracey, and Fr. David Turner. This group was transformed (essentially by fiat) to an AQIP group. This group formally endorsed the recommendations of the “*Ex Corde Ecclesiae* and Its Application to Benedictine University” group.
- In the 2004-2005 academic year, Kevin Doyle and Alicia Tait are chairing Focus Group 1. The participants are Keara Conness, Joan Hopkins, Isobel Lobo, Ralph Meeker, Sue Mikula, Jon Miller, Laura Sramek, Fr. Philip Timko, Monica Tischler, Bernie Toussaint, Martin Tracey, and Fr. David Turner.
- In the 2004-2005 academic year, the “*Ex Corde Ecclesiae* and Its Application to Benedictine University” group is working with Bill Carroll, Charlie Gregory and Dan Julius to assist them in implementing the recommendations from the group.

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References:

- [1] Anthony J. Cernera and Oliver J. Morgan, *Examining the Catholic Intellectual Tradition*, Vol. 1, Sacred Heart University Press, Fairfield (2000), ISBN 1-888-11204-2. \$24.95.
- [2] John Paul II, *On Catholic Universities (Ex Corde Ecclesiae)*, United States Catholic Conference, Washington (2000), ISBN 1-55586-399-X. \$3.95
- [3] *The Application of Ex Corde Ecclesiae for the United States*, United States Catholic Conference, Washington (2000?), ISBN 1-57455-391-7. \$3.95
- [4] Alice Gallin, *Negotiating Identity, Catholic Higher Education since 1960*, University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame (2001), ISBN 0-268-01491-4. \$21.00
- [5] Mark W. Roche, *The Intellectual Appeal of Catholicism and the Idea of a Catholic University*, University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame (2003), ISBN 0-268-01196-6. \$7.95.
- [6] Anthony J. Cernera and Oliver J. Morgan, *Examining the Catholic Intellectual Tradition*, Vol. 2: *Issues and Perspectives*, Sacred Heart University Press, Fairfield (2004?), ISBN 1-888-?????-?. \$24.95.