

**APPENDIX V:  
TRIBUTES AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE  
FOR RECENTLY DECEASED CTSA MEMBERS**

**Anne Clifford, C.S.J. (d. October 2, 2024)**

*Tribute written and read by Mary Doak*

It is an honor to provide this (all too short) tribute for Anne M. Clifford, CSJ. Anne was fully committed to our task of “faith seeking understanding,” and was a beloved friend and mentor to many of us in the academy.

A Sister of St. Joseph, Anne earned her Ph.D. in theology at The Catholic University of America. Her passionate commitment to teaching took her from parochial schools to higher education: Anne spent many years as a professor at Duquesne University before holding the Supple Chair in Catholic Studies at Iowa State University. A significant scholar in feminist theology, theology of creation, and in religion and science, Anne’s important book, *Introducing Feminist Theology*, is a classic text widely used in teaching and scholarship. Anne was a tireless advocate, a committed teacher, an encouraging mentor, a supportive colleague, a warm friend, and a loving and faithful member of her religious congregation.

**Gregory K. Hillis (d. October 8, 2024)**

*Tribute written and read by Joseph Flipper*

Gregory Hillis was my longtime colleague at Bellarmine University in Louisville. He was a Canadian by birth, a patristics scholar by training, and a follower of Thomas Merton. Louisville placed him in proximity to Merton’s monastery, the Abbey of Gethsemane. In 2021 he published *Man of Dialogue: Thomas Merton’s Catholic Vision*. The title, in my mind, captures who Greg was.

He was introverted, yet he could share his soul. He maintained extensive and lasting friendships with people across religious and ideological divides. He was a contemplative, but he lived that out while seeking justice. He had a vision for what Catholic faith should be, and he lived it. He had a large social media following but, remarkably, he was known for humility and gentleness. People were attracted to him, not because he had a giant personality, but because something about him was inviting. He died young. But his life was full.

**Eileen C. Burke-Sullivan (d. November 30, 2024)**

*Tribute written and read by Kevin Burke, S.J.*

Dr. Eileen C. Burke-Sullivan, S.T.D., seventy-five, of Omaha, Nebraska, died on November 30, 2024. Professor emerita and former vice president of university mission and ministry at Creighton University, Eileen was a gifted theologian, liturgist, teacher, writer, spiritual director, pastoral minister, and musician.

An expert in Ignatian spirituality and in directing the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, Eileen completed a doctorate in ecclesiology at Weston Jesuit School of Theology with a dissertation on Yves Congar. She authored and edited numerous works, including *The Ignatian Tradition* and *The Church in the Modern World* and, at the time of her death, she had just completed her work as general editor of *The Jesuit Spirituality Reader*. We in the CTSA miss her as a colleague and friend. My siblings and I miss her as a beloved sister.

**M. Kathleen Flanagan, S.C. (d. January 6, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by Paul Lakeland*

Kathleen Flanagan, S.C., was a gifted teacher of theology, Church history and spirituality at Saint Elizabeth's University, New Jersey, where she taught for thirty years, and in Florida at Barry University and St. Vincent de Paul Seminary. Her passion for theology kindled a similar fire in generations of students, lay ministers, seminarians and permanent deacon candidates.

Kathy was a sought-after presenter on the life and spirituality of Saint Elizabeth Seton, and more recently, on Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich—like Kathy, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. To the group of scholars who transcribed, annotated and published four volumes of Saint Elizabeth Seton's writings, she contributed wisdom and wit. Her commitment to justice and interfaith relations lives on at The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education, founded by Kathy and a colleague at Saint Elizabeth's.

**Agnes Cunningham, S.S.C.M. (d. January 22, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by Mary Catherine Hilkert, O.P.*

Sister Agnes Cunningham was born in Yorkshire, England in 1923 and migrated with her family to the United States before she was three years old. At age seventeen, she entered the Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. After studies in music and English literature, she became the first woman to receive a doctorate in sacred theology from the University of Lyons and later pursued post-doctoral studies on patristics with Johannes Quaesten. Agnes published widely on spirituality and the early church and taught early church history for many years at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake and Mundelein Seminary.

A true pioneer in our Society, Agnes was the first woman to serve on a CTSA committee, to be elected to the board of directors, to serve as secretary, and to be elected as vice-president and president (1977-78). In 2001, she was awarded the John Courtney Murray Award for her distinguished life of service and achievement.

**Keith J. Egan (d. January 29, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by Daniel P. Horan*

Keith J. Egan was born in Pittsburgh in 1930. At the age of fourteen he entered the Carmelite minor seminary. He earned a master's degree in medieval studies from The Catholic University of America and a doctorate at the University of Cambridge in 1965. He joined the faculty at Marquette University, where he taught historical theology until 1983. At that time, he moved to Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana, where he served as department chair and founded the Center for the Study of Spirituality in

1984. His vision led to the establishment of the renowned annual Madeleva Lecture and the summer Carmelite Forum.

While Keith is best known internationally for his scholarly work on the Carmelite tradition, especially the spiritual writings of John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila, he is also remembered as a gifted teacher, dedicated mentor, beloved spouse and father, and tireless advocate for women in theology and the church.

**James A. Coriden (d. February 7, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by Susan K. Wood, S.C.L.*

James A. Coridan was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Gary, Indiana, in 1957. After receiving an S.T.L. (1958) and the J.C.D. (1961) from the Gregorian University, he served his diocese from 1961-1968. He obtained a J.D. degree from The Catholic University of America in 1972. Academic dean and professor of canon law at the Washington Theological Union from 1975-1995, he continued teaching there until it closed in 2013. He received the “Role of Law Award” in 1987 from the Canon Law Society of America and the John Courtney Murray Award from the CTSA in 2011. He authored three books and was co-editor of the *New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law* (1995-2000).

He saw his role as a canonist to be two-fold: to listen carefully to the pastoral needs of the people and to try to interpret Canon Law as a viable response to those needs. Known for his gentle and self-effacing sense of humor, he was the model of kindness to everyone he met.

**Lawrence Cunningham (d. February 20, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by J. Matthew Ashley*

“Non coereri maximo, contineri tamen a minimo, divinum est.” “To suffer no restriction from anything however great, and yet to be contained in the tiniest of things, that is divine.” I can feel Larry, an expert in Christian spirituality, frowning at me. He would remind me that he was never a Jesuit. I use this motto anyway, because it is so apt.

He took on great tasks—department chair of a faculty of 50+, authoring sweeping introductions to the study of religion, or Catholicism—but also “the tiniest of things”—helping a junior faculty turn his University of Chicago dissertation into a book that someone might like to read, writing a lovely book on the chapels of Notre Dame. He did it all with grace, generosity and wry humor.

Someone who visited him near the end of his life reported that Larry ended one visit joking, “Dying is boring!” Dear Larry. I’m sure you’re not bored now. Thank you.

**Nathan Chase (d. March 1, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by Kimberley Belcher*

Nathan Chase will be remembered professionally for his methodological innovations, integrating textual, material, and ritual approaches to liturgical history. The purpose of his historical work was always twofold: on the one hand, he sought a deeper understanding of the nature of the universal church of Christ, which is united in the spirit of love by means of its diverse and culturally embedded modes of prayer. On the other, he sought to improve the contemporary worship and practice of that church,

especially within the Roman Catholic communion he entered at age 21. He authored and edited eight books and published over twenty-seven journal articles.

Those of us who knew him will also remember his extraordinary personal generosity, which was honed to Christic self-offering by his seventeen-month paschal encounter with leukemia. On March 1, 2025, at age thirty-four, “having loved his own in the world, he loved them to the end.”

### **Ladislav Örsy, S.J. (d. April 3, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by Catherine E. Clifford*

Ladislav Örsy’s participation in this society signified his appreciation for the dependence of canon law upon good theology. He died this year at the age of 103, after a long and distinguished career. ‘Les’ entered the Society of Jesus in Hungary in 1943, studying philosophy and theology at Leuven, civil law at Oxford University, and canon law at the Gregorian in Rome. Missioned to the United States in 1966, he taught at Fordham, Catholic University of America, and finally at the Georgetown School of Law, where he conducted graduate seminars into his nineties.

Having consulted on the elaboration of the 1983 Revised Code of Canon Law, he felt passionately that church structures and practice must embody the fundamental orientations of the Second Vatican Council. He established the Peter and Paul Research Seminar where canonists and theologians continue to explore this concern. Good law, he once said, creates a space for the Spirit.

### **Mary Gerhart (d. April 22, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by William George*

Some years ago, Mary Gerhart, born in Stacyville, Iowa in 1935, and a onetime Trinitarian nun, was scheduled to speak at Dominican University. When at the last minute she could not come, I was given her notes for the talk and asked to stand in for her. Listening to tributes delivered at her funeral, a week before that of her dear friend David Tracy, and in the same church, was like receiving more notes, this time from those who knew how deeply Mary cared for others—family, friends, students at Hobart and William and Smith colleges, guests, strangers—just as she cared for her garden and for theology.

A year later, Mary *did* come to Dominican and spoke about the Law of the Cross, which is all about a love that animates communities of charity and grace—communities such as the CTSA, but for her now, also the communion of saints.

### **David W. Tracy (d. April 29, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by Susan A. Ross*

David W. Tracy, who died this spring at the age of eighty-six, was a monumental figure in Catholic theology, one of the most dominant theologians of the last fifty years, committed to conversations across almost every academic and artistic field. He was interested in *everything* and could shed new light on topics from Thomas Aquinas to the role of sacramentality in the catalog for the Met Gala.

For those like myself who knew David as a teacher and mentor, what will remain in our memories were his intellectual generosity, as he would preface his comments on Plato, Dante, or Derrida by saying, “as we all know;” his whimsical sense of humor; his love for all things New York (although he once described Chicago as “just like New

York, except without Manhattan”); and his profound capacity for friendship which extended to his nieces, nephews, colleagues, students, and caretakers. He now converses with the angels and saints.

**Wendy Wright (d. May 19, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by Rhodora Beaton*

Dr. Wendy Mae Wright was born on March 5, 1947, in Burbank, California. After some years performing as an actress and singer, she moved to Santa Barbara to attend the Religious Studies program at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She obtained her Ph.D. from UC Santa Barbara in 1983, beginning a notable career as a professor and writer of Christian spirituality.

The author of seventeen books and over sixty academic articles, she served for almost thirty years as professor of theology at Creighton University. In 2006, she facilitated a collaboration with the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas which led to the development of the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Spirituality in which she taught for many years. She will be remembered for her passion for spirituality and her profound closeness to and love of God, especially as lived out in her teaching.

**Daniel Maguire (d. May 21, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by Ryan G. Duns, S.J.*

Dan Maguire, a distinguished Catholic theologian and ethicist, passed away leaving behind a legacy of faith, scholarship, and moral courage. As a longtime professor at Marquette University, Dan dedicated his career to advancing moral theology and engaging deeply with issues of social justice, medical ethics, and ecological responsibility. His work was marked by a compassionate heart and an incorrigible willingness to challenge and expand the boundaries of the Catholic theological tradition.

A prolific scholar, Dan authored numerous books and over 200 articles, striving always to bring Catholic thought into dialogue with pressing moral issues. He served as president of both the Society of Christian Ethics and the Religious Consultation on Population, Reproductive Health, and Ethics—roles that underscored his commitment to justice, human dignity, and global well-being.

We give thanks for Dan’s life, for his fearless intellect, and for the inspiration he offered to so many. May his legacy continue to illuminate the path of faith and ethical reflection. May he rest now in the peace of Christ.

**Jill Rait (d. May 27, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by Laurie Johnston*

Let us remember Jill Raitt, who died last month at ninety-four. A scholar of the Middle Ages and Reformation with a love for Eucharistic theology, she helped shape the Lutheran–Catholic dialogue that produced the joint declaration on justification. Among the first Roman Catholics to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago Divinity School, she then was the first woman on the faculty of Duke Divinity School. She gave up her own office space there to serve as the Women’s Center. Later, she

founded the Department of Religion at the University of Missouri and taught there for more than twenty years.

In her plenary address to our society in 2003, Dr. Raitt said that she was once “a pagan cowgirl...[who] is now a Roman Catholic academic,” and wished she could deliver that address from the saddle of a horse. Her many grateful students and colleagues are blessed to have been along for the ride.

**Gary Riebe-Estrella, S.V.D. (d. June 2, 2025)**

*Tribute written and read by C. Vanessa White, O.F.S.*

“He was a great leader and scholar whose pastoral work was the foundation for his writings.” These words from one of his colleagues speaks eloquently of the contributions of Latino theological educator, theologian, professor, and mentor, Gary Riebe-Estrella, who died on June 2.

Twice past-president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States, he was a member of the Divine Word Missionaries, and one of the first graduates from the Catholic Theological Union. After receiving his S.T.D. in *teologia practica* from Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca in 1992, he returned to his *alma mater* in Chicago, assuming teaching and administrative roles. In 1996, he accepted the role of vice president and academic dean at CTU as its first Latin@ dean and the first in the nation, where he served for thirteen years. He was instrumental in creating a racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse faculty. Rest in peace and power, Gary.

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