



50 years ago, a new pope, John XXIII followed the movement of the Spirit of God and called together the Second Vatican Council several months into his papacy. He called for a new way of being 'church', reflecting his own pastoral approach and invited inclusiveness, forgiveness, unity and reconciliation. Christian joy and hope underlined his message of the call to holiness through baptism in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Second Vatican Council changed the way Catholics celebrated the liturgy. People could now worship God in their own language. Altars turned around. The presider now faced the assembly to gather the prayer of the church in full, conscious and active participation in both spoken and sung prayer in their own native language rather than worship celebrated completely in Latin. Musicians created new compositions that encouraged the assembly's participation in sung prayer. Catholics could now receive Eucharist in a fuller expression of bread and cup. Interfaith conversations sprang up in an ecumenical spirit of prayer and effort for the common good. A well informed conscience became a freeing agent for individuals, a place between each person's heart and God, where no person can control or interfere. The people of God worked collaboratively within a scriptural, theological and liturgical based church. Regard for diversity raised religious liberty to new heights as awareness of the many paths to God were acknowledged. Community, culture and customs created a new way of being as the fresh air of the Spirit of God blew a refreshing wind of change through the prophetic documents and teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

With changes come questions. In the early 1960's, a young priest responded to the need of the people in his parish to understand the liturgical changes and the theology behind the Second Vatican Council. Fr. Roger Levesque formed faith formation groups called Living Room Dialogues at St. Anne's Parish in New Bedford. Fr. Roger met with groups of adults to explain the changes, their implications and answer their many questions of the thriving parish that also included a Catholic school. Just like the early Christians, families took turns hosting Father Roger and shared many evenings of prayer, vibrant dialogue and discussion. The parish became educated about liturgical practices while deepening their faith that rippled through many generations of St. Anne's parishioners. Because of Fr. Levesque's efforts, the parish fostered vocations to the religious life, ordained ministry and lay ecclesial ministry. The seeds of faith were planted through Fr. Roger's ministry and many other priests and faithful lay people who worked to labored in the Lord's vineyard in the years following the Council. Now is the time to harvest the fruit of that labor.



**The Roncalli Center**, named for Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli and otherwise known as Blessed Pope John XXIII will begin its **Living Room Dialogues** on October 23, 2012. Together, we will revisit what the Second Vatican Council produced. We will look at how we pray, how we worship, preside, sing, preach and invite new dialogue that informs our Christian faith in this time and place. As the members of the Council cried 'Adsumus' (We are present!) at the beginning of each session, The Roncalli Center invites you to be present to this new endeavor by joining your voice to the dialogue in the faith tradition of the early Christian church. This is a time of a new advent of enthusiasm, interest and involvement and the Spirit makes itself known, alive and active in a new zeal of energy to revitalize the people of God and set the world ablaze with God's love. This is our church, our faith, our witness.

The Roncalli Center's inaugural guest will be Fr. Tom Gaughan, C.S.C. from the University of Notre Dame

**Fr. Gaughan's Biography:** A native of New Bedford, MA, and graduate of Bishop Stang High School of the Diocese of Fall River, Fr. Tom Gaughan, C.S.C. earned his Bachelor's degree in Sociology in 1980 and his Master of Divinity degree in 1986 from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Completing his doctoral studies in December of 2009, Fr. Tom received a Doctorate of Ministry in Preaching from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. His dissertation research focused on a methodology for effective preaching to college congregations.

He was ordained as a priest for the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1987. Fr. Tom served the university community in a myriad of pastoral roles. He worked as the Associate Rector of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Notre Dame's campus, served as Director of Retreats on campus for nine years and acted as the chaplain with the Notre Dame Folk Choir for seven years and participated as a member of the choir as a baritone. Fr. Tom served with distinction as the rector of Corby Hall for twenty years, ministering with compassionate care and pastoral integrity to thousands of students who resided in that residence hall.



Since 1989 Fr. Tom has served as chaplain to several varsity athletic teams, most notably the Notre Dame Ice Hockey Team, which he has served since 1992. This past spring, Fr. Tom stepped down from his position as the rector of Stanford Hall where he served for twenty years. While working on publication aspects of his doctoral work on preaching for college age students during a six month sabbatical, Fr. Tom lives at the Holy Cross residence in North Dartmouth, MA.

**THE RONCALLI CENTER  
Living Room Dialogues**

October 23, 2012 at 7:00-8:30 pm

Place: The Morency Gannon's

157 Stevenson Street

New Bedford, MA 02745

Please submit any questions with your RSVP to

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or call 508-998-5192