

William H. Shannon Chair in Catholic Studies

History:

Through a generous gift from the Chester and Dorris Carlson Charitable Trust, an Endowed Chair in Catholic Studies was established at Nazareth University in 1998. Named in honor of William H. Shannon, priest of the Rochester diocese, professor emeritus of Nazareth University, theologian, Thomas Merton scholar, and prolific writer, this Professorship is intended to assist in keeping alive and visible the Catholic intellectual tradition upon which Nazareth University was founded.

Qualifications:

Because this is a teaching rather than a research appointment, consideration for the Shannon Professorship will be given to candidates who have demonstrated not only recognized scholarship in their field, but also teaching expertise. Candidates may represent any of the general areas of the Catholic intellectual tradition such as theology, biblical studies, spirituality, ethics, philosophy, history, literature, sciences, or the fine arts, as well as the more particular subdivisions of these areas such as theology of the sacraments, contemporary Catholic philosophers, medieval history, contemporary American history, 14th century spirituality, history of sacred song, contemporary Catholic novelists, etc. (These examples are illustrative, not definitive.)

Because this Professorship is a University-wide appointment, the Shannon Professor will “reside” in the academic department of his/her discipline.

Responsibilities:

Depending upon his/her expertise, the Shannon Professor will be expected to:

Teach subject matter that has historical or contemporary importance in the Catholic intellectual tradition. The Shannon Professor will ordinarily teach two undergraduate courses in each semester of appointment—a lecture/discussion course and an upper division seminar. Actual teaching responsibilities will depend on the individual and the needs of the University. In addition, the Shannon Professor will conduct presentations and discussions on the Catholic intellectual tradition for the Nazareth University community, thereby sharing expertise on Catholic Studies with a broad range of students, faculty, and staff.

Deliver a public lecture open to the Nazareth University community and the general public. Additional responsibilities may be agreed to at the time of appointment.

Selection Process:

1. The selection process will include the establishment of a Nominating Committee, appointed by the Provost. The Nominating Committee will be composed of members of the faculty and may also include external members as deemed appropriate. The Nominating Committee will confer with the faculty in the host departments of the potential candidates for the chair. The Nominating Committee will then present nominations of qualified candidates to the Provost who in turn, will recommend a candidate to the President.

The candidate will be expected to have both a scholarly understanding of the Catholic tradition and the ability and credentials for teaching in his or her discipline with a focus on Catholic Studies. In addition, the successful candidate shall have demonstrated leadership in his/her field.

2. By **November 1** of the academic year prior to appointment to the William H. Shannon Chair in Catholic Studies, a call for nominations will be sent out to the Nazareth University community from the Office of the Provost. Nominees must be tenured faculty at Nazareth University.

A rationale, briefly addressing each of the above criteria for nominating the scholar, should accompany each nomination. This nomination statement will become part of the documentation reviewed by the Nominating Committee during the process of recommendation.

All nominations should be sent to the Office of Provost no later than **December 1**, after which the Provost will notify the faculty nominees.

3. By **January 20** any faculty member nominated and willing to be appointed to the Chair will submit a letter, indicating his/her willingness to assume the responsibilities associated with the Chair. This letter will include a preview of the type of professional activities this appointment will make possible over the four-year duration of the award. A full curriculum vitae, letters of support from experts within the discipline, letters of support from the candidate's chair and dean, and any other support material the nominee wishes to submit will accompany this letter.
4. The Nominating Committee will evaluate each candidate's materials. After assessing these materials, the Committee will either (a) decide not to recommend any of the nominees for this honor, or (b) submit a recommendation to the Provost, briefly explaining how the recommended candidate meets the criteria for

appointment to the endowed Chair. This recommendation is to be made by **March 1**. Copies of the nomination letter, the nominee's statement and support material will accompany this written recommendation.

5. The Provost will forward the nomination to the President.
6. The final appointment resides with the President of the University. In the event of the rare instance in which the President does not accept the nomination for compelling reasons, these reasons should be communicated to the Review Committee. The Review Committee may either nominate another candidate or drop the matter for that academic year.

The President will announce the appointment by **March 15** so that the departmental program scheduling and teaching loads may be adjusted for the following year. The occupancy of the Chair will commence at the start of the next academic year.