

BC Names Dean for School of Theology and Ministry

Weston Jesuit head is choice to lead school slated to open in 2008

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Richard J. Clifford, S.J., acting president of the Weston Jesuit School of Theology and renowned professor of Old Testament, has been named the founding dean of the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

The School of Theology and Ministry, which will begin holding classes in the fall of 2008, will include BC's Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry, the online programs of BC's Church in the 21st Century Program and the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, which is re-affiliating with Boston College after 33 years.

In announcing the appointment, Boston College President William P. Leahy, S.J., praised Fr. Clifford as a respected scholar, administrator and Jesuit who possesses the experience and leadership skills to help position the new School of Theology and Ministry as an internationally respected center of Catholic theological and ministerial education.



"Fr. Clifford will be an ideal dean for the School of Theology and Ministry," said Fr. Leahy. "He is an outstanding teacher and scholar who is committed to leading a school focused on the good of the Church and the education of ordained and lay ministers for its service."

Fr. Clifford said he welcomes the challenge of directing the new entity, given the promise it holds for the future. "I am excited to be named Dean of the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, which incorporates into one school three excellent entities: The Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry, The Weston Jesuit School of Theology and C21 Online," said Fr. Clifford. "The mission of each will be broadened and enjoy richer resources. The coming together of so many dedicated faculty members, staff and students to build the school is a historic moment for Boston College. It is an unparalleled opportunity to advance the Gospel and serve the Church and academic community."

In addition to his 37 years of service to Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Fr. Clifford has served as visiting lecturer at Harvard Divinity School, president of the Catholic Biblical Association and general editor of the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*. He has also served as a consultant for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Liturgy, and chair of the Boston Theological Institute's Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures Colloquium.

The author of seven books including *Psalms 1-72* and *Psalms 72-150*, published in 2002-2003, and *Proverbs: A Commentary*, published in 1999, Fr. Clifford has also published hundreds of articles and book segments.

In addition to the appointment of Fr. Clifford, the University is also conducting searches for associate deans of academic, student and administrative services.

The School of Theology and Ministry will be located on the Brighton Campus of Boston College.