

*CENTER DIRECTOR, JAMES BERNAUER, S.J.
ENDOWED KRAFT PROFESSOR AT BOSTON COLLEGE*



James Bernauer, SJ (center) with
endowed professors Michael Naughton and Mary Crane

In September 2009 Boston College named Center Director James Bernauer, SJ the Kraft Professor. This endowed professorship is in recognition of Fr. Bernauer's intellectual leadership, scholarly excellence, and his many contributions beyond the campus. Through his distinguished teaching and research, Bernauer, a highly-respected presence on the Boston College campus, has had an impact on numerous undergraduate and graduate students.

In naming Bernauer the Kraft Professor, Provost and Dean of Faculties Cutberto Garza indicated that the Boston College administration regards endowed professorships as critical to the University's academic mission. They promote excellence in teaching by helping to retain the finest among Boston College's faculty.

Fr. Bernauer has been a member of the Philosophy Department since 1980 and in 2008 was named director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning Center. A New York City native, he was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Terence Cooke in 1975.

His published works include studies on French philosopher Michel Foucault, the thought of Hannah Arendt, and various topics in Holocaust studies. His current research is devoted to three major concerns: Christian-Jewish relations; a study of the spiritual and moral formation of German Catholics prior to the rise of National Socialism; and the investigation of the historical encounters between Jews and Jesuits. He was an original member of the "Jesuits in Jewish-Christian Dialogue," an association established by the Jesuit order in 1998.

In accepting this endowed professorship Bernauer stated: "It is an honor to be associated through this Chair with the Kraft family. I am grateful for their generous concern with the continuing improvement of Jewish-Christian relations and the work of the Center at Boston College." He indicated that the establishment of the professorship will aid the Center's cross-disciplinary work, which will include a major international conference on the history of Jesuit and Jewish relations. "The Krafts' gift is a recognition of how important this conversation is, and the Center looks forward to helping to continue promoting it."