

Catholic Higher Education Research Cooperative

cordially invites you to attend the

**Tenth Annual
Catholic College and University
Forum for Institutional Research**

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**Addressing Crises in the Church:
A Role for Catholic Higher Education?**

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**Monday, April 5, 2004
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**The Villanova Room
The Connelly Center
Villanova University
Villanova, Pennsylvania**

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**Pre-Conference
Research Symposium
and
Organizational Meeting
Sunday Afternoon and Evening
April 4, 2004**

For the tenth consecutive year, we are pleased to host the Catholic College and University Forum for Institutional Research. This forum is the result of a special interest group of Catholic Colleges and Universities that met

originally during the Northeast Association for Institutional Research (NEAIR) Conference in November 1994. This year's forum, the first held under the auspices of the recently formed [CHERC](#) is scheduled for:

Monday, April 5, 2004
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Villanova Room -- The Connelly Center
Villanova University
Villanova, PA

Please share this invitation with interested colleagues at your institution and beyond.

Monday's Agenda

- 9:00 Registration, Continental Breakfast and Networking
- 9:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks
James F. Trainer, Villanova
- 9:45 Keynote Address:
- Catholic Higher Education and
The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America**
- Peter Steinfelds**
New York Times Religion Correspondent and author of
A People Adrift: The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America (2003)
- 11:15 Break
- 11:30 Forging a Research Agenda and Building a Research Database on
Catholic Higher Education – CHERC *Ad hoc* Advisory Committee
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 News from “On Campus” Across the Country
- This session will provide an opportunity for attendees to share news about activities on their campuses related to Catholic identity, mission integration and effectiveness, learning communities, service learning, spirituality, vocational discernment and other topics (e.g., Villanova will report on the results of a CARA initiated national pilot test of an instrument designed for use in conducting needs assessments for campus ministry, while other institutions are participating in and can report on the Lilly funded vocation awareness project)
- 1:30 Roundtable Discussions
- We will convene a number of roundtable discussions to address “hot topics” impacting institutional researchers and planners at Catholic colleges and universities.
- 2:15 Discussing the Future Agenda
- 2:45 Closing Remarks and Evaluation
- 3:00 Adjourn

Addressing Crises in the Church: A Role for Catholic Higher Education?

Noted *New York Times* religion correspondent and author Peter Steinfels will deliver the keynote address at this year's Forum. Author of "*A People Adrift: The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America*," Steinfels will discuss the impact of this crisis on catholic higher education, how the crisis is manifested in higher education, and what Catholic colleges and universities can do to help change the tide. Steinfels is a proponent of hiring for mission and argues that this can be accomplished in a way that is both practical and compatible with academic freedom and diversity. Yet, he has argued that while hiring for mission is an essential first step, it alone is not sufficient. He calls for new institutes and programs in Catholic studies, faculty seminars and student and faculty retreats, special chairs and prestigious lecture series, and ethics programs across the curriculum. However, he notes, "no one thing will do it, but rather a constant alertness to opportunities, initiatives on many fronts, with some successes, some failures, no quitting."

A PEOPLE ADRIFT



THE CRISIS OF THE
ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHURCH IN AMERICA

PETER
STEINFELS



Peter Steinfels was senior religion correspondent for the *New York Times* from 1988 to 1997, and stills writes "Beliefs," a biweekly column for the paper. He holds a Ph.D. from Columbia and has been a visiting professor of history at Georgetown and of American studies at Notre Dame. He has worked in bioethics, is a former editor of *Commonweal*, and author of *The Neoconservatives*. Peter and Margaret O'Brien Steinfels, his wife and prominent Catholic writer, editor and speaker in her own right, were the 2003 recipients of the Laetare Medal, Notre Dame's highest award for service to the church and society. Theologian Monika Hellwig, the President of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, has called Steinfels's work "a must read" and "provocative." Theodore Hesburgh, President Emeritus of Notre Dame, has said that while "all Catholics may not agree with everything Steinfels says, all can be edified and stimulated by his good judgment and total dedication to the Kingdom of God on earth."

Pre-Conference Activities
Sunday, April 4, 2004

3:00 pm Research Symposium

Defining a Collaborative Research Agenda to Improve our Understanding of Students at Catholic Colleges and Universities

All interested parties are invited to join colleagues in a discussion on how we might collaborate to define and initiate a research agenda to improve our understanding of Catholic Colleges and Universities and their students, faculty, staff and alumni. We will use this opportunity to report on some of the initial research being conducted on behalf of CHERC. We also invite others to share their research and thoughts with us. Additional conversation might include an exploration of the use of a set of supplemental questions to the CIRP freshmen survey designed to understand where students are in terms of religion and spirituality when they arrive on our campuses as well as the possibility of developing a profile of "College Catholics" enrolled at public and other non-Catholic private institutions. Such a discussion seems particularly timely given continued reports on the attitudes and beliefs of students at Catholic institutions.

5:00 pm Dinner Break -- *We will gladly organize dinner groups/reservations for those interested.*

7:00 pm CHERC Organizational Meeting

Now that we have CHERC off the ground, there are a number of organizational issues to be resolved regarding how best to move forward in advancing our core objectives and sharing our research with others. We encourage attendees to join us for this important discussion.

The initial core objectives for CHERC are:

1. Developing and maintaining a web site with data and information on Catholic Higher Education.
2. Developing and maintaining a list serve for those interested in research on Catholic Higher Education.
3. Conducting collaborative research projects.
4. Sharing survey instruments and question sets on issues germane to Catholic Higher Education.
5. Analyzing data from existing survey efforts (e.g., CIRP, CSS, CSEQ, NSSE, etc.) to examine the impact of Catholic Higher Education.
6. Continuing to host an annual meeting.

Background materials on CHERC this meeting can be found at:

http://opir.villanova.edu/catholic/CHERC/CHERC_page01.htm

Sunday's session will be held in the Chapel Room of the Financial Services Building on Lancaster Avenue on Villanova's Campus. Individuals attending Sunday's sessions are welcome to park in the lot located at the Financial Services Building. On Monday, however, you will need to follow the instructions sent with your registration confirmation.