

CELEBRATING PEDAGOGY CONVERSATION XV: Catholics, Non-Catholics, and the Challenge of Embodying Identity and Mission in the Classroom (February 10, 2009)*

Virginia Ryan, Ph.D.**

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“The Catholic university should be a place, where all the great questions are asked, where an exciting conversation is continually in progress, where the mind constantly grows as the values and powers of intelligence and wisdom are cherished and exercised in full freedom.”

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.

What does it mean to speak of “Catholic identity”? Is it a restricting and narrowing endeavor or an enriching and rewarding quest? Join us for good food and conversation with **Dr. Margaret Freije** and **Dr. Mark Freeman** as part of the Celebrating Pedagogy series.



Margaret Freije, Ph.D., Associate Dean of the College of the Holy Cross

Margaret Freije earned her bachelor's degree at Boston College and Ph.D. at Brown University. She came to Holy Cross in the fall of 1986. A specialist in arithmetic geometry, Freije has distinguished herself as a teacher, faculty member, and through her administrative contributions to the College. She was honored with the Holy Cross Distinguished Teaching Award in 1997 and was named a "Woman of Distinction" by the Girl Scouts in 2003. She has served on pivotal College committees, including the Social Concerns Committee and the First Year Program Committee. She has also been a faculty representative to the Trustee's Academic Affairs Committee. She served as class dean for the classes of 1999 and 2003 and assistant dean for curriculum management before assuming her most recent administrative role as associate dean of the college.



Mark P. Freeman, Ph.D., Dean, Class of 2011, Professor of Psychology at the College of the Holy Cross

Professor Mark Freeman received his B.A., in Psychology, from the State University of New York at Binghamton (now Binghamton University) in 1977 and his Ph.D., in Human Development, from The University of Chicago in 1986. A member of the Holy Cross faculty since 1986, he served as Assistant Dean of the College from 1992-1996 and Associate Dean of the College from 1995-2000. He is currently Dean of the Class of 2011 and Professor of Psychology. Professor Freeman's teaching and research interests include history and philosophy of psychology, the psychology of the self, narrative psychology, and the psychology of art and creativity.

* This event was sponsored by the Office of Vice President for Academic Affairs.

****Dr. VIRGINIA RYAN** is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Rivier College since 1999. She earned a Ph.D. from Boston College in 1998 (Dissertation: "Physician-Assisted Suicide from a Social Justice Perspective"), M.A. in Special Education from Assumption College (1989), M. Div. from Andover Newton Theological School (1977), and B.A. from Boston College (1974). Dr. Ryan teaches courses in Bioethics, Christian Ethics, Environmental Theology, Biblical Theology, and Feminist Theology & Spirituality. Before becoming a college professor, Virginia was a hospital chaplain, patient representative, and youth minister. She was a Board Member and Section Convener (Theology, Ecology and Natural Science) of the College Theological Society and is an active member in the Catholic Theological Society of America and the Society of Christian Ethics. She is on the Advisory Board and Ethics Committee of Notre Dame Health Care Center in Worcester, MA. Dr. Ryan has spoken to various groups on such topics as ecotheology, justice in the Church, spirituality and sexuality, and bioethics. She lives in Worcester, Massachusetts, married to Neil Castronovo. They have two daughters, Elizabeth, 23 and Annie, 18.