



A NOBLE VOCATION

Integrating Faith, Food & the Environment

National Conference

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



March 21, 2018

A warm welcome to the University of St. Thomas!

It's particularly fitting that you gather on our St. Paul campus for this conference, "A Noble Vocation – Integrating Faith, Food and the Environment." Just 150 years ago, this very site was farm country.

In 1854, Irish immigrant and Union Army veteran William Finn and his wife, Elizabeth, owned a full section here – most of the square mile now bounded by nearby Marshall, Fairview and St. Clair avenues and the Mississippi River. By 1880, Finn had sold or donated much of his fruit farm to the Catholic Church – first to Bishop Thomas Grace for a Catholic Industrial School, and then to Grace's successor, Bishop John Ireland, who set his sights on forming St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary – the predecessor of the University of St. Thomas and its St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

Today, a nation – indeed, a world – once fed by family farms such as the Finns' has been transformed and, in some cases, threatened by forces not known to William and Elizabeth: industrialized agriculture, rapid urbanization, biotechnology, a global economy and climate change. In times when our food and those who grow, harvest and distribute it come under more and more pressure, we look to you for the wisdom, stewardship and guidance to protect our Earth and sustain ourselves.

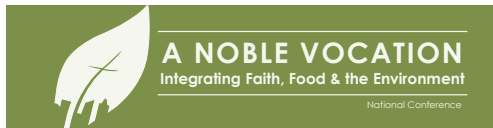
We especially welcome our special guests: Archbishop Bernard Hebda of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis; Roger Johnson, president of the National Farmers Union; Bishop Jon Anderson of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson and many other distinguished speakers.

My very best wishes for a prayerful, thought-provoking and fruitful conference.

Sincerely,

Julie H. Sullivan, Ph.D.
President





University of St. Thomas
Catholic Rural Life
Mail #4080
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105-1078

March 21, 2018

Honored Leaders,

It is a distinct privilege to welcome you to this national conference, *A Noble Vocation – Integrating Faith, Food and the Environment*. We sincerely thank you for devoting your time and expertise to addressing the questions and challenges to be explored in the following days.

Together, you constitute an impressive gathering of leaders and experts from a wide variety of disciplines. Some of you work in the halls of academia, cultivating ideas that inform the way we understand the world and our place in it, while others labor in the fields, growing and nurturing the food that feeds us all. Prominent religious and spiritual figures are included among you, as are leaders in agriculture-related policy and business. You come from different faith traditions, and hail from different parts of the country.

This diversity of backgrounds is not accidental. By bringing together some of the brightest and most accomplished minds in the areas of farming and food, environmental studies, and theology, this conference will address the most pressing challenges facing modern agriculture from a unique and holistic perspective.

We begin with the conviction that faith is related to all aspects of life, including food and farming. Expanding upon the internationally acclaimed document, *Vocation of the Agricultural Leader*, the fruit of a previous symposium, this conference will explore through the contributions of scientific disciplines and practical experiences how to apply the principles that integrate faith, food and the environment in agriculture for the betterment of our world.

We thank you again for your participation and look forward to your invaluable contributions to this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Mr. James Ennis

Executive Director
Catholic Rural Life

Mr. Doug Sombke

President, South Dakota Farmers Union and
Farmers Union Enterprises



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 21 March

Conference participants arrive into St. Paul, MN – Conference Hotel – Hilton Airport Hotel

6:00pm Registration Opens

7:00 pm **Introduction to Integrating Faith, Food and the Environment Conference** *Hilton Airport Hotel*

- *Most Reverend Bernard Hebda - Archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis*
- *Mr. James Ennis - Executive Director, Catholic Rural Life*

Reception for Participants *Hilton Airport Hotel*

Thursday, 22 March

8:00 a.m. Registration Opens

9:00-10:30 a.m. **Session #1** *South Woulfe Hall, UST*

- *Welcome from Minnesota Attorney General, Lori Swanson*
- *Welcome from Dr. Julie Sullivan, President of University of Thomas*
- **The Future of Agriculture and Environmental Challenges: Implications for Agricultural Leadership**
- *Dr. Fred Kirschenmann - Director Emeritus, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa State University*
- *Dr. John Ikerd - Professor Emeritus, Agriculture Economics, University of Missouri*
- *Ms. Meg Moynihan - State Programs Administrator Principal, Minnesota Department of Agriculture*
- Q & A

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45-12:00 p.m. **Session #2** *South Woulfe Hall, UST*

- **International Challenges of Faith, Food and the Environment**
- *Ms. Geri Sicola - Vice President for Strategic Partnerships & External Relations, Lutheran World Relief*
- *Mr. Rick Peyser - Senior Relationship Manager, Coffee & Cocoa, Lutheran World Relief*
- *Ms. Loretta Ishida - Deputy Regional Director for Operations, Africa, Lutheran World Relief*
- *Mr. David Velde - Vice President, World Farmers Organization*
- Q & A

12:15 -1:30 p.m. **Luncheon** *North Woulfe Hall, UST*

- *Bishop Jon Anderson – Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Southwest Minnesota*
- *Mr. Roger Johnson - President, National Farmers Union*



- 2:00- 3:15 p.m. **Session #3** *South Woulfe Hall, UST*
- **Faith, Food, and the Environment and the Task of the Pastoral Leader**
 - *Fr. Gregory Mastey - Pastor of three rural parishes in Diocese of St. Cloud, MN*
 - *Sr. Esther Mary Nickel - Former Professor of Liturgy at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver*
 - *Mr. Brad Roth - Pastor of Mennonite Church in Moundridge, Kansas*
 - *Dr. Christopher Thompson - Moral Theologian, Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity – Moderator*
 - Q & A
- 3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:30-4:45 p.m. **Session #4** *South Woulfe Hall, UST*
- **Changing Climate and Implications for Agricultural Leadership**
 - *Dr. Thomas Ackerman - Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Washington*
 - *Dr. Cal DeWitt - Ecologist and Professor Emeritus Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin*
 - *Ms. Ruth Ivory-Moore, J.D. - Program Director for Environment and Energy, ELCA*
 - Q & A
- 4:45 p.m. **Cocktail Hour/Reception** *North Woulfe Hall, UST*
- 5:30 p.m. **Presentation** *South Woulfe Hall, UST*
- **Insights From *What They Saw In America* on Agrarianism in the United States**
 - *Dr. James L. Nolan - Professor of Sociology, Williams College*
 - Q & A

Friday, 23 March

- 8:15 a.m. Registration Opens
- 9:00-10:15 a.m. **Session #5** *South Woulfe Hall, UST*
- **Faith, Food and the Environment – An Indigenous Perspective**
 - *Dr. Craig Hassel - Associate Professor Food Science and Nutrition, University of Minnesota*
 - *Dr. Mark Bellcourt - College of Education and Human Development and College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Minnesota*
 - *Mr. Anthony Johnson - Earl and Kathy Hoagland Sacred Manoomin Fund Scholarship Recipient*
 - Q & A
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30-Noon **Session #6** *South Woulfe Hall, UST*
- **Table Captains Share Summary of Input from Table Discussions During Sessions**
 - Open Microphone for Additional Comments
 - Final Overview of Conference and Next Steps
- Noon **Adjourn Conference**



SPEAKERS

David G. Velde - *Vice President, World Farmers Organization*



David is a graduate from the Metropolitan State University (B.S.) and Hamline University School of Law (J.D.). He is part owner of Velde Moore, Ltd. in Alexandria, MN. He is married to Brenda Velda, who is also an attorney at the Velde Moore Law Firm. They have two children. David served as the President of the Calvary Lutheran Church Council in Alexandria, MN. For nine years, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the First State Bank of Alexandria. Since 1998, he has administered several thousand bankruptcy filings while serving as a United States Bankruptcy Trustee. David served as Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Minnesota, developed computer applications for agricultural producers for Control Data Corporation, and served as Director of Public Affairs for the Minnesota Farmers Union. He also served as counsel for the Rules Committee of the Minnesota House of Representatives, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Rural Finance Authority, and as a member

of the Board of Trustees for the Board of Social Ministry for Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Presently, David serves as the President of Farmers Union Enterprises, as Vice President for International Affairs of the National Farmers Union, and as General Counsel for the National Farmers Union in Washington, DC. He also currently serves as a Board Member and the Vice President of the World Farmers Organization in Rome.

Most Reverend Bernard Hebda – *Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul*



He was ordained to the priesthood in on July 1989 in St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh. He completed his licentiate in canon law, which he received in 1990 from the Pontifical Gregorian University. Upon returning to Pittsburgh, Fr. Hebda served in the bishop's office as Master of Ceremonies from 1990-1992, in team ministry at Prince of Peace Parish on Pittsburgh's South Side from 1992-1995, and as director of campus ministry at the Slippery Rock University Newman Center from 1995-1996. In 1996, he was appointed to work in the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts in Rome, which is responsible for the interpretation of the Church's laws, especially the Code of Canon Law. In 2003, St. John Paul II named him Undersecretary of the Council. Pope Benedict XVI named him Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord on October 7, 2009. His Episcopal ordination took place on December 1, 2009. On September 24, 2013, Pope Francis named Bishop Hebda Coadjutor Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Newark. On June

15, 2015, Pope Francis named him Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. On March 24, 2016, Pope Francis named him Archbishop-Designate of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Archbishop Hebda's Installation Mass took place on May 13, 2016.

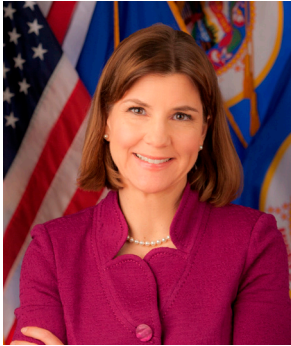
Mr. James Ennis – *Executive Director, Catholic Rural Life*



Before becoming the executive director of Catholic Rural Life (CRL) in 2008, Mr. James Ennis had worked for three Fortune 500 companies over nine years before transitioning to the non-profit sector, where he has worked for the past 19 years. Ennis possesses a unique combination of expertise in both agricultural issues and faith-based initiatives. He earned his undergraduate degree from University of California-Davis in agricultural and managerial economics, and spent time in the African nation of Zambia working in student ministry. Ennis is also currently the president of the International Catholic Rural Association (ICRA), which is based in Rome.



Lori Swanson – *Attorney General, State of Minnesota*



Lori Swanson was elected Attorney General of the State of Minnesota in 2006, and reelected in 2010 and 2014. She is Minnesota's 29th Attorney General and its first female Attorney General. Attorney General Swanson has been an advocate for Minnesota citizens in areas like consumer protection, predatory lending, health care, utility rate hikes, telecommunications, public safety, and protecting senior citizens from financial fraud. From 2003 to 2006, Lori served as Solicitor General for the State of Minnesota. From 1999 to 2002, she served as Deputy Attorney General. In 2004, she was appointed to the Consumer Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, D.C., was elevated to Vice Chair in 2005, and was appointed as Chair of the Federal Reserve Board Consumer Advisory Council in 2006. Lori graduated magna cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law and with distinction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Frederick L. Kirschenmann – *Distinguished Fellow, Leopold Center*



A longtime national leader in sustainable agriculture, Dr. Frederick Kirschenmann is a distinguished fellow at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University, where he also teaches in the Department of Religion and Philosophy. He also shares his time with the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in New York as the President of the Board of Directors. Additionally, he oversees the management of his family's 1,800-acre farm in North Dakota, which was converted into a certified organic operation in 1976. Dr. Kirschenmann remains a distinguished proponent of the push for sustainable methods of agriculture, and received the James F. Beard Foundation Leadership award in 2011.

John Ikerd – *Professor Emeritus, Agriculture Economics, University of Missouri*



John was raised on a small dairy farm in southwest Missouri and received his BS, MS, and Ph.D. degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri. He worked in private industry for a time and spent thirty years in various professorial positions at North Carolina State University, Oklahoma State University, University of Georgia, and the University of Missouri before retiring in early 2000. Since retiring, he spends most of his time writing and speaking on issues related to sustainability with an emphasis on economics and agriculture. He is author of six books which are available through Amazon.com via <http://johnikerd.com/books>. In 2014, Ikerd was commissioned by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations to write the regional report, "Family Farms of North America," in recognition for the International Year of the Family Farming. He currently resides in Fairfield, IA with his wife, Ellen, two dogs, and two cats. More complete background information and a wide selection of writings are available at <http://faculty.missouri.edu/ikerdj/> or <http://johnikerd.com>.

Meg Moynihan – *Senior Advisor, MN Dept. of Agriculture*



Meg is the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Senior Advisor on Strategy and Innovation. She previously worked as an educator and evaluator, and served with U.S. Peace Corps/Thailand. Moynihan also owns/operates a diversified 70 cow organic dairy farm with her husband, Kevin Stuedemann. In 2016, she took a leave of absence to run the farm singlehandedly, giving her direct experience with the stress, anxiety, burnout, and depression that many farmers experience.



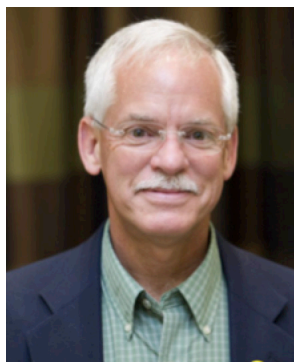
Geri Sicola – *Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and External Relations, Lutheran World Relief*



Geraldine (“Geri”) Sicola is Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and External Relations for Lutheran World Relief. She oversees philanthropic engagement, strategic partnerships and communication, marketing & engagement. She has spent virtually her entire career working for faith-based international NGOs. She has had two stints with Catholic Relief Services, first serving in overseas postings in Haiti, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Kenya. Later, in Headquarters positions she served as Director for Global Relations and Strategic Issues and as Director for Education and Institutional Relations, US Operations, where she established new organizational alliances with colleges, universities and a major national health association. She has also worked with the United Nations Children’s Fund, both in the field and at headquarters in New York. Immediately prior to coming to LWR, Geri served as Director of Communications and Resource Development for the Aga Khan Foundation, which she joined in 2013. Before that,

she worked for a decade with the American Friends Service Committee, serving as Associate General Secretary for International Programs. Geri holds a bachelor’s degree and an honorary doctorate from Marymount College, and a master’s of International Affairs and a certificate in African Studies from Columbia University.

Rick Peyser – *Senior Relationship Manager, Coffee & Cocoa, Lutheran World Relief*



Rick Peyser is Sr. Relationship Manager, Coffee & Cocoa for Lutheran World Relief, a non-profit organization that works with local partners to provide lasting solutions to poverty, injustice, and human suffering. Prior to his current role, he led Keurig Green Mountain’s Supply Chain Community Outreach efforts, where he worked for close to 27 years. Rick served as President of the Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA) the world’s largest coffee trade association, as a member of the Fair Trade Labeling Organizations International (FLO) Board of Directors for 6 years, and currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Food4Farmers (a NGO he co-founded), Root Capital, The Coffee Trust, and Project Alianza. Rick co-authored “Brewing Change: Behind the Bean at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters” (2012), was instrumental in producing the video “After the Harvest,” and in convening The Coalition for Coffee Communities - comprised of coffee companies working pre-competitively to improve the quality of life

for coffee farming families.

Loretta Ishida – *Deputy Regional Director for Operations, Africa, Lutheran World Relief*



Loretta Ishida dreamed of working in Africa since she was a little girl. Her wish came true when she went to Cote d’Ivoire as a Peace Corps volunteer. Since then, she has worked in community development, both in the US and overseas. Her international experience includes working with Catholic Relief Services, based both in West Africa and the US, and working on development and humanitarian relief programs. She has been with Lutheran World Relief for the past six years as a member of the Africa team, focusing on designing and managing programs that work with smallholder farmers in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. Outside of work, she tries to understand the work her husband does, studying food systems in Maryland. She is an active member of Ascension Lutheran Church, through which she is an occasional volunteer harvester with First Fruits Farm, a Baltimore-area initiative to grow fresh food for hunger alleviation programs.



Mr. Roger Johnson – *President, National Farmers Union*



Roger Johnson was elected National Farmers Union's 14th president during the organization's 107th anniversary convention in 2009. Prior to leading the family farm organization, Johnson, a third-generation family farmer from Turtle Lake, N.D., served as North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner, a position he was first elected to in 1996. From 2007-2008, Johnson served as president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). Johnson graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in agricultural economics. Johnson and his wife, Anita, are the proud parents of three children and have four grandchildren.

Bishop Jon V. Anderson - *Bishop, SW Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America*



Jon Anderson was born in Glenwood, MN. In 1981, he graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield and later received a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary, St. Paul. His previous service included his internship at Faith Lutheran, Dickinson, TX – 1983-1984; Associate Pastor, Kinsmen Lutheran in Houston, TX, - 1985-1991; Pastor, Atonement Lutheran in St. Cloud, MN – 1991-1996; and Lead Pastor, Christ the King in New Ulm, MN – 1996-2003. He began his first six-year term as bishop in September of 2003 and was re-elected in 2009 and 2015 for additional six-year terms. Anderson and his wife, artist Robyn Sand Anderson, are the parents of three adult children, Laura, Sean and Caitlyn. Bishop Anderson has served in several areas within the churchwide organization; St. Louis Youth Gathering Design Team; Discipleship Task Force; Partner in Christian Education; and the Evangelism Task Force. As he serves in the office of bishop, he serves as a member of the Luther Seminary Board of Directors, Gustavus Adolphus Board of Trustees, the Forward Together in Christ Future Directions Table of the ELCA, Conf. of Bishops Theological and Ethical Concerns Committee and the Region 3 Assignment Team.

Dr. Christopher Thompson – *Moral Theologian, St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity*



Dr. Christopher Thompson teaches moral theology at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity where he has served as the academic dean from 2006-2016. Dr. Thompson has also written extensively on the connection between Catholic moral theology and care for the environment. Most recently, he authored, *The Joyful Mystery: Field Notes Toward a Green Thomism*, and he continues to serve on the board of Catholic Rural Life and the International Catholic Rural Association.

Fr. Gregory Mastey – *Pastor of St. Anna-Holdingford-Bowlus, Diocese of St. Cloud, MN*



Fr. Mastey grew up on a diversified livestock farm just 4 miles north of Gilman, MN with his parents and six siblings. In his high school years, he was very active with FFA, 4-H, band and life on the family farm. In 1991 he graduated from St. Mary's University and Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, MN with a degree in Environmental Science and minors in Theology and Philosophy.



At the same time, he received a degree in Taxidermy from the Northwestern School of Taxidermy of Omaha, Nebraska. In 1995 he completed a four year Masters of Divinity from St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. After his ordination in June 1995, he has served in many capacities throughout the Diocese of St. Cloud, MN. In 1997 he served as the Chaplain to the MN State Knights of Columbus. He served as the Vocation Director for 10 years in the Diocese of St. Cloud. He also served as the Central MN Boy Scout Associate Chaplain for 20 years. He is currently the pastor of the three-parish cluster of St. Anna-Holdingford-Bowlus. He loves being a priest; celebrating the Eucharist, teaching people how to pray, and helping others fall deeper in love with God and Our Blessed Mother through ordinary rural life. He has a weekly half hour morning radio show with Glenn Leverenz on KYES Catholic radio 1180am where we hear about his interesting adventures as a rural pastor. He can also be heard daily leading the Rosary at 6 pm at KASM farm radio 1150 am in central MN. He is currently serving in his second term on the Board of Directors for Catholic Rural Life.

Sr. Esther Mary Nickel – *Former Professor of Liturgy, St. John Vianney Seminary*



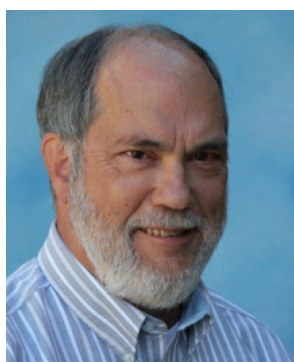
Sister Esther Mary Nickel, RSM, Ph.D., S.L.D. is a member of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan. She has a Doctorate in Sacred Liturgy from the Pontifical Institute for the Liturgy at Saint Anselm's in Rome. Her studies fostered a deep appreciation for the liturgical life of the Church. From 2004 – 2016 she served as a Professor of Sacred Liturgy and Sacramental Theology at Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado. Since February 2017 she is working as the Associate Director of Worship for the Diocese of Sioux City, IA and writing from an office in Sacred Heart Mercy Medical Center (owned and operated by her Religious Community) in Jackson, Minnesota. In addition, she has a Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Minnesota. Before her theological studies in Rome she was responsible for her community farm in Southwest Minnesota and conducted research in sustainable agriculture. Before her Agricultural studies she worked and taught in health care as a Respiratory Therapist.

Bradley Roth – *Pastor of Mennonite Church in rural Kansas and author*



Brad Roth serves as pastor at West Zion Mennonite Church in rural Moundridge, Kansas. He grew up baling hay, tending sheep, and shearing Christmas trees on a farm in Illinois. He is a graduate of Augustana College, Harvard Divinity School, and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Brad has a heart for serving God and God's people in rural communities. He's passionate about sharing his faith in word and deed, and living out God's love in the community. He and his wife, Lici, enjoy bicycling, tending a garden, keeping chickens, and playing with their two sons. Brad blogs at DoxologyProject.com. His book, *God's Country: Faith, Hope, and the Future of the Rural Church* was published in 2017 and won an Award of Merit in Christianity Today's 2018 Book Awards.

Thomas Ackermann – *Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Washington*



Dr. Thomas Ackerman is Director of the Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean (JISAO), which is a NOAA cooperative institute, and Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington. From 1999 through 2006, he served as the Chief Scientist of DOE's Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Program and was a Battelle Fellow at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, WA. He was Professor of Meteorology at the Pennsylvania State University from 1988 to 1999, as well as Associate Director of the Earth System Science Center. Dr. Ackerman is the recipient of the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal and the Leo Szilard Award for Science in the Public Interest, awarded by the American Physical Society. He is a fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Geophysical Union.



Dr. Ackerman's research interests span a wide range of climate issues from fundamental science, such as the life cycle of tropical cirrus and aerosol-cloud interactions, to applied issues, such as the impacts of nuclear war on global climate and solar climate engineering. Dr. Ackerman has published more than 170 papers in peer-reviewed journals and is a highly-regarded speaker in both technical and public venues.

Dr. Calvin B. DeWitt – *Ecologist and Professor Emeritus in Environmental Studies, UW Madison*



Cal is an environmental scientist in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison where he is an Emeritus Professor of Environmental Studies and serves on the graduate faculties of Land Resources, Water Resources Management, Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development, and Limnology and Marine Science. His assignment since 1972 has been “to address the fragmentation of the disciplines” through development of an integrative program of teaching, research, and service directed at ecological integrity and sustainability. He is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Christians in Science (United Kingdom), Ecological Society of America, and a Fellow of the International Society for Science & Religion, the American Scientific Affiliation and the University of Wisconsin Teaching Academy, and author of *Earthwise: A Guide to Hopeful Creation Care*.

Ruth Ivory-Moore - *Program Director for Environment and Energy, ELCA*



Ruth M. Ivory-Moore is the Program Director for Environment and Energy at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) where she manages environmental, climate change, energy, rural and shareholder advocacy matters. She establishes and maintains relationships with key decision makers in the legislative and executive branches of government. Ruth works collaboratively and is a bridge builder, facilitating consensus building solutions. Ruth develops and implements advocacy strategies to push for sound policy, regulatory and legislative initiatives. Prior to joining the ELCA she worked in the energy field first as a chemical engineer, then as an attorney progressing through various operations, business and legal functions. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Howard University; a Master of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Ohio State University; and JD degree from Rutgers University Law School. She is a Stephen Ministry at her Church. Ruth is married to Chuck

Moore. They have two adult children and two grandsons.

Dr. James Nolan - *Professor of Sociology, Williams College*



Dr. James L. Nolan is a professor of sociology at Williams College. Professor Nolan's teaching and research interests fall within the general areas of law and society, culture, technology and social change, and historical comparative sociology. His new book, *What They Saw in America: Alexis de Tocqueville, Max Weber, G.K. Chesterton, and Sayyid Qutb*, was published with Cambridge University Press in 2016. His current research project, *Delivering Little Boy*, is a unique look at the Manhattan Project and the early years of the nuclear age. His previous books include *Legal Accents*, *Legal Borrowing: The International Problem-Solving Court Movement* (2009); *Reinventing Justice: The American Drug Court Movement* (2001); and *The Therapeutic State: Justifying Government at Century's End* (1998). He is the recipient of several grants and awards including National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships and a Fulbright scholarship. He has held visiting fellowships at Oxford University, Loughborough University, and the

University of Notre Dame.



Dr. Craig A. Hassel – *Associate Professor Food Science and Nutrition, University of Minnesota*



Dr. Craig A. Hassel is an associate professor in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Minnesota. He explores issues of food and health with cultural communities that hold knowledge that does not correspond to Western science perspectives. Dr. Hassel's work aims to create models of cross-cultural engagement that reform scientific inquiry to be more respectful of diverse ways of knowing. Additionally, Dr. Hassel is an extension nutritionist, and works closely with Native American communities in Minnesota to develop and implement culturally-based food and nutrition programs.

Dr. Mark Bellcourt – *College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Minnesota*



Dr. Mark Bellcourt (White Earth Nation) is an academic professional at the University of Minnesota in the College of Education and Human Development and College of Food, Agriculture and National Resource Sciences. Mark teaches courses on Indigenous environmental knowledge, multicultural leadership, and leads a global seminar to Ecuador. Also, he coordinates a program for at risk students, conducts diversity training, and is a member of interdisciplinary team that works with Minnesota tribal nations. He is an active member, both on national and local levels, for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES).

Anthony Johnson - *Earl and Kathy Hoagland Sacred Manoomin Scholarship Recipient*



Anthony Johnson (Red Lake Nation) is a senior at the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business (BSB) in finance. He received the Earl and Kathy Hoagland Sacred Manoomin Scholarship in 2016--funding his study abroad experience to Ecuador during winter break 2016-2017. Anthony plans to work in the clean energy sector after graduation.

Gary Wertish – *President, Minnesota Farmers Union*



Gary was elected Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) President in January of 2017. Previously he served as MFU Vice President from 2009 until his election to President. With a long history of Farmers Union service, Gary has been on the Farmers Union Industries Board of Directors, past MFU and NFU policy committees, and worked as a MFU Field Representative and Renville County President. Gary and his wife Jeanne have four grown children and four grandchildren. Gary ran a diversified grain and livestock farm and now assists his son Tom operating the family farm near Renville. From 2001 to 2007, Gary served as U.S. Senator Mark Dayton's Agricultural Director.



From 1993 to 1999, Gary served on the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Sweeteners in Washington, DC and now serves on the US Department of Agriculture's Technical Advisory Committee for Grains and Oilseeds. Gary has also held positions of Emmet Township Supervisor in Renville County and President of the Renville Volunteer Ambulance Service.

Doug Sombke – President, South Dakota Farmers Union



South Dakota Farmers Union President Doug Sombke farms near Conde, S.D., with his wife Melenie. The couple has four grown children, three of which work with Sombke on the farm. In November 2005, Sombke was elected President of the South Dakota Farmers Union and has served six consecutive terms. Before winning the presidency, he served as vice president from 1999-2001. He is also currently the Chairman of Farmers Union Enterprises. He has also served as a delegate for SDFU at various national conventions and meetings. In addition, he has been a staunch citizen lobbyist for the organization at the local, state and national level. Never shy to back away from the responsibility of managing organizations, Sombke has served in a leadership capacity for the East River Ropers, Ferney Centennial, Brown County Weed Board, St. John's Lutheran Church, Ferney Farmers Union Cooperative, and the Brown County Farmers Union. In recognition of his efforts, Sombke has been awarded the Jaycees Outstanding Young

Farmer Award at the local, state and national level for his work on behalf of the family farmer.

Darin Von Ruden - President, Wisconsin Farmers Union



Darin is the third generation to steward his family's dairy farm near Westby in Vernon County. He and his wife, JoAnn, have two children, Brett and Alyssa. Brett is currently taking over the farm as the fourth generation dairy farmer. Darin has been very active with the Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU) on the local, county and state levels earning several awards for his involvement in member recruitment. He is serving his ninth term as president and has been on the WFU board of directors since 2008. Darin also sits on the National Farmers Union (NFU) Executive Board, being elected secretary in 2017, and is also on the NFU Service Association Board. He had been the National Farmers Union Membership Chairman from 2010-2017. Darin is proud to be a member of nine local cooperatives in his community. Darin also sits on the Farmers Union Enterprises (FUE) board. In February 2017, Darin accepted a seat on the board of the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) and has since risen to the position of

Vice President. Darin is chairman of the scholarship committee for the local Catholic Council Knights of Columbus and is active in his township on the local comprehensive planning committee. He has served on the Family Dairies USA District and Resolution committee and has been a delegate to their annual meeting since 2005. Darin is a founding member of WFU Specialty Cheese Co-op. He is the chairman of the Wisconsin Dairy Farmers Guild from 1997 to present and is a founding member of the Upper Midwest Milk Producers Association. He was a delegate to the annual meeting of the Farmers Union Marketing and Processing Association for several years. Darin has been an advocate of fairer prices for farmers and a stronger dairy pricing system and participated with Governor Tommy Thompson's Cheese Pricing Task Force from 1996 to 1997.

Alan Merrill – President, Montana Farmers Union



Alan Merrill was elected president of the Montana Farmers Union at its 91st Meeting and Convention in October 2006, in Great Falls. Alan and his wife Lorrie are organic farmers near Big Sandy, Mont. He serves on the board of directors of the National Farmers Union and Farmers Union Enterprises, Inc. Most recently Merrill was appointed to serve on an agriculture advisory committee hosted by Senator Steve Daines of Montana.



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South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU) – South Dakota Farmers Union works to promote the interests of farmers and ranchers and their families—from a nation, state and local perspective. SDFU achieves this goal by working in a variety of legislative and program-based initiatives. The organization is based in Huron, S.D., and Doug Sombke is its president. www.sdfu.org



Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) – Minnesota Farmers Union works to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life of family farmers, ranchers, rural communities. MFU is a nonprofit membership-based organization and membership is open to farmers and non-farmers. MFU is based in St. Paul, Minn., and Gary Wertish is the organization's president. www.mfu.org



Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU) – Wisconsin Farmers Union, a member-driven organization, is committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement. The organization is based in Madison, Wis., and Darin Von Ruden is the current president. www.wisconsinfarmersunion.org



Montana Farmers Union (MFU) – The Montana Farmers Union is a grassroots organization working for family farmers, ranchers and rural communities through by providing educational opportunities, as well as legislative representation and support for producer-owned co-ops. MFU is based in Great Falls, Mont.; Alan Merrill is president. www.montanafarmersunion.com



North Dakota Farmers Union (NDFU) – North Dakota Farmers Union, guided by the principles of cooperation, legislation, and education, is an organization committed to the prosperity of family farms, ranches, and rural communities. NDFU is based in Jamestown, N.D.; Mark Watne is the organization's ninth and current president. www.ndfu.org



Catholic Rural Life – Catholic Rural Life is a 94-year-old non-profit organization. We work to revitalize Catholic culture in rural America. We believe that it is an important, God-given call to live a rural life: one centered on faith, community and care for creation. Our work – in ethical agriculture, rural ministry & outreach, and care of creation – supports and builds the Church by educating priests, religious and laity through various programs and resources. Become a part of our mission by becoming a part of our member community.



Earl and Kathy Hoagland Sacred Manoomin Scholarship Fund – The Earl and Kathy Hoagland Sacred Manoomin Scholarship Fund is committed to supporting ongoing efforts of Native Americans in Minnesota to gain academic expertise in their effort to preserve manoomin (wild rice) in its natural state as found in lakes, rivers, and streams.

CO-SPONSORS

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Lutheran World Relief – Lutheran World Relief is a nonprofit organization that helps families in the world's poorest communities build the resilience they need to thrive.



Center for Theological Formation at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity – The Center for Theological Formation coordinates the many activities of the endowed institutes and centers of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. These various institutes and centers support theological formation through funded research opportunities, conferences, and activities in support of the mission of the school.



International Catholic Rural Association (ICRA) – The International Catholic Rural Association (ICRA) is made-up of national Catholic rural-life organizations from all six continents. ICRA exists to promote an awareness of the intersection between Catholic teaching and rural issues. Based in Rome, ICRA works closely with related organizations and efforts within the Catholic Church. James Ennis is ICRA's president.



University of St. Thomas – The University of St. Thomas (UST) is a Catholic, comprehensive university that fosters a tradition of service to the public and an energetic, thoughtful approach to the challenges of contemporary life. UST currently enrolls over 10,500 students at both its St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses, making it the largest private university or college in Minnesota. The university is named in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas, the medieval theologian and philosopher, and the Roman Catholic Church's patron of students. In 2013, Dr. Julie Sullivan became UST's first female and lay president. UST's St. Paul campus is the site of the Faith, Food & the Environment symposium. www.stthomas.edu



Bradshaw-Knight Foundation, Inc. – Founded in 1999, the Bradshaw-Knight Foundation, Inc. has provided approximately \$4,000,000 in support for organizations that focus their work on improved land stewardship; organic agriculture; ethical animal husbandry; and land conservation, restoration, and preservation.

BRONZE SPONSORS



The Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development – Based in the Vatican, The Dicastery expresses the Holy See's concern for issues of justice and peace, including those related to migration, health, charitable works and the care of creation. The Dicastery promotes integral human development in the light of the Gospel and in the tradition of the Church's social teachings. To this end, it maintains relations with the Conferences of Bishops, offering them its cooperation so that values related to justice and peace as well as the care of creation may be promoted. Under the leadership of current-president Cardinal Peter Turkson, the Dicastery has sought to address more explicitly those problems related to the environment and the responsible use of the Earth's resources.



Center for Catholic Studies – Established in 1996, The Center for Catholic Studies is an academic community within the University of St. Thomas dedicated to the ongoing renewal of Catholic higher education. Shaped by the Catholic principles of the unity of knowledge and the complementarity of faith and reason, the Center pursues its mission through interdisciplinary teaching and research, service to the community, and cultivation of spiritual life. The Center houses the Department of Catholic Studies, which offers an undergraduate major and minor, a master's degree, a joint-degree with the School of Law and a study-abroad program in Rome. Dr. Michael Naughton is the director of the Center for Catholic Studies. www.stthomas.edu/cathstudies



Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Our mission is to enhance Minnesotans' quality of life by ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength of our agricultural economy.



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