



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Washington Theological Union Announces Sophia Award Recipient For National Excellence in Theological Scholarship**

WASHINGTON, DC - Washington Theological Union (WTU) announced today that Rev. Michael J. Scanlon, O.S.A., Chair of Christian Theology at Villanova University, has been chosen as its 2011 Sophia Award recipient. Rev. Scanlon, O.S.A will be honored at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Sophia Award Dinner and Lecture at Washington Theological Union in Washington, DC on Sunday, February 13, 2011.

“The Sophia Award is one of the highest honors WTU grants to a scholar,” said C. Colt Anderson, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean of WTU. “We are pleased to award this honor to Rev. Scanlon, O.S.A, who with his life work defines what this Award recognizes individuals for – the attainment of national excellence in theological scholarship contributing to the ministry of the Catholic Church.”

Rev. Scanlon, O.S.A has held the Josephine C. Connelly Chair in Christian Theology at Villanova University since 1992. A Past President of the Catholic Theological Society of America, Scanlon has also taught systematic theology at Augustinian College, Washington, D.C and from 1968 to 1992, he was a Professor of Systematic Theology at WTU. Rev. Scanlon, O.S.A has also lectured throughout the United States and Canada. He is widely published in the fields of Fundamental and Systematic Theology and Augustinian Studies.

Past Sophia Award recipients include Rev. Donald Senior, C.P., S.T.D., Catholic Theological Union (2010), Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, Ph.D., Fordham University (2009), and Gustavo Guitierrez, O.P., Ph.D., University of Notre Dame (2008). The 2011 Sophia Award presentation will be followed by a free lecture, open to the general public, by Rev. Scanlon, O.S.A, entitled "A New Turn in Theology: The Material Turn."

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*Washington Theological Union has educated men and women for ministry in the Roman Catholic Church for forty years. Founded as a coalition of seminaries for men in religious communities, the Union has earned a reputation as one of the finest graduate schools for ministry in the United States. Graduates often pursue doctoral studies at major Catholic institutions as well as minister and teach around the world in settings as diverse as suburban and inner-city parishes, high school and college campuses, hospitals and hospices, homeless shelters and prison ministries. The student body consists of Catholic religious men and women, laity, ordained ministers, and students from other Christian traditions who are part of the Washington Theological Consortium. More information about the Washington Theological Union is available at [www.wtu.edu](http://www.wtu.edu).*