

Rev. Stephen Joseph Fichter, Ph.D.

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Washington, DC 20007

EDUCATION

2009	Ph.D.	Department of Sociology, Rutgers University
2007	M.A.	Department of Sociology, Rutgers University
2003	M.S.W.	Graduate School of Social Service, Fordham University
2000	S.T.B.	Faculty of Theology, Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum
1997	Ph.L.	Faculty of Philosophy, Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum
1995	Ph.B.	Faculty of Philosophy, Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2021 – Present	Advisory Council Member Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations (EPIC), Hartford Institute for Religion Research
2018 – Present	Research Adviser The Center for Church Management, Villanova University School of Business
2016 – 2017	Visiting Professor Graduate School for Religion and Religious Education, Fordham University
2015 – 2019	Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology (Ministry of Leadership) Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University
2010 – 2011	Interim Executive Director Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), Georgetown University

2009 – Present *Cultivating Unity* convocation facilitator for National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy (NOCERCC)

2008 – Present Research Associate
Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), Georgetown University

2008 – 2015 Adjunct Professor (Theology of Vatican II)
Seton Hall University STEPS Graduate Program

2002 – 2004 Adjunct Professor of Philosophy and World Religions
Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ

2001 – 2008 Adult Education Coordinator and RCIA Professor
Saint Gabriel's Parish, Saddle River, NJ

1989 – 1990 Professor of English, Latin, and Spanish
Legion of Christ Novitiate, Cheshire, CT

PASTORAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYMENT

2017 – Present Pastor, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church, Wyckoff, NJ

2008 – 2017 Pastor, Sacred Heart Church, Haworth, NJ

2001 – 2008 Parochial Vicar, Saint Gabriel Archangel Church, Saddle River, NJ

2000 – 2001 Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Ridgewood, NJ

1998 – 2000 Chief Financial Officer, Legion of Christ Headquarters, Rome, Italy

1996 – 1998 Vice Rector, Center for Higher Studies Seminary, Rome, Italy

1994 – 1995 Vice Rector, Legion of Christ Headquarters, Rome, Italy

1993 – 1994 Assistant to the Rector, Center for Higher Studies Seminary, Rome, Italy

1990 – 1993 Assistant to the Novice Master, Legion of Christ Seminary, Dublin, Ireland

PUBLICATIONS

Stephen J. Fichter, Thomas P. Gaunt, Catherine Hoegeman, and Paul M. Perl, 2019. *Catholic Bishops in the United States: Church Leadership in the Third Millennium*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Stephen Joseph Fichter. 2015. *From Celibate Catholic Priests to Married Protestant Ministers: Shepherding in Greener Pastures*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Spreading the Joy Within: How can we reach out to Catholics on the outer edges of our own church? *Liguorian: A Redemptorist Pastoral Publication*. April 2014, pp. 10-14.

Gautier, Mary L., Paul M. Perl, and Stephen J. Fichter. 2012. *Same Call, Different Men: The Evolution of the Priesthood since Vatican II*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press. (Finalist award in the Religion/Philosophy category of the 2012 Midwest Book Awards.)

When Priests Leave the Church. *America: The National Catholic Weekly* (web edition). October 5, 2009. Retrieved at http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=11896

Uncle Joe: A Trailblazing Jesuit Sociologist of Religion. *The Southern Jesuit*. Volume 4, Issue 2, 2008, pp. 12-14.

The Forum Mailbag: Planning to build on unearned name recognition. *Sociological Forum: Official Publication of the Eastern Sociological Society*, Volume 23, Issue 1, 2008.

Gender differences in stress among Protestant clergy: An exploratory study. *Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion*. Volume 15, Brill, 2005, pp. 116-136.

“Tell Him it’s God calling” in *Envoy magazine*, June, 1998, pp. 42 – 45.

“The Gospel in a Flash: The Didache offers quickly digestible lessons for a hurried world” in *National Catholic Register*, December 1997.

“Inside the Synod for America” in *National Catholic Register*, November 1997

RESEARCH REPORTS

Fichter, Stephen J. and Thomas P. Gaunt. August 2018. *Cultivating Unity Research Findings: A Report for the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Salt Lake City*. Washington, D.C.: CARA at Georgetown University.

Fichter, Stephen J. and Thomas P. Gaunt. August 2018. *Cultivating Unity Research Findings: A Report for the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Springfield*. Washington, D.C.: CARA at Georgetown University.

Fichter, Stephen J., and Mary L. Gautier. July 2017. *Cultivating Unity Research Findings: A Report for the Diaconate of the Diocese of Sacramento*. Washington, D.C.: CARA at Georgetown University.

Fichter, Stephen J., Jonathan L. Wiggins and Jonathan Holland. April 2015. *Cultivating Unity Research Findings: A Report for the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Honolulu*. Washington, D.C.: CARA at Georgetown University.

Fichter, Stephen J. and Mark M. Gray. August 2014. *Cultivating Unity Research Findings: A Report for the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Shreveport*. Washington, D.C.: CARA at Georgetown University.

Fichter, Stephen J. and Thomas P. Gaunt. November 2013. *Cultivating Unity Research Findings: A Report for the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Oakland*. Washington, D.C.: CARA at Georgetown University.

Fichter, Stephen J. and Paul M. Perl. September 2012. *Cultivating Unity Research Findings: A Report for the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown*. Washington, D.C.: CARA at Georgetown University.

Fichter, Stephen J. and Melissa A. Cidade. September 2011. *Cultivating Unity Research Findings: A Report for the Presbyterate of the Diocese of St. Petersburg*. Washington, D.C.: CARA at Georgetown University.

Fichter, Stephen J. and Paul M. Perl. July 2011. *Cultivating Unity Research Findings: A Report for the Presbyterate of the Archdiocese of New Orleans*. Washington, D.C.: CARA at Georgetown University.

Fichter, Stephen J. and Paul M. Perl. December 2010. *Cultivating Unity Research Findings: A Report for the Presbyterate of the Archdiocese of Guam*. Washington, D.C.: CARA at Georgetown University.

Fichter, Stephen J. and Paul M. Perl. September 2009. *Cultivating Unity Research Findings: A Report for the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Dallas*. Washington, D.C.: CARA at Georgetown University.

Fichter, Stephen J. and Anna C. Buck. July 2009. *Cultivating Unity Research Findings: A Report for the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Sioux City*. Washington, D.C.: CARA at Georgetown University.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

2018 Organizer/Convener: “Carrying the Crosier: A Profile of U.S. Catholic Bishops” session with Thomas Gaunt, Catherine Hoegeman, and Paul Perl. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.

2018 Panelist: “Author Meets Critics: *Word, Liturgy, Charity: The Diaconate in the U.S. Catholic Church*.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.

- 2017 Presentation: “Urgent Need to Educate for Pastoral Inquisitiveness and Flexibility.” International Festival of Creativity in Church Management at the Lateran University. Rome, Italy.
- 2017 Presentation: “Priests as Missionary Disciples: Current status of research on the priesthood in America.” Dallas Ministry Conference, Dallas, TX.
- 2016 Co-author of presentation: “Profile of U.S. Catholic Bishops” with Catherine Hoegeman and Paul Perl. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- 2016 Pastoral Colloquium: “The Call to Ministry: What’s the Same and What’s Different?” Christian Health Care Center, Wyckoff, NJ.
- 2015 Panel presentation: “Pluralism in Catholic Presbyterates in the United States.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2015 Author meets critics panel discussion: “From Celibate Catholic Priest to Married Protestant.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2015 Presentation: “Demographic Portrait of the Diocese of Cleveland.” Office of Continuing Education and Formation of Ministers Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH.
- 2015 Presentation: “A Projection of Priests to 2045 for the Diocese of Cleveland.” Office of Continuing Education and Formation of Ministers Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH.
- 2015 Presentation: “The Catholic Family in the United States.” Priest convocation, Archdiocese of New Orleans, LA.
- 2015 Presentation: “The Evolution of the Priesthood since Vatican II.” Catholic Community Seminar Series, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY.
- 2014 Presentation: “Gender differences in stress among Protestant clergy.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2014 Convener: “A Methodology for Estimating the Catholic Population: What Have We Learned after 25 Years?” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2013 Presentation: “Changes in the US Priesthood during the last 40 years.” Presbyteral Assembly for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Arlington, TX.
- 2013 Presentation: “Beyond MCP - Building the Story: The presence of priests from abroad in US dioceses.” Annual National Meeting of Diocesan Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, Sugar Land, TX.

- 2013 Presentation: "New Research Findings: Implications for Ongoing Formation." Presbyteral Gathering for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Seven Springs, PA.
- 2013 Presentation: "New Research Findings: Implications for Ongoing Formation." Inter-Diocesan Association for Ongoing Formation Annual Meeting, Burlingame, CA.
- 2012 Panel presentation: "Christmas and Easter only: Surveying Marginal Catholics." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ.
- 2012 Author meets Critics: "Same Call, Different Men: The Evolution of the Priesthood since Vatican II." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ.
- 2012 "Summary of *Same Call, Different Men*." Communion Brunch Talk for the Rosary Society of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Maywood, NJ.
- 2012 "Working Within Different Ecclesiologies and Pastoral Visions." International Priests Workshop for the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ.
- 2012 "New Research: Implications for Priestly Ministry Today." Priest workshop for the Diocese of Salina, KS.
- 2012 "New Research Findings: Implications for Priestly Ministry Today." Priest workshop for the Diocese of Springfield, IL.
- 2010 "Exploring the Context of Current Ministerial Life." Pastoral Ministry Days, Diocese of Rapid City, SD.
- 2010 "Creating Unity in the Midst of Diversity." Pastoral Ministry Days, Diocese of Rapid City, SD.
- 2008 "Contrasting Images of Major Religious Transitions: How Mental Boundaries Allow Change or Prohibit It." Inter-Ivy Sociology Symposium, Princeton University, NJ.
- 2008 "Causes and consequences of transitioning from celibate Catholic priesthood into married Protestant ministry." Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- 2007 Roundtable presentation: "Shepherding in greener pastures: Motivations for shifting affiliation." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- 2007 "Is it simply 'Changing Lanes' in Christian ministry? Affiliation and marital status boundary crossing." Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

- 2007 Authors Meet Critics: William V. D'Antonio, James D. Davidson, Dean Hoge, and Mary Gautier's *American Catholics Today: New Realities about Their Faith and Their Church*. Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- 2003 "Overcoming stress among clergy." Symposium on Psychology, Faith, Spirit. Fordham University, New York, NY.

CREATIVE SPIRITUALITY PROJECTS

Co-writer and co-producer of VITA (aka Trinity's Triumph), 2021 release

Co-producer of the PeaceQuest app (available at iTunes and App Store) and the accompanying website (www.peacequest.com), February 2014. PeaceQuest is an immersive prayer experience, based on the Ignatian "composition of place" style of meditation, designed to allow the iPad or iPhone user to escape to a completely different and tranquil place, guided by a monk named *Anam Cara*, which is Irish for soul friend. (<http://fordhamnotes.blogspot.com/2014/03/alumni-create-digital-space-for.html>)

Lyricist of "That Little Face", 2011. Music by Terry DeCarlo, Haworth, New Jersey.

Lyricist of "The Better Part", 1998. Music by Albert Gutberlet, Rome, Italy.

LANGUAGES

Read, write, and speak in Spanish and Italian.
Well versed in Latin; less so in Biblical Greek.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

Knight of Honour and Chaplain, Order of St. John of Jerusalem Hospitaller, The America Priory
Chaplain, The Friends of Venerable Mother Henriette Delille, New Jersey Chapter
Third Degree Member, Knights of Columbus, Council 9021
Manuscript Reviewer, Review of Religious Research Journal
Member, American Sociological Association
Member, Association for the Sociology of Religion
Member, Eastern Sociological Society
Member, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion