



THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
THE NATIONAL SEMINARY OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Each year, as Theological College celebrates its Alumni Days, a guest speaker is invited for a symposium to engage our alumni on issues of theology, spirituality, and other themes related to the ministry of a diocesan priest. Over a year ago, the seminary invited Rev. James Martin, S.J., to speak on the topic, "Encountering Jesus: Meeting the Jesus of History and the Christ of Faith." Father Martin is editor-at-large of America magazine and a bestselling author. He was recently appointed to serve as a Consultor to the Vatican's Secretariat for Communication. Theological College was delighted that Father Martin was willing to join the community and share his wisdom with its alumni.

However, since the publication of his book, *Building a Bridge*, Theological College has experienced increasing negative feedback from various social media sites regarding the seminary's invitation. As a result, after considerable consultation with various constituencies, and in the best interest of all parties, the decision was made to withdraw the invitation extended to Father Martin, who accepted the decision graciously and appreciated the seminary's regret that such a decision needed to be made. Rev. Gerald McBrearity, P.S.S., rector of the seminary, reached this decision in the interest of avoiding distraction and controversy as Theological College celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding and welcomes its alumni for an event that should evoke remembrance and gratitude. In no way does this decision signal approval or agreement with the comments or accusations that the various social media sites have made over the recent weeks. A new speaker for the October 4th symposium will be announced shortly.