

Sent 10/25/05

Dear Dick, Roger, Warren, David, Grant,

I have a possibility for the Chair in Catholic Studies that would also fulfill our Division's desire for another medievalist. It is Roger E. Reynolds, Senior Fellow at the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, U. of Toronto, for the past 25 years. He is now emeritus, as Toronto has mandatory retirement at age 65. I emailed him to ask if he knew of colleagues or students of his who might be interested in the Chair, and was surprised that he said he himself was interested. He said he did not want to retire yet from teaching, but had to by Toronto's policy. (I think he is 66 or about). This would be an awfully big feather in Duke's cap, if he came. He is a world reknown scholar, indeed unsurpassed in the western hemisphere as a medievalist, who covers medieval History, Theology, Canon Law, Liturgy, Paleography. One of his specialties is the history of sacred orders (clerical ordination). His knowledge of medieval manuscripts is extraordinary, and our Rare Book Library would be deeply invigorated by his presence. He is an old friend of Francis Newton, Duke emeritus in the Classics Department. Neither we nor UNC Chapel Hill now has a really senior person in medieval manuscripts (David Ganz returned to U. of London). The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies would be overwhelmed to have him here to inspire the students, and our History Department would also be thrilled (Clare Woods knows him). He is a convert to Catholicism from Anglicanism. He is very media-friendly, often giving talks on the radio or writing articles to the general public explaining medieval traditions. He is willing to send his (50 page) CV. But before I gave his name to Greg, I wanted to tell you about him for your reaction, approval, comments, whatever, and if we should present his name to Greg as a Division. Thanks for helping me out on this, and any advise.

Sincerely,

Susan Keefe

I might add something @ making the
Chair a 3-4-or 5 year appointment. RER would
leave prob. in 4-5 yrs, and if we kept changing
its holders, we might get big shots like Gustav Gutierrez
Also tell Greg he might fit in well w/ our plans
to offer D. Th. D. since RER wants to
"teach + direct theses".