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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## New Kickstarter Campaign Launched for a Card Game Based on Chesterton's Father Brown

DREXEL HILL, Pennsylvania—A group of Chesterton fans and board game enthusiasts have launched a new Kickstarter campaign in the hopes of bringing a unique new card game to market. The game is called Father Brown Investigations: The Death of Sir Percy Coldwell, and is the result of many months of creative work and planning.

The team behind the game is an international group connected by their love of Chesterton and their Catholic faith. The originator of the idea is Nikola Bolšec, who is the President of the Croatian Chesterton Club and works as a translator and editor on Laudato TV, the premier family television station in Croatia. He assembled the group to make his vision of a Chestertonian tabletop game a reality. Also working on the project is the Polish game designer Jacek Malkowski, who already has two successful board games to his credit, *The Road to Bethlehem* and *Inspiration!* (both published by Sophia Institute Press). Croatian artist Matko Antolčić and graphic designer Iva Risek round out the creative team. The marketing campaign is being led by Joseph Grabowski, President of the Philadelphia Chesterton Society and the group's sole American.

The project has already met with enthusiasm from Chesterton fans in the US, which is home to the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton, a worldwide network of Chesterton readers and admirers under the leadership of Dale Ahlquist. The Society is headquartered in Minnesota. Among the game's supporters is Nancy Carpentier Brown, the biographer of Chesterton's wife, Frances. The game has also enjoyed international interest as well, notably from the Italian Chesterton Society headquartered near Norcia, Italy.

The Kickstarter campaign was launched on December 8 with a goal of \$30,000, with which the project creators hope to begin producing the game, eventually to be marketed at retail. Within two days of launch, the project had already achieved 10% of its funding goal with backers in about a dozen countries.

"We're incredibly excited by the enthusiasm we've seen from Chesterton fans, and the wider world of board game lovers," said Grabowski. "This is a game that can be played by anyone, regardless of background or faith, and regardless of whether they are familiar with Chesterton's *Father Brown* fiction. Nevertheless, for us, as Catholics, we think this game is important and that the market is ripe for it. For one thing, the reputation of the Catholic priest in our society has taken quite a hit over the past two decades, and we think a character like Father Brown who is wholly admirable, virtuous, and wise is a needed remedy to so many bad perceptions of priests. For another, with the soaring popularity of the BBC's Father Brown TV show, it is clear that this particular character has widespread and lasting appeal."

The Kickstarter campaign contains many different reward levels, including two versions of the game, a "base" version and a "deluxe." Other perks involve the opportunity to get an autographed book by Brandon Vogt, a chance to have a virtual game night with the creators, and even to have one's image drawn by the artist for use in the game. The deadline for the Kickstarter is January 7<sup>th</sup>, and many of these perks are limited in quantity. The creators say they are hopeful and optimistic about reaching their goal, and hope that gamers of all stripes will support their effort. The Kickstarter can be <u>found online</u> here.

A press/media kit and photos for use in publication can be found at <a href="www.fatherbrowngame.com/media">www.fatherbrowngame.com/media</a>.