***THE AQUINAS CENTER***

***AT AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY***

*&*

***THE******INSTITUTE FOR SPIRITUALITY***

***AT THE ANGELICUM***

***PRESENT:***

*What Would Aquinas Do?*

*The Crises of Our Age and the 800th Anniversary*

*of the Birth of Thomas Aquinas*

***January 30 – February 1, 2025***

***(Schedule Subject to Changes)***

**Thursday, January 30**

12:00 – 8:00 p.m. Registration

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Concurrent Session 1

*Ballroom Section* 1:

**David Sherwood,** *Ave Maria University,* “Marriage and the Sexes: Mutual Real Relations in the Sacramental Theology of Saint Thomas Aquinas”

**Matthew McKenna,** *Ave Maria University,* “What is a Woman? Applying Thomistic Principles to the Case of Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome”

*Ballroom Section 2:*

**Ruvianne Dela Cruz Mercado,** *Dominican School of philosophy and Theology,* “St. Thomas Aquinas on Proper Self-Love in the Spiritual Life”

**Alexander Klee,** *Boston College,* **“**Authentic in Christ: A Social Imaginary for the Modern Church”

**Mary Mansfield,** *Oxford University, "Of Gods and Men: Nature, Grace, and the Problem of Extrinsicism"*

*Ballroom Section 3:*

**Joseph Cunningham,** *University of St. Thomas,* “Rooted in Reality: The Foundation of Morals Underlying Aquinas’ *Liberum Arbitrium*”

**Marie Das,** *Ave Maria University,* “Emotional Realism in St. Thomas and John Duns Scotus”

**William Horstmann,** *Ave Maria University,* “Deus est Finis: Nihilism and the Natural Desire for God in Book III of the Summa Contra Gentiles”

*O’Bryan Performance Hall:*

**Rev. Guy Mansini, O.S.B.,** *Ave Maria University*, “Redeeming the Time”

**Daniel Lendman,** *Ave Maria University,* “The Role of the Lay Theologian in the Midst of the Dereliction in Magisterial Teaching in the Catholic Church”

**Mark Johnson,** *Marquette University,* “A Theology of Waste”

4:45 – 6:00 p.m. Conference Welcome

Plenary Session 1:

**Matthew Kuhner,** *St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry,* "The Confidence of St. Thomas: Our Crisis of Truth and the Provocative Safety of Divine Love"

**Steven Long,** *Ave Maria University,* “TBD”

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Dinner (on your own)

7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Keynote Address:

**Francis Beckwith,** *Baylor University,* “How Aquinas Changed My Mind about Religion, Science, and Politics.”

8:15 – 9:00 p.m. Wine and Cheese Social

**Friday, January 31**

8:00 a.m. – Registration

5:00 p.m.

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Concurrent Session 2

*Ballroom Section 1:*

**Andrew Kim**, *Marquette University,* “Aquinas, Addiction, and Attentive Love”

**Brandon Wanless,** *The Saint Paul Seminary,* “Addiction and the Reception of Holy Communion: Pastoral Guidance Informed by the Theology of St. Thomas Aquinas”

**Daniel Gordon,** *Ave Maria University,* “The Hierarchy of Sanctification: Thomas Aquinas on the Virtue of Holiness”

*Ballroom Section 2:*

**Sr. Hyacinth Hayward, O.P.,** *Marin Catholic High School,* “Hope, Desire, and Despair: Aquinas’s Theology of Hope and the Life of the 21st Century Wayfarer”

**Matthew Ramage,** *Benedictine College,* “What Would Aquinas Say About Creation’s Eschatological Status Today?”

**Francis Feingold,** *Kenrick-Glennon Seminary*, “The Ultimate Deathbed Conversion: Can the Separated Soul Still Repent in the First Instant after Death? A Defense of Hell’s Eternity”

*Ballroom Section*3:

**Tyler Thompson,** *Ave Maria University,* “’Happy Those Who Meditate On Wisdom:’ Happiness and *Sacra Doctrina”*

**Anthony Cabrera,** *Ave Maria University,* “The Enduring Relevance of Aquinas and Anscombe on Just War in a World at War”

**Michael Towle,** *Institutional Affiliation*, “Transubstantiation vs. Transgenderism: A Eucharistic Understanding of the Body”

*O’Bryan Performance Hall:*

**Anthony Hernandez,** *Ave Maria University,* “’He Gets Us:’ Aquinas on How the Doctrine of the Incarnation Counters the Anthropomorphization of God”

**Sr. Mary Bethany Mansfield, O.P.,** *Ave Maria University,* "Recovering from Practical Deism by Recovering Divine Providence: Applications of Aquinas in Apologetic Theology"

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. Plenary Session 2:

**Janice Breidenbach,** *Ave Maria University*, "Thomistic Free Speech? Political Pluralism and the Challenge of Democracy”

**Christopher Kaczor,** *University of Notre Dame,* “The Thomism of Tomorrow: Learning from McCormick, MacIntyre, and McInerny”

12:00 p.m. Conference Mass

12:45 -1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own, Cafeteria suggested)

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Concurrent Session 3

*Ballroom Section*1:

**Joseph Diaz,** *Marquette University,* “Quantity for God’s Glory? The Theological Rationale for Multiplicity in the Cosmos”

**Garrett Peters,** *St. Vincent De Paul Regional Seminary,* “Thomism is Compatible with the Multiverse”

**Benoit Duhamel,** *Ave Maria University,* “Has Contemporary Materialism Really Proved That the Soul Doesn’t Exist? Aquinas Answers Paul Churchland”

*Ballroom Section 2:*

**Michael Proietta**, *Marquette University,* “Thomistic Trinitarian Metaphysics as a Resource for the Renewal of Catholic Liturgical Music”

**Brady Beckerman,** *Donahue Academy,* **“**Thomas Aquinas, Sacred Silence, and Eucharistic Adoration”

**Maria Theresa Maggio,** *Franciscan University of Steubenville,* “The Modern Marian Eclipse: Proposing a Thomistic Response”

*Ballroom Section 3:*

**Alexander Erickson,** *Ave Maria University,* “Human Truth, Human Narrative, God’s Grace: Reflections on Human Knowledge”

**Russel Ward,** *University of Notre Dame,* “What Aquinas Would Do According to Dante”

**Neil Watson,** *Ave Maria University,* “Bed, Bath, and Beyond: Thomistic Remedies in an Increasingly Sorrowful World”

*Location TBD:*

**Emily Dalsky,** *The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity,* “Progress Toward Perfection: A Thomistic Deconstruction of Kant & Hegel's Salvific Claim on Reason”

**Luke Sherman***, Hillsdale College,* “Aquinas and Hylomorphism”

*O’Bryan Performance Hall*

**John Rziha,** *Benedictine College,* “True Identity in Christ”

**Michael Dauphinais,** *Ave Maria University, “*God’s Mercy in Reason, Revelation, and Today’s Culture”

**Roger Nutt,** *Ave Maria University,* TBD

3:30 – 4:45 p.m. Plenary Session 3:

**Gerald Boersma,** *Ave Maria University,* “Prudence as Connatural Knowledge”

**Angela Franks,** *St. John’s Seminary*, "Forgotten and Resurgent Being"

5:00 – 6:00pm Dinner (2nd Floor Student Union Building Loft; Ticket Only)

6:00 – 7:00pm Holy Hour and Eucharistic Blessing (Ave Maria Catholic Church)

7:00 – 8:00pm Keynote Address (Ave Maria Catholic Church):

**Fr. Michael Sherwin, OP,** *Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas,* “Thomas Aquinas on Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life, Yesterday, Today, and Forever”

**Saturday, February 1**

8:00 a.m. Registration

– 5:00 p.m.

7:00 a.m. Mass

7:45 a.m. Breakfast (On your own), Light snacks and coffee provided

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Concurrent Session 4

*Ballroom Section 1:*

**John O’Neill,** *Holy Apostles College and Seminary,* “A Crisis of Grace and Truth: One Crisis or Many?”

**Jack Norman,** *Australian Catholic University,* “David Burrell and Three Isomorphisms: Medieval, Modern, and Hybridized Accounts of Truth in the Thomistic Tradition” (REMOTE)

**Rev. Mike Johns,** *Diocese of Little Rock,* “Aquinas and Scruton on Sexual Desire”

*Ballroom Section 2:*

**Joshua Brotherton,** *St. Thomas University, “*The Nature-Grace Principle and Its Implications”

**Beth Mortensen**, *International Theological Institute,* “Blowing the Nose too Hard: Aquinas’s Argument for Milder Laws”

**Kristin Towle,** *St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity,* “The Law is a Teacher: A Thomistic Answer to the Crisis of Our Modern American Food System”

*Ballroom Section*3:

**Nick Ramirez,** *University of Notre Dame,* “Thomas Aquinas and Today’s Crisis of Frozen Embryos”

**Daniel Sadasivan**, *Ave Maria University,* “Thomism and Evolution: An Example of How Philosophy Could Guide Natural Science”

**Brett Feger,** *Ave Maria University,* **“**Aquinas on Adam and Eve: Follow the Science”

*Prince Building 115:*

**Lauren Dionne,** *Florence Classical Academy of Art,* “Death as the Key to Good Art”

**Thomas Keith,** *University of Notre Dame,* “Dialectical Synthesis as Evangelism in Aquinas and Newman”

**Freya Gordon,** *Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology,* “Reframing the Crisis of Beauty”

*O’Bryan Performance Hall:*

**Rev. Ryan Connors,** *Our Lady of Providence Seminary,* “A Priest for Every Altar: Aquinas on a Eucharistic Priesthood”

**T. Adam Van Wart,** *Ave Maria University,* “Epistemic Holiness: Transubstantiation as a Paradigmatic Mystery in Thomas”

**Arielle Harms,** *Augustine Institute,* “Confirmation Preparation According to Thomas Aquinas”

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. Plenary Session 4:

**Christopher Malloy,** *University of Dallas*, “TBD”

**Paul Gondreau,** *Providence College*, “What would Aquinas Do about 'Toxic Masculinity' and #MeToo?"

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch (Boxed lunches provided, Cafeteria)

1:00 p.m. – Concurrent Session 5

2: 30 p.m.

*Ballroom Section 1:*

**Mark Heffley,** *University of Mary,* “Thomas Aquinas and Phenomenology: A Study of Thomas in Light of Robert Sokolowski”

**James Kelly,** *Ave Maria University,* “What Aquinas Would Do: A Doctrinal Assessment of *ST* I, q. 1”

**John Monaco,** *Duquesne University,* “Docere Veritatem: Aquinas’ Pedagogy for a Postmodern World”

*Ballroom Section 2:*

**Rachael Killackey,** *Magdala Ministries*, “Thomas Aquinas and the Technocratic Paradigm”

**David De Salvo,** *University of Arizona,* “What would Aquinas Say About Netflix: Aquinas on the Right Use of Media”

**Mikyle Schramm,** *Viterbo University*, "Aquinas Articulates on Artificial Intelligence: How the Common Doctor Teaches Us Some Common Sense About Human Thinking"

*Ballroom Section 3:*

**E. Tyler Graham***, Donahue Academy*, “Girardian Thomist Pedagogy: Hermeneutic for the New Evangelization”

**John Copas,** *Catholic University of America,* “The Structure of Aquinas’ Moral Theology: A Lesson in Logic and Virtue”

**Gabriel Van Ness,** *Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School*, “The Virtues as Participatory Knowledge: A Thomistic Approach to Education”

*Prince Building 115:*

**Elizabeth Kirk,** *Catholic University of America,* “’Enfolded in Care:’ Challenges in Contemporary American Law in Light of Thomistic Thought on the Family”

*Prince Building 116:*

**Marina Brungardt,** *Newman University, KS,* “’They Will Nourish Him in Faith:’ A Thomistic Response to Modern Failures of Faith Transmission in the Family”

**James Whitaker,** *University of Notre Dame,* “The Reasonable Assent of Faith in Aquinas and Newman”

2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Plenary Session 5:

**Jeremy Pilch,** *St. Mary’s University, Twickenham*, “'Reading *Lumen Gentium* in the Light of St Thomas's Teaching on Merit and Grace'”

4:00 – 4:45pm Vigil Mass (for travelers)

5:15 – 6:30pm Closing Keynote:

**Rev. Romanus Cessario, O.P.**, *Ave Maria University*, “Why Study Aquinas Today?”

6:30 p.m. Closing of the Conference

6:30 p.m. Dinner (On your own)

6:45 p.m. Alumni Cigar Night

*Details Forthcoming*

**Sunday, February 2**

Mass Schedule

Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel

* 7:30am
* 9:00am
* 10:30am
* 12:00pm
* 5:00pm

Ave Maria Catholic Church

* 8:00am
* 10:00am
* 12:30pm (Extraordinary Form)
* 7:30pm