



THE BEACON

NEWSLETTER OF THE LUMEN CHRISTI INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC THOUGHT

SUMMER 2019

MASS AND SYMPOSIUM CELEBRATE CANDLEMAS, PROMOTE SACRED MUSIC

Though not widely celebrated today in the American Church, the feast of Candlemas is a longstanding part of the Church's rich liturgical tradition. Candlemas, or the Presentation of the Lord, occurs 40 days after Christmas day and commemorates Mary's visitation to the temple in Jerusalem (recounted in chapter 2 of Luke's Gospel) in fulfillment of the Mosaic law's prescriptions for new mothers and firstborn children. This winter the Lumen Christi Institute partnered with Calvert House Catholic Center to host a Mass for Candlemas and the symposium "Sacred Music in Context and Practice."

The Mass and symposium honored the memory of Fr. Willard Jabusch (1930 – 2018), former chaplain of Calvert House and priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

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DEBATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NOTRE DAME'S LEGENDARY PRESIDENT

According to the great University of Chicago President Robert Maynard Hutchins, Fr. Theodore M. Hesburgh's leadership record at the University of Notre Dame in the 1950s and 1960s was "one of the most spectacular achievements in higher education in the last 25 years." On the occasion of the publication of a major biography on Hesburgh penned by a confrere in his religious order and Notre Dame colleague, Lumen Christi sponsored a panel discussion on his life and legacy.

Generously hosted by the downtown law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, the discussion, "The Legacy of Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, CSC," drew 120 attendees to hear remarks by Fr. Wilson (Bill) Miscamble, CSC, on his 2019 book *American Priest: The Ambitious Life and Conflicted Legacy of Notre Dame's Father Ted Hesburgh*.

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Candlemas continued.

Thomas Levergood, Executive Director of the Lumen Christi Institute, recalled Jabusch's influence on Lumen Christi's early years.

"Fr. Jabusch helped initiate the formation of the Lumen Christi Institute during his tenure as chaplain when he asked Catholic scholars to figure out how the Church could 'do something intellectual' on cam-

and drew 80 audience members to hear the thoughts of scholars and practitioners of sacred music. Michael Anderson, Associate Professor of Musicology at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music and director of Schola Antiqua, introduced the speakers and moderated the discussion. First to speak was Margot Fassler, the Keough-Hesburgh Director of the Program of Sacred Music and Profes-

[Candlemas] originated in the early Church on account of Simeon's proclamation during the presentation in the temple that the newborn Jesus would be "a light to reveal [God] to the nations" (Lk 2:32)

pus and present the Catholic tradition of faith and culture in its full integrity," Levergood said. "His consistent support of the Lumen Christi Institute was essential to its existence and early success."

Fr. Peter Funk, OSB—a graduate of the University of Chicago and prior of Bridgeport's Monastery of the Holy Cross—led a chanted liturgical procession from the atrium of Swift Hall, home of the university's Divinity School, into nearby Bond Chapel, where he celebrated Mass. Candles were lit for the procession and the Mass; this tradition originated in the early Church on account of Simeon's proclamation during the presentation in the temple that the newborn Jesus would be "a light to reveal [God] to the nations" (Lk 2:32).

The procession and Mass were chanted by Schola Antiqua of Chicago, a professional vocal ensemble dedicated to western liturgical chant and polyphonic music before the year 1600 and, since 2008, artists-in-residence of the Lumen Christi Institute.

The symposium followed a post-Mass breakfast in Swift Hall's Common Room

and drew 80 audience members to hear the thoughts of scholars and practitioners of sacred music. Fassler displayed images of medieval celebrations of Candlemas and explained the historical roots and iconography of the feast.

Next to speak was Robert Kendrick, the William Colvin Professor in Music, Romance Languages and Literatures, and the College at the University of Chicago. Kendrick discussed devotional meanings of the feast and explained the chants sung by Schola Antiqua during the Mass that morning.

Peter Jeffery, the Michael P. Grace Chair in Medieval Studies and Professor of Musicology and Ethnomusicology at the University of Notre Dame, spoke about how Notre Dame's sacred music program prepares its students for lives in ministry in light of the Church's history of sacred music.

Finally, Fr. Funk discussed the role of sacred music in modern practice from his monastic perspective and his experience of the sacred through music.

Video, audio, and photos of the symposium are available on Lumen Christi's website.

Hesburgh continued.

Based largely on 30 hours of one-on-one interviews conducted by Miscamble with Hesburgh at the Congregation of Holy Cross-owned retreat and conference property in Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin in summer 1998—the same site where leaders of Catholic higher education gathered under Hesburgh's leadership and at his initiative in 1967 to sign the famous Land O' Lakes statement—*American Priest* brings Hesburgh's testimony into conversation with archival and historical research to produce a nuanced picture of the achievements and failings of arguably the 20th century's most prominent American Catholic not named Kennedy.

The discussion was moderated by John Breen, a chaired professor of law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law who earned his B.A. from Notre Dame. Following Miscamble's opening remarks William Cavanaugh (Director of the Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology at DePaul University and also a Notre Dame B.A.), Jennifer Mason McAward (Professor of Law at Notre Dame Law School), and Kenneth Woodward (former longtime religion editor of *Newsweek* and a Notre Dame B.A.) probed the book, leveled critiques and challenges, and commented on Hesburgh's legacy.

Miscamble, who for decades has been actively involved in discussions about the nature of the Catholic university and about Notre Dame's Catholic character in particular, explained that his goal in the book was to assess Hesburgh's decades-long public life through the prism of the latter's patriotic and ecclesial actions and omissions. Contending that many presentations of Hesburgh want for balanced historical perspective, Miscamble

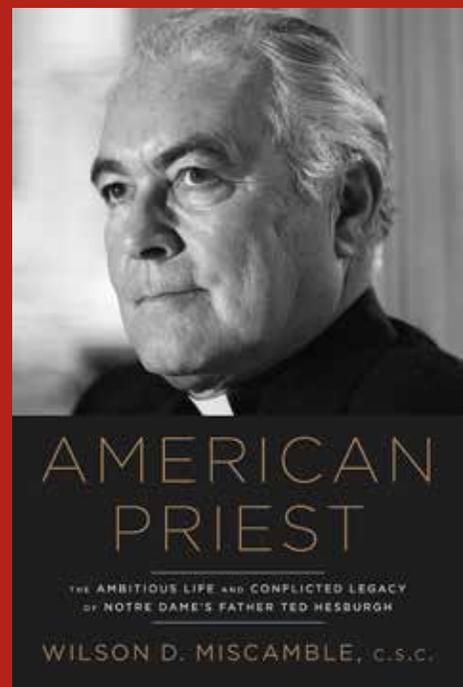
argued that Hesburgh's commitment to partnership with elite liberal institutions and individuals critically compromised elements of his witness to the Catholic faith and his successful delivery on his vision to mold Notre Dame into a great Catholic research university. Miscamble also acknowledged that Notre Dame is in a more promising position than any other institution to realize Hesburgh's vision.

Cavanaugh contended that Hesburgh's fatal flaw was his desire to assimilate Catholicism to American corporate, military, and industrial culture.

While expressing praise for Miscamble's achievement, the panelists challenged the book's presentation of Hesburgh and his legacy. Cavanaugh contended that Hesburgh's fatal flaw was his desire to assimilate Catholicism to American corporate, military, and industrial culture. Mason McAward averred that Miscamble understated the degree of Hesburgh's influence upon and contributions to a civil rights movement that at the time of Hesburgh's involvement with it still was opposed by the majority of Americans. And

Woodward, who knew Hesburgh closely at a personal level for many years, disputed Miscamble's assertion that Hesburgh nurtured a vain ego perpetually in need of flattery and adulation. Miscamble closed the panel by responding briefly to these remarks. A lively question-and-answer session followed.

Attendees then enjoyed a food and drink reception while continuing the discussion. The Seminary Coop Bookstore sold out its copies of *American Priest*. And all present benefited from this opportunity to discuss the remarkable legacy and achievement of an American priest whose stamp on Catholic higher education and civic affairs is estimable indeed.



BISHOPS, SCHOLARS, & BUSINESS LEADERS ATTEND CONFERENCE ON FINANCIAL MARKETS AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT



For the past ten years the Lumen Christi Institute has organized and hosted major “Economics and Catholic Social Thought” conferences devoted to themes suggested by social, political, and markets-based contemporary issues. These conferences gather bishops, scholars, businessmen, and the interested lay public for discussion and debate over vexing topics confronting the Church in the worlds of finance and economics.

The 2009 inaugural Conference on Economics and Catholic Social Thought—in the midst of the economic crisis—introduced economists to areas of Catholic social teaching on economics and initiated their dialogue with bishops. Subsequent iterations tackled “Globalization and the Developing World,” “The Family in the Changing Economy,” and in 2016, in the aftermath of the promulgation of Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home*, “Economics, Environment, and Catholic Social Thought.” On March 20 and 21 Lumen Christi hosted its Ninth Conference in Economics and Catholic Social Thought: “Financial Markets and Moral Inquiry.”

The conference, which was cosponsored by two United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committees, spanned two days of programming. On March 20, a public symposium on “Financial Markets and Moral Inquiry” drew nearly 150 participants to the University of Chicago for a discussion of the May 2018 bulletin “*Oeconomicae et Pecuniariae Quaestiones* [Economic and Financial Questions].” Subtitled

“Considerations for an ethical discernment regarding some aspects of the present economic-financial system,” the bulletin was published jointly by the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and its Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. In 2016 the Vatican announced the formation of this new Dicastery from what formerly had been the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and that the Ghanaian cardinal Peter Turkson, who had led the Council since 2009, would serve as its inaugural prefect.

The 20-page “Economic and Financial Questions” opens with the observation that “economic and financial issues draw our attention today as never before” on account of the “growing influence of financial markets on the material well-being of most of humankind.” The rest of the document is an articulation of principles and norms in light of which market and financial institutions should frame their work so as to advance the common goods of the communities they serve.

Cardinal Turkson himself headlined the March 20 panel discussion, opening it with remarks that both contextualized the document’s origins and the intended effect of its publication. He also expanded upon some of its key points of emphasis. Other panelists included J. Christopher Giancarlo, Chairman of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission; John Studzinski, Managing Director of PIMCO and an alumnus of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business; and Mary Hirschfeld, Associate Professor of Economics & Theology at Villanova University. The panel was moderated by Maureen O’Hara, the Robert W. Purcell Professor of Finance at Cornell University. After the lively panel discussion the participants gathered for a reception and dinner at Hyde Park’s Quadrangle Club, where conversation over the document and its implications for business continued.

Michael Hawking, a Resident in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Chicago Hospital, attended the public symposium.

“I found the discussion to be both intellectually engaging and



ABOVE: Participants sing the *Salve Regina* at the end of the conference session “Reconsidering the Value of Finance” on March 21. RIGHT: John Studzinski



personally edifying,” he said. “The speakers brought an exceptional level of expertise from a variety of perspectives, and left those of us in attendance with an enriched perspective and much food for thought.”

“The Vatican Document encourages Catholic practitioners of finance to revisit the integration of Catholic social teaching and their decision-making processes.”

The following day Cardinal Turkson celebrated Mass at Calvert House Catholic Center, the University of Chicago’s Catholic chaplaincy, for participants in that day’s closed-door working sessions on more focused topics. The early morning session, “Reconsidering the Value of Finance,” brought together O’Hara, Fr. Peter Schallenberg (Consultor to the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development), and Martijn Cremers (Dean of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame). The late morning session featured Galina Hale (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago), Bishop Oscar Cantú (Diocese of San Jose, CA, and a keynote speaker at the 2015 conference on “The Family in the Changing Economy”), and James N. Perry, Jr. (Managing Director, Madison Dearborn Partners). After each set of panelists had delivered remarks, the floor was opened to discussion and debate amongst the gathered participants.

Augustin Mahé, an exchange student from École Normale Supérieure de Paris, attended the private sessions.

“I really appreciate that the panel discussions were so diversified in terms of their opinions and the professions they represent,” he said. “The Vatican document encourages Catholic practitioners of finance to revisit the integration of Catholic social teaching and their decision-making processes.”

John Arnold, an entering MDiv student at the University of Chicago who aspires to a career in social entrepreneurship, said

that “being able to attend the panel discussions provided a very valuable opportunity to learn to think more precisely about what it means to build economic structures that promote the common good.”

“The discussions helped refine my vocabulary and concepts” about small-scale social ventures, he continued, “which will be of great use when I look for impact partners and investors in the future.”

Funding for the public symposium of “Financial Markets and Moral Inquiry” was generously provided by the Our Sunday Visitor Institute, which is supporting an effort by Lumen Christi to reach “the nones” (religiously unaffiliated persons, especially of the millennial generation) at the University of Chicago. Polling numbers suggest that an increasing number of young Americans, including former or non-practicing Catholics, do not understand Catholicism to be capable of sustaining them and giving them meaning amid the exigencies of modern life. Consequently they labor under misconceptions about the nature of Catholic teaching and practice, presuming the Church to be irrational, authoritarian, and antagonistic toward the ethos of a globally connected world. “Financial Markets and Moral Inquiry,” as well as being an important chapter in Lumen Christi’s Program in Catholic Social Thought, is an effort to help manifest the richness of the Catholic intellectual tradition to a broad public.



ons on March 21. LEFT: Cardinal Turkson listens to a panel discussion on
 ei answers an audience question at the public symposium on March 20.

GRADUATES PRAISE SUMMER SEMINARS

This year the Lumen Christi Institute is offering five new Summer Seminars in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Two recent summer seminar participants weigh in on how attending the seminars influenced their academic career trajectory.



**ROSS
MCCULLOUGH**

Where are you now and what is your primary area of research interest?

I teach in the honors college at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon. My current research interests are in questions of providence, freedom, and sin.

What led you to apply to the seminar?

I applied to the seminar because I was interested in the topic, and this was a chance to work with a leading scholar in the field. I also looked forward to meeting folks.

How did your experience at the seminars influence your research?

One of the nice things about the Catholic intellectual tradition is the unity between its different parts. I didn't realize it when applying, but there were some unexpected ways in which aspects of Catholic social thought have relevance to the problem of providence and evil—in particular, as it touches on ecclesiology.

Why is it valuable for Lumen Christi to help rising scholars explore the Catholic intellectual tradition?

The simplest answer is that the tradition is still not taught sufficiently or, where it is taught, is done in a piecemeal fashion, with little sense of its unity. One benefit of the interdisciplinarity of the seminars is the ability to follow out the skeins that tie together a Catholic approach to disparate disciplines like history, economics, philosophy, theology, politics, and even the natural sciences.



GINA NOIA

Where are you now and what is your primary area of research interest?

I am an Assistant Professor of theology at Ave Maria University. My work focuses on Catholic bioethics, and sexual and reproductive ethics in particular.

What led you to apply to the seminar?

Newman was one theologian whom I had wanted to study in more depth for a while. A week-long seminar on Newman with Newman scholar Fr. Ker seemed like a superb way to do just that!

How did your experience at the seminar influence your work?

In my work and in my thinking, I often come back to a number of Newman's ideas that we studied during the seminar. For instance, Newman's *Idea of a University* has been formative in my thinking about the value and shape of liberal arts education. In addition, I find Newman's understanding of the development of doctrine quite helpful, and I am inspired in my

work on controverted bioethics issues by Newman's insistence that it is the nature of the mind always to try to articulate doctrine more fully. More broadly, I loved the fruitfulness of conversation during the seminar that stemmed from the range of participants' disciplinary backgrounds. This fruitfulness affirmed for me the benefit and even necessity of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Why is it valuable for Lumen Christi to help rising scholars explore the Catholic intellectual tradition?

I think that Lumen Christi plays a significant role in the fellowship among and formation of young scholars. Connecting young scholars across the United States, and even across the world, who are interested in the Catholic intellectual tradition is invaluable in terms of mutual support and intellectual conversation. Moreover, even at Catholic universities, many otherwise strong graduate programs do not provide the depth and breadth of the formation in the Catholic intellectual tradition that Lumen Christi does. Relatedly, Lumen Christi's unique ability to introduce to young scholars such a wealth of more senior scholars, across disciplines, is a fantastic service to young scholars' growth in the Catholic intellectual tradition.



NEWMAN FORUM INTRODUCES HIGH-SCHOOLERS TO CATHOLIC THOUGHT

In a recent episode of his popular Word on Fire Podcast, Bishop Robert Barron questions whether Catholic high schools are preparing their students to deal with attacks against the faith in college. Many Catholic high schools “seem not to care,” Barron lamented, about preparing students to understand at the highest level what is most important: the faith. “I think it’s a disaster, pastorally,” he said.

Austin Walker, a University of Chicago doctoral candidate, 8th-grade religion teacher at St. Vincent Ferrer, and Lumen Christi Institute employee, was through his teaching and Confirmation preparation courses beginning to see the same problem.

Archdiocese of Chicago COO Betsy Bohlen, whose daughter was entering high school, had arrived at the same conclusion. In late 2018 she spoke with Lumen Christi Executive Director Thomas Levergood about providing formation to Chicagoland Catholic high-school students. Levergood tapped Walker to take the lead and, with the assistance of the Vocation Office and other Archdiocesan partners, form the newly christened Lumen Christi Institute Newman Forum.

The goal of the Newman Forum is to introduce Catholic high-school students to the Catholic vision of intellectual life, culture, and liturgy, and to foster community among Catholic students. It aims to show them that the Catholic faith is a distinctive intellectual, humanistic, and liturgical way of living. Participants will attend Mass together, receive classic works of theology and philosophy, and learn how to better discern their personal vocations.

The Newman Forum initially will sponsor three annual events for students: two day-long conferences and one multi-day summer seminar. The first day-long conference launched on February 23.

Titled “Science, Creation, & the Catholic Imagination,” it brought together 80 students from 24 schools and four states, along with two dozen parents, teachers, and chaperones, at the University of Chicago. It was cosponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago Vocation Office, the University of Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute for Church Life, Saint Ignatius College Prep, Fenwick High School, Northridge Preparatory School, and Relevant Radio. Sister Mary Elizabeth of Saint Ignatius opened the day with a meditation and prayer. After a brief welcome by Walker, students were treated to a trio of presentations by leading scholars.

Meghan Sullivan, the Rev. John A. O’Brien Collegiate Chair at the University of Notre Dame, delivered an engaging interactive presentation on “Faith and Reason.” She invited students to con-

sider the responsibility they have for shaping their beliefs, how to determine what makes life meaningful, and how to think about faith’s rational basis.

Father John Kartje, Rector of Mundelein Seminary and a PhD in astrophysics from the University of Chicago, presented on “Creation and Cosmology.” He explained scientific perspectives on the origin of the cosmos and invited students to cultivate a more sophisticated understanding of what science is and what its conclusions are, especially on matters that intersect Catholic doctrine on creation and the material order.

The final presentation was delivered by Michael Murphy, Director of Catholic Studies and Director of the Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, both at Loyola University of Chicago, who spoke on “The Catholic Imagination.”

Between lectures, students broke up into small discussion groups led by University of Chicago graduate students. They then embarked upon a scavenger hunt on campus, with copies of works by the 20th-century British journalist and writer G.K. Chesterton going to the winners. The day concluded with a discussion of C.S. Lewis’ classic text *The Screwtape Letters*.

Walker visited various classrooms during the discussion groups and heard conversations on evolution, liturgical beauty, how God’s existence can be known, and whether aliens would need baptism. A Mass celebrated by Vocation Director Fr. Tim Monahan in Swift Hall’s Bond Chapel and a pizza dinner concluded the day. Parents and chaperones were invited to attend the lectures and participate in their own discussion group.

Students who filled out a post-event survey stated that the conference helped them better understand the compatibility of faith and reason, the harmony between faith and science, and helped them appreciate how Catholic thought can inform secular debates.

The conference was made possible by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

Walker said of “Science, Creation, & the Catholic Imagination”: “this is the sort of event I wish had existed when I was a high-schooler.” Of the Newman Forum he said: “this program exists because there is no reason for the Church to cede the intellectual formation of its high-schoolers to a secular culture.”

Videos of Sullivan’s, Kartje’s, and Murphy’s presentations are avail-

At a glance

SPRING 2019



TOP LEFT: Michael Lee gives a luncheon address on “The Life and Legacy of St. Óscar Romero” on April 11. TOP RIGHT: Fr. Gabriel Torretta, OP (PhD student in theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School) leads a group of students on a tour of the Art Institute of Chicago on May 30. BOTTOM: Attendees at the April 5 book symposium on Catholicism and Democracy featuring Rémi Brague (Sorbonne/LMU Munich), Gladden Pappin (University of Dallas), and Daniel Mahoney (Assumption College).



TOP ROW: A master class on the theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar led by Andrew Prevot (Boston College) on May 10. MIDDLE RIGHT: Prevot gives a lecture on "The Hope of Exodus in Black Theology." MIDDLE LEFT: May 23 book symposium on *The Cross: History, Art, & Controversy* with author Robin Jensen (Notre Dame), Bernard McGinn (University of Chicago), and Karin Krause (University of Chicago). BOTTOM: Feb. 15 symposium on the book *Action versus Contemplation*, which was generously sponsored by the Our Sunday Visitor Institute.



SCIENCE AND FAITH: ALLIES OR ENEMIES?

This winter the Lumen Christi Institute launched a new project to combat the perception of fundamental and necessary conflict between scientific theories and religious worldviews. “Science and Religion: A Dialogue of Cultures,” which borrows its name from a talk delivered at Lumen Christi by the Polish Catholic philosopher Joseph Życiński in 1999, is made possible by a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

“The Lumen Christi Institute has for many years sponsored popular lectures and panel discussions by scientists, philosophers, and theologians who promote a sounder understanding of the relationship between science and religion,” Executive Director Thomas Levergood said. “Thanks to the generous support of the John Templeton Foundation, we are excited to be formalizing and greatly expanding our science and religion programming, and reaching a much broader and more diverse audience, through ‘A Dialogue of Cultures.’”

Founded in 1987 by Sir John Templeton, an American-born British investor, banker, fund manager, and self-described “enthusiastic Christian,” the Templeton Foundation supports projects aimed at advancing human flourishing and spiritual progress through asking Big Questions, promoting character development, and encouraging people to aspire to a deeper understanding of the universe. In 2017 it granted nearly \$100 million across six funding areas. “Science and Religion: A Dialogue of Cultures” is made possible by a grant awarded through the Foundation’s “Science & the Big Questions” Public Engagement area, which funds endeavors that advance the Templeton Foundation’s mission beyond the academy.

“A Dialogue of Cultures” will engage students, faculty, scientists, and the public in conversations about pressing topics at the intersection of science and religion. The project will communicate the depth and breadth of the Catholic intellectual tradition’s contribution to the dialogue between scientific inquiry, methods, and conclusions and philosophical and theological perspectives on anthropology, creation, cosmology, and the reasonableness of faith.

It will do so by means of various genres of event.

One such genre is summer seminars. This summer Lumen Christi is hosting two weeklong seminars as part of the project, both titled “Modern Science and Catholic Faith,” one each for undergraduate and graduate students. The aim of the seminars is to provide students with the background knowledge and conceptual tools necessary to understand and think clearly about the relation of science and faith.

Leading the graduate seminar will be Stephen Barr, Professor of Physics at the University of Delaware and president and founder of the Society of Catholic Scientists, and Fr. Nicanor Austriaco,

a Professor of Biology at Providence College. Dr. Chris Baglow, Director of the Science & Religion Initiative at the University of Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute for Church Life, will join Barr in leading the undergraduate seminar.

Lumen Christi will also offer a quarter-long weekly non-credit course on science and religion and sponsor public lectures and panel discussions at the University of Chicago and in downtown Chicago. “A Dialogue of Cultures” is also hosting a reading group for graduate students at the University of Chicago in topics in science and religion, led by a recent University of Chicago PhD

in geology.

The first “A Dialogue of Cultures” program funded by the Templeton Foundation was the February 23 day-long conference for 80 high-school students described on page six.

The first public event of the program was a panel discussion held on March 13 at the University of Chicago on the topic of “Science & Wonder,” featuring evolutionary biologist Michael Coates, Field Museum Poet-in-Residence Eric Elshtain, astrophysicist Robert Scherrer, and religious ethicist Lisa Sideris. The second was a June 11 lecture by Conor Cunningham, a professor at the University of Nottingham in the UK who is an expert on the thought and religious life of Darwin, Darwinism, and science and religion.

“A Dialogue of Cultures” will engage students, faculty, scientists, and the public in conversation about pressing topics at the intersection of science and religion

ABOVE: Michael Coates speaks at a symposium on “Science & Wonder” on March 13.

SPREADING CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

This summer the Lumen Christi Institute hosted its fourth annual seminar titled “Economics and Catholic Social Thought: A Primer.” That seminar is designed as an introduction and immersion into Catholic social thought for graduate students and junior faculty in economics, finance, or related fields. This year two of that seminar’s leaders, Martijn Cremers and Fr. Martin Schlag, asked Lumen Christi to coordinate a similar seminar designed expressly and exclusively for business students and faculty.

“Business and Catholic Social Thought: A Primer” convened for the first time, at the University of Notre Dame, from June 2 to 5. Guided by leading scholars of business and CST, the seminar gathered twenty faculty and students from fields ranging from business ethics to social affairs to accounting for ten sessions of lecture, presentation, and discussion at the Mendoza College of Business. The seminar was organized in collaboration with Mendoza, the John A. Ryan Institute for Catholic Social Thought at the University of St. Thomas (MN), and the Ciocca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship at the Catholic University of America. Sessions were designed by the seminar faculty to widen epistemological preconceptions and show practical implications of CST for business in a way that affirms the goodness of business directed toward the common good.

The seminar opened with a welcome dinner at the Cremers’ family home in South Bend. The next morning Cremers presented on business and CST. Schlag lectured on how to speak about God in a business class. Following Mass concelebrated by Schlag at Notre Dame’s Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the group discussed Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si’* and how to conduct business without instrumentalizing the individuals with whom one interacts.

The second day of sessions included presentations on finance and CST, social justice, and the morality of innovation. The latter session was led by Catholic University of America’s Andreas Widmer, a former Swiss Guard under John Paul II and an investor who has been involved in funding several important technologies, such as file transfer process (FTP), the technology that made the Internet possible. The group enjoyed dinner at Carmela’s Restaurant in South Bend and spent the final day discussing how to effectively correct misunderstandings by both Catholics and non-Catholics of the content of CST and how to teach CST in the classroom.

One recurring topic at the seminar was how to tactically present Catholic social teaching to students and even faculty peers who are hostile to the Catholic Church. Should CST be presented as such and under that name? Or should the principles and norms that constitute the body of social doctrine be communicated under secular terms wherever possible, in the hope of avoiding defensive reactions from listeners?



The fruits of this seminar will spread widely: participants hailed from business schools and similar institutions in Nigeria, Portugal, Spain, Peru, Argentina, Mexico, and Poland in addition to the US. During breaks between and after sessions one commonly heard three languages spoken. Representing four continents and an impressive array of worldviews and on-the-ground perspectives, the group’s discussions were rich and reflective of the universal thinking Church.

Ana Machado, a professor at AESE Business School in Lisbon, Portugal, said of the seminar: “I feel really privileged to be part of the first seminar on business and Catholic social thought. The insights we take with us are going to make a difference for the depth and breadth of our research and teaching—and this group will be a source of mutual help and inspiration.”

Another international participant, Dr. Mark Hanssen—Managing Director of Research Activities at the Markets, Culture, and Ethics Research Centre of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome—said: “This primer on business and Catholic social thought was a true pleasure to attend. The high level and quality of participation by the attendees and the engaging presentations by the seminar leaders made for a continuous and rounded discussion throughout.”

Rosemarie Monge, Assistant Professor of Business Ethics at the University of St. Thomas (MN), had this to say: “This seminar was reinvigorating in many ways—foremost, what a luxury to have the leisure to read about Catholic social teaching and discuss its implications with other Catholic business faculty who are seeking ways to integrate the Church’s treasured teachings into their teaching and research.

“The opportunity to study and pray together was a little slice of heaven for which I am most grateful!”

Representing four continents and an impressive array of worldviews and on-the-ground perspectives, the group’s discussions were rich and reflective of the universal thinking Church.



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Fr. Tim Monahan (Archdiocese of Chicago Vocation Director) celebrates Mass in Bond Chapel at the University of Chicago Divinity School to close the day-long conference for high-school students on "Science, Creation, & the Catholic Imagination."

