



THE 14TH ANNUAL Symposium on Transforming Culture

“Marriage at the Peripheries”

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 21-22, 2025



The Business Summit AT THE
SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSFORMING CULTURE

“Strengthening Families
through Virtuous Business”

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2025 Symposium on Transforming Culture at Benedictine College. The Symposium is an annual conference that gathers scholars, field professionals, religious, clergy, and students for a time of fellowship and conversation concerning topics integral to the evangelization of culture.

This year's theme, "Marriage at the Peripheries" has been developed in collaboration with Benedictine College's, Center for Family Life. The theme contains a double meaning. In one sense, marriage, especially the Christian conception of marriage, has been pushed to the peripheries of contemporary culture. To follow the Church's plan for men and women to form families that reflect the family of God in Christ and the Church is to stand outside the norm of society. In another sense, the gift of the Church's teaching is most needed at the peripheries of society, where material and relational poverty makes the trauma of broken families much more acute than in more affluent communities. However you read it, this year's Symposium theme is calling for a renewal of the proclamation of the gospel of the family.

Each Symposium has some unique presentations, and this year is no exception. During the colloquium session on Saturday morning, there will be a performance of the eucharistic play, "The Phoenix of Love", a 16th century Spanish play that will be performed in English for the first time. A panel discussion about the play will take place in the final colloquium session on Saturday afternoon. Descriptions of all of our colloquium session presentations can be found in the program.

Along with the Center for Family Life, the Symposium weekend includes collaborations with other Programs of Distinction here at Benedictine College. The "Business Summit" took place throughout the day on Friday, sponsored by the Thompson Center for Integrity in Finance and Economics. We are grateful to have many participants join us for the Symposium as well. We are also excited to collaborate with the Center for Constitutional Liberty who is sponsoring Saturday morning's keynote presentation that will be delivered by Tim Carney of the American Enterprise Institute. These collaborations highlight the interdisciplinary nature of the Symposium.

Thank you for joining us for this important conference!

Matt Muller
Associate Professor of Theology
Benedictine College



WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Symposium on Transforming Culture in America. It is exciting to host a remarkable group of Catholic scholars and public servants on the Benedictine College campus.

St. John Paul II said, “The future of humanity passes by way of the family,” so the 2025 Symposium theme is one we have spent a lot of time focused on. Our Center for Family Life has done remarkable work with young people in Atchison schools, and in its annual Family Week, bringing John Paul II-style family ministry to America.

It is crucial to our efforts to Transform Culture in America that we form not just the next engineers, architects, doctors and nurses for America, but that we form the next great mothers, fathers and family life leaders as well through our mission of community, faith and scholarship.

We have made great strides in each aspect of that mission this year:

- *Community:* Benedictine College saw record enrollment, opened five new residence halls on campus, and was named a Top 10 Most Recommended school nationally by the *Wall Street Journal*.
- *Faith:* Benedictine College is sponsored the historic National Eucharistic Congress last summer and our campus was a stop on the National Eucharistic Procession. This year, we continue with a weekly Holy Hour for the National Eucharistic Revival.
- *Scholarship:* Benedictine College is nearing completion on our new classically designed library reminiscent of Independence Hall in Philadelphia. It will house a museum-quality presentation of our nation’s founding principles and the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Truly, it is a great year to be a Raven. We are experiencing record enrollment, record recognition, and record fundraising, allowing us to offer more scholarships than ever before.

We look forward to introducing you to all that our campus has to offer. We hope you will feel right at home.

Forward, Always Forward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen D. Minnis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Stephen D. Minnis '82
President of Benedictine College

The Business Summit AT THE SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSFORMING CULTURE

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

“Strengthening Families Through Virtuous Business”

See page 6 for THE SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSFORMING CULTURE Schedule

*All events are in the **Murphy Recreation Center**, unless otherwise noted.*

Friday, March 21, 2025

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Check-in for the Business Summit and Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 8:45 AM	Welcome and Opening Comments
8:45 – 10:00 AM	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Paul Mueller “Profitable Business Promotes Human Flourishing”
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Break School of Business Career Fair Ralph Nolan Gymnasium, John Paul II Student Center
11:00 a.m. – Noon	Featured Speaker: John Horvat II “We Want an Economy With God not a Godless Economy”
Noon – 12:45 PM	School of Business Career Fair Ralph Nolan Gymnasium, John Paul II Student Center
12:45 – 1:30 PM	Lunch with Students Dining Hall
1:30 – 1:45 PM	Midday Welcome Back and Remarks
1:45 – 2:45 PM	Featured Speaker: Ed Van Buskirk “The Ten Commandments as a Moral Code for Business”
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Break
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Virtuoso Panel Discussion Panel Guests: Linda Coltrane, Tim Urban, and Amber Miller Manning “What Virtuoso companies and leaders are currently doing to strengthen families.”
4:00 – 4:15 PM	Closing Remarks
4:15 – 5:00 PM	Hospitality Hour

The **Business Track** is sponsored by the Thompson Center for Integrity in Finance and Economics at Benedictine College. The Thompson Center helps form the next generation of virtuous and integral leaders in business professions. This cross-disciplinary center provides students with the tools to make a positive impact on the prosperity of the region and the country, the skills and knowledge to become leaders in financial professions, and the principles and values to become role models in their community.

THE BUSINESS SUMMIT PRESENTERS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Paul D. Mueller is a senior research fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research as well as a research fellow and associate director of the Religious Liberty in the States project at the Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy. He taught economics at The King's College in New York City. His

academic and popular work has appeared in a large variety of publications. Dr. Mueller is also the author of *Ten Years Later: Why the Conventional Wisdom about the 2008 Financial Crisis Is Still Wrong*.



FEATURED SPEAKER

John Horvat II is a scholar, researcher, educator, international speaker and author of "Return to Order: From a Frenzied Economy to an Organic Christian Society – Where We've Been, How We Got Here and Where We Need to Go." His writings have appeared worldwide, including The Wall

Street Journal, FOX News, The Christian Post, The Washington Times, ABC News, Crisis Magazine, Life Site News, The Catholic Thing and C-SPAN. For more than three decades he has been researching and writing about the socio-economic and moral crisis in the United States and its consequences.

He is the vice president of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP), head of the TFP Commission for American studies, and a TFP Sedes Sapientiae Institute instructor. Additionally, he is a member of the Association of Christian Economists, The Philadelphia Society, the National Association of Scholars and the Catholic Writers Guild. He lives in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania.



FEATURED SPEAKER

Ed Van Buskirk is the Founder and President of If U Love Me, a Catholic apostolate dedicated to teaching the wisdom of the Ten Commandments. He is the author of the book and video course on the Ten Commandments, *God's Recipe for a Wonderful Life* and creator of the

"God's Recipe for School and Family," a program that teaches the Ten Commandments to school children and their families. He speaks nationwide and has been featured at the Kansas City-St. Joseph diocesan Eucharistic Congress. He also has written numerous articles that have appeared in Catholic Exchange.



FEATURED SPEAKER

Linda Coltrane is Vice President of Employee Care and HR at Polydeck. In her role, Linda is focused on fostering excellent team member experiences that support Polydeck's unique caring culture. Linda holds a master's degree in executive leadership and a bachelor's degree in human

resource management, which has helped her excel in her career and contribute to the success of Polydeck.

Linda has a genuine heart for people and a commitment to giving back, Linda actively volunteers in her local community and currently sponsors three school aged children in Nicaragua through Chosen Children. Linda is happily married and the proud parent of three adult children.



FEATURED SPEAKER

Tim Urban is a serial entrepreneur who has successfully started and grown businesses using various methods, including bootstrapping, acquisitions, and strategic financing. He also serves as a Captain with South Metro Fire Rescue, where he built and implemented a leadership development

program designed to enhance the organization's culture.

In addition to his role with the fire department, Tim is a part-owner and a member of the board of directors for Patmos Hosting. This company specializes in cloud services, high-density computing, software, and data center solutions. Recently, Patmos secured its flagship data center, The Patmos Pavilion, located in the heart of Kansas City.

Outside of his professional pursuits, Tim is married and a father of eight children, one of whom is a Benedictine College student.



FEATURED SPEAKER

Amber Miller Manning is a 3rd-generation leader of The Miller Group, a leading insurance broker in Kansas City. She is a collaborative leader who creates a supportive environment where employees and clients can flourish. Amber has strong insight into team management and is an

excellent mentor for emerging leaders and those who manage teams. Strategic, long-range business plans are also a strength as she focuses on leading her family-owned company into its next era.

Amber earned her BA in sociology from Loyola University in Chicago and studied art history in Rome, Italy. She is an advisory board member on the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and has been named one of KC's NextGen Leaders and the KC Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business.

THE 14TH ANNUAL Symposium on Transforming Culture

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

“Marriage at the Peripheries”

See page 4 for THE BUSINESS SUMMIT Schedule

All attendees of the Symposium are welcome to attend any of the sessions happening at the conference.

Friday, March 21, 2025

3:00 PM **Registration/Check-In**
Murphy Recreation Center

4:00 – 5:30 PM **Colloquium Session #1**
Ferrell Academic Center, Third Floor. Light refreshments provided.

7:30 – 9:00 PM **Keynote Lecture #1: JP De Gance, *Communio***
Murphy Recreation Center, Main Court

9:00 PM **Reception**
Murphy Recreation Center Atrium

Saturday, March 22, 2025

8:00 AM **Continental Breakfast**
Murphy Recreation Center, East Court

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Keynote Lecture #2: Tim Carney** (American Enterprise Institute)
Murphy Recreation Center, Main Court

9:45 – 11:00 AM **Colloquium Session #2**

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM **Featured Presenter Sessions**

Session A: **Theological and Philosophical Roots of Catholic Teaching on Marriage**
Pia de Solenni (IWP Capital) and **Christopher Kaczor** (Loyola-Marymount University)
Ferrell Academic Center, 4th Floor, McAllister Boardroom East

Session B: **Marriage Preparation in the Church Today**
John and Clare Grabowski (Catholic University of America)
Ferrell Academic Center, 4th Floor, McAllister Boardroom West

Session C: **Ongoing Formation of Husbands and Wives**
John Bishop (FORGE) and **Marcie Stokman** (Well-Read Mom)
Ferrell Academic Center, 301, Gangel Seminar Room



Above: Photos from the 13th Annual Symposium on Transforming Culture on March 15-16, 2024.

- 12:30 – 1:45 PM Lunch**
Murphy Recreation Center, East Court
- 2:00 – 3:15 PM Keynote Lecture #3: Catherine Pakaluk** (Catholic University of America)
Murphy Recreation Center, Main Court
- 3:45 – 5:05 PM Colloquium Session #3**
Ferrell Academic Center
- 5:15 PM Sunday Vigil Mass**
Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Principal Celebrant
St. Benedict's Abbey Crypt, Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel
- 6:30 – 7:30 PM Dinner**
Murphy Recreation Center, East Court
- 7:30 – 9:00 PM Keynote Lecture #4: Brad Wilcox** (University of Virginia)
Murphy Recreation Center, Main Court
- 9:00 PM Reception**
Atrium, Murphy Recreation Center

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND FEATURED PRESENTERS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Timothy P. Carney is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, where he works on civil society, family, localism, religion in America, economic competition, and electoral politics. He is concurrently a senior columnist at the *Washington Examiner*.

Mr. Carney's forthcoming book, *Family Unfriendly: How Our Culture Made Raising Kids Much Harder Than It Needs to Be*, will be published by HarperCollins in March 2024. He is also the author of *Alienated America: Why Some Places Thrive While Others Collapse* (HarperCollins, 2019), which was a *Washington Post* bestseller; *Obamanomics* (Regnery Publishing, 2009); and *The Big Ripoff: How Big Business and Big Government Steal Your Money* (John Wiley & Sons, 2006), which was awarded the 2008 Culture of Enterprise award by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute.

In addition to his *Washington Examiner* columns, Mr. Carney has been published widely, including in the *Atlantic*, *National Review*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post*. His television appearances include CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, and PBS NewsHour.

Mr. Carney has a bachelor's degree from St. John's College in Annapolis.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

J.P. De Gance is the founder and president of Communio and the co-author of the book, *Endgame: The Church's Strategic Move to Save Faith and Family in America*. JP is also the author of the Nationwide Study on Faith and Relationships. Communio is a ministry originally incubated as the Culture

of Freedom Initiative at The Philanthropy Roundtable where he served as the organization's executive vice president. The Initiative raised and spent \$20 million over three years in three different states seeking to identify the most effective strategies to boost marital health, family stability, and church engagement. From 2016 to 2018, the experimental initiative worked with an ecumenical network of churches and drove down the divorce rate by 24 percent in Jacksonville, FL. Today, Communio serves churches across the United States helping them evangelize by applying the learnings from their successful intervention in Jacksonville. A husband and father, JP lives in Virginia with his wife and eight children.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Catherine Ruth Pakaluk (Ph.D, 2010) joined the faculty at the Busch School in the summer of 2016, and is the founder of the Political Economy academic area, where she is an Associate Professor of Political Economic Thought. Formerly, she was Assistant Professor and Chair of the

Economics Department at Ave Maria University. Her primary areas of research include economics of education and religion, family studies and demography, Catholic social thought and political economy. Dr. Pakaluk is the 2015 recipient of the Acton Institute's Novak Award, a prize given for "significant contributions to the study of the relationship between religion and economic liberty."

Pakaluk did her doctoral work at Harvard University under Caroline Hoxby, David Cutler, and 2016 Nobel-laureate Oliver Hart. Her dissertation, "Essays in Applied Microeconomics", examined the relationship between religious 'fit' and educational outcomes, the role of parental effort in observed peer effects and school quality, and theoretical aspects of the contraceptive revolution as regards twentieth century demographic trends.

Beyond her formal training in economics, Dr. Pakaluk studied Catholic social thought under the mentorship of F. Russell Hittinger, and various aspects of Thomistic thought with Steven A. Long. She is a widely-admired writer and sought-after speaker on matters of culture, gender, social science, the vocation of women, and the work of Edith Stein. She lives in Maryland with her husband Michael Pakaluk and eight children.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Brad Wilcox is Melville Foundation Jefferson Scholars Foundation University Professor of Sociology and Director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia, Future of Freedom Fellow at the Institute for Family Studies, and a nonresident senior fellow at the American

Enterprise Institute. The author of *Get Married: Why Americans Should Defy the Elites, Forge Strong Families and Save Civilization* (Harper Collins, 2024), Wilcox studies marriage, fatherhood, and the impact of strong and stable families on men, women, and children.

Professor Wilcox is the author and coauthor of six books and has written for scientific journals such as *The American Sociological Review* and *The Journal of Marriage and Family*, as well as popular outlets like *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, and *National Review*.

With Nicholas H. Wolfinger, Wilcox is the co-author of *Soul Mates: Religion, Sex, Love, and Marriage Among African Americans and Latinos* (Oxford, 2016), which shines a spotlight on the lives of strong

and happy minority couples. He is also the coauthor of *Gender and Parenthood: Biological and Social Scientific Perspectives* (Columbia, 2013) with Kathleen Kovner Kline. His research has been featured in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic, National Review Online, NPR, NBC's The Today Show, and many other media outlets. Wilcox consults regularly with companies such as Nestle, Procter & Gamble, and Kimberly-Clark on fertility and marriage trends in the United States.



SESSION A

FEATURED PRESENTER

Pia de Solenni is an internationally recognized Catholic theologian and speaker. Her work has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and National Catholic Register; she has appeared on CNN, ABC News, and other television programs.

Solenni is an alumna of the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Angelicum where she earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology. On November 8, 2001, she received the 2001 Award of the Pontifical Academies for her doctoral work. The award was presented by Pope John Paul II. Dr. de Solenni has served on the Family Research Council.

Solenni has a doctorate in theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome.



SESSION A

FEATURED PRESENTER

Dr. Christopher Kaczor (rhymes with razor) is Professor of Philosophy at Loyola Marymount University. He graduated from the Honors Program of Boston College and earned a Ph.D. four years later from the University of Notre Dame. A Fulbright

Scholar, Dr. Kaczor did post-doctoral work as a Alexander von Humboldt German Chancellor Fellow at the University of Cologne. He was appointed a Corresponding Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life of Vatican City, a fellow of the Word on Fire Institute, and William E. Simon Visiting Fellow in the James Madison Program at Princeton University. The winner of a Templeton Grant, he has written more than 100 scholarly articles and book chapters. An award winning author, his sixteen books include *Jordan Peterson, God, and Christianity: The Search for a Meaningful Life*, *Disputes in Bioethics*, *Thomas Aquinas on the Cardinal Virtues*, *Abortion Rights: For and Against*, *365 Days to Deeper Faith*, *The Gospel of Happiness*, *The Seven Big Myths about Marriage*, *A Defense of Dignity*, *The Seven Big Myths about the Catholic Church*, *The Ethics of Abortion*, *O Rare Ralph McInerney: Stories and Reflections on a Legendary Notre Dame Professor*, *Life Issues-Medical Choices*, *Thomas Aquinas on Faith, Hope, and Love*, *The Edge of Life*, and *Proportionalism and the*

Natural Law Tradition. Dr. Kaczor's views have been in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Huffington Post*, *National Review*, NPR, BBC, EWTN, ABC, NBC, FOX, CBS, MSNBC, TEDx, and The Today Show.



SESSION B

FEATURED PRESENTER

Married for 39 years, **John and Claire Grabowski** have 5 children and 12 grandchildren. They have done pre-Cana marriage ministry together for over 30 years, post-Cana ministry for 10 years, and served as a member couple from the United States on the Pontifical Council for the Family after their appointment by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009. Together they are the authors of the commentary on the anniversary edition of *Familiaris Consortio* (Boston: Pauline, 2015), *One Body: A Program of Marriage Formation for the New Evangelization* (Steubenville, OH: Emmaus

Road Press, 2018), and *Raising Catholic Kids for their Vocations* (Charlotte, NC: TAN Books, 2019). They have spoken together to groups of laity, priests, and bishops across the United States and abroad. They have also appeared together on EWTN television and Relevant Radio programs.

Claire has been a Catholic educator, stay at home mother, in-home childcare provider, financial administrative assistant, and care-giver and companion to the elderly. She has been a mentor to women and couples and has been active in a variety of lay ministries for many years.

John has taught moral theology at The Catholic University of America for the last 33 years. He has three times been appointed as a theological consultant to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. In 2015 he was appointed by Pope Francis to serve as an expert (*adiutor*) at the Synod of Bishops on the Family. His books include *Unraveling Gender: The Battle Over Sexual Difference* (Gastonia, NC: TAN Books, 2022), *Sex and Virtue: An Introduction to Sexual Ethics* (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2003), *Transformed in Christ: Essays on the Renewal of Moral Theology* (Naples, FL: Sapientia Press, 2017), and *A Catechism for Family Life: Insights from Catholic Teaching on Love, Marriage, Sex, and Parenting*, edited with Sarah Bartel (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2018). He also wrote the Foreword to the 1997 English edition of Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* (Boston: Pauline, 1997).





SESSION C

FEATURED PRESENTER

Dr. John Bishop earned his Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America where he wrote his doctoral dissertation on masculine virtue. Convicted that the fight of our times is the fight for the family, John founded

FORGE in October 2023. He now serves as Executive Director. John and his wife Katelyn live with their children in Des Moines, Iowa. John will give a keynote address on the crisis of men in today's society and what to do about it.



SESSION C

FEATURED PRESENTER

Marcie Stokman is the founder and president of the Well-Read Mom, an international movement and book club. With a passion for reading and motherhood, she writes and speaks to encourage women in a

world of rising isolation, loneliness, and mental health issues. Marcie has a Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and a Master's degree in Psychology from the Adler Institute in Chicago. As a homeschool mom for 25 years, Marcie co-founded a classical co-op for high school students, bringing families together to support each other in their vision for excellence in education and seeking truth, beauty, and goodness through the Western classical tradition. Marcie and her husband have seven children and 11 grandchildren and reside in Crosby, MN.

COLLOQUIUM SESSION #1 AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

FAC 324, Ferrell Academic Center

Mrs. Sydney Giefer Crnkovich, The Wholeness School
Equipping Women for the Sacred Mission of Motherhood: Life-long Discipleship, Formation, and Cultural Renewal from the Inside Out

Mrs. Madeleine Sparks, St Mary's Parish, Littleton, CO
A WOMAN'S Leisure: The Basis of Culture

Mrs. Deanna Hodgson, Confraternity of Christian Mothers
Mothers on the Margins: The Confraternity of Christian Mothers in Response to the Erosion of Christian Marriage and Family Values

FAC 323, Ferrell Academic Center

Mr. Matthew Cleary, Benedictine College
Japanese Population Crisis: The Role of Marriage

Dr. Jesse Smith, Benedictine College
Do Premarital Partners Undermine Marriage? Evidence from the Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health

Mr. Eleazar Palma, John Paul the Great Catholic University
Marriage in Media: How Catholics can harness media to evangelize and form marriages.

FAC 308, Ferrell Academic Center

Mrs. Kathleen Cory, The Ruah Woods Institute
Beauty in the Chaos — Living Theology of the Body in our families

Mrs. Kasey Bujana, Benedictine College
The Gift of Submission and its Role in Transforming Marriage

Mrs. Anne Nicklaus, University of St. Thomas
The Discipline of Beauty in Creating Culture in the Home (Theology of the Home)

FAC 307, Ferrell Academic Center

Mr. John Logan, Ave Maria University
Ecclesia Domestica: the Family, Community, and the University of Love

Mrs. April Hoopes, St. Benedict's Abbey
The Domestic Church: Called to play a vital role in the future of the Church

Mr. Gary Thome, LOVING STONES of CHRIST
Catholic Marriage as an evangelization opportunity

FAC 301, Ferrell Academic Center

Mr. Jacob Francois, University of St. Mary of Lake-Mundelein Seminary
Marriage's Indissolubility as the Child's Antecedent of Love

Mr. Andy Bonjour, Ruah Woods Institute
The From Now For paradigm and the vocational reach of a husband and father

Sr. Kateri Toler, Life Giving Wounds
The Unnoticed: ACOD's Needs when Responding to Their Vocation

FAC 219, Ferrell Academic Center

Ms. Ann Koshute, Springs in the Desert, Catholic Infertility Ministry
First Fruits: A Witness from the Peripheries

Prof. Christina Strafaci, Saint Mary's Catholic High School
"To remain with truth, of course": The Healing of Imagination in Karol Wojtyła's Jewel-iard School of Marriage

Deacon Henry Zmuda, St. Madeleine Catholic Church
The Oikonomia of Amoris Laetitia and the Tradition of the Church

COLLOQUIUM SESSION #2 AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, 9:45 – 11:00 AM

FAC 324, Ferrell Academic Center

Dr. Andrew Salzmann, Benedictine College
Anti-Consumerist Family Life

Dr. Gustavo Santos, The Catholic University of America
Family Public Policy: from "defamilization" to a relational perspective

Dr. James Young, Benedictine College
Value, Cost and the Family

FAC 323, Ferrell Academic Center

Mrs. Jennifer Meehan, Archdiocese of Saint Louis
Side-by-Side: Mentoring Engaged Couples Through the First Year of Marriage

Mr. Jake Samour, Catholic Diocese of Wichita
"A Road To Emmaus" Catechumenal Formation for Mentor Couples

Dr. Joseph E. Burns, Augustine Institute
The Marriage Catechumenal Breakthrough

FAC 308, Ferrell Academic Center

Dr. Ryan Messmore, Institute for Catholic Liberal Education
Sex as Covenant Renewal and Other Lessons from the Biblical Story of Betrothal and Marriage

Dr. Charles Anthony Stewart, Benedictine College
Holy Matrimony as Sacred Icon

Dr. Richard White, Benedictine College
The Sacramentality of Marriage through Film: A Case Study

FAC 307, Ferrell Academic Center

Mrs. Cassandra Taylor, Springs in the Desert | Catholic Infertility Ministry
Walking the Peripheries: The Path of Infertility

Mrs. Jillian Kubik, Springs in the Desert | Catholic Infertility Ministry
Support for the Peripheries: Ministering to Those with Infertility

Dr. Megan Reister, Franciscan University of Steubenville
Preparation, Forming, & Healing: Unexpected Fruitfulness within (Secondary) Infertility

FAC 301, Ferrell Academic Center

Dr. Brett Robinson, University of Notre Dame
I-Thee-Web.com: Digital Lives and Incarnational Living

Mr. Bo Bonner, Maryvale Institute – St. Mary's University
I-Thee-Web.com: Matrimonial Incarnationality In Our Digital Age

Dr. Bud Marr, Mercy College of Health Sciences
I-Thee-Web.com: Marriage and "Liquid Modernity"

Murphy-McPhee Auditorium – Westermann Hall

"The Phoenix of Love" — Directed by Christopher Luloff, Translated by Mr. Christopher Rziha, University of Notre Dame
Reviving the Eucharistic Drama: José de Valdivielso's "The Phoenix of Love," Performed in English for the First Time Ever

FEATURED PRESENTER SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

Session A: Theological and Philosophical Roots of Catholic Teaching on Marriage

Murphy McPhee Auditorium,

Westerman Hall (1st Floor)

Pia de Solenni, IWP Capital, and

Christopher Kaczor, Loyola-Marymount University

(Biographies appear on page 8.)

Session B: Marriage Preparation in the Church Today

McAllister Boardroom,

Ferrell Academic Center (4th Floor)

John and Clare Grabowski, Catholic University of America

(Biographies appear on page 9.)

Session C: Ongoing Formation of Husbands and Wives

Gangel Seminar Room,

FAC 301, Ferrell Academic Center

John Bishop, FORGE, and **Marcie Stokman**, Well-Read Mom

(Biographies appear on page 9.)

COLLOQUIUM SESSION #3 AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, 3:45 – 5:05 PM

FAC 324, Ferrell Academic Center

Dr. Jennifer Bryson, Ethics and Public Policy Center

Balancing Kinship and Eros: Ida Friederike Görres in Defense of the Indissolubility of Marriage

Dr. Daniel and Marisa Pierson, Benedictine College

Self-Sacrifice or Self-Interest: Jane Austen and Thomas Hobbes on Marriage

Mr. Matt Wilde, Donnelly College

The Creative Vow as the Fulfillment of the Marriage Vow: Gabriel Marcel's Vision of Parenthood

FAC 323, Ferrell Academic Center

Rev. James McConville, Metropolitan Tribunal, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Curing "Divorce Mentality": Canon 1063

Dr. Maria M. van der Ree Rojas, Ecclesiastical Tribunal, Archdiocese of Lima, Peru

The Canonical Notion of Marriage

Dr. Joyce Konigsburg, DePaul University

Interreligious Marriage at the Periphery: A Catholic Sacramental Reevaluation

FAC 308, Ferrell Academic Center

Rev. Michael Rennie, Archdiocese of St. Louis; Dappled Things Magazine

Motherhood As Poetic Act

Mr. Alexander Taylor, Christendom College

Oikolatria at Hetton: Or, how Evelyn Waugh's A Handful of Dust, Sir Roger Scruton, and Louise Cowan Reveal that Marriage needs God to Truly Form a Home

Dr. Jeremy Sienkiewicz, Benedictine College

The Crisis of Marriage is the Crisis of Meaning

FAC 307, Ferrell Academic Center

Dr. Edward Mulholland, Benedictine College

Words made Flesh: Theatre and Theology, a match made in Athens

Dr. John Rziha, Benedictine College

The Generous Bridegroom: The Role of the Eucharist in The Phoenix of Love by José Valdivielso

Mr. Christopher Rziha, University of Notre Dame

Liturgical Mysticism in the Eucharistic Dramas of José de Valdivielso

FAC 301, Ferrell Academic Center

Dr. Jonathan Fuqua, Conception Seminary College

A Metaphysical Critique of Same-Sex "Marriage"

Dr. Amy Hamilton, University of Texas at Austin

The Science of Sexual Identity: Same-Sex Attraction and Guarding the Open Future

Dr. Lucia Luzondo, EPPC- Person and Identity Project

Gender Theory: An Ideological Colonization Denigrating Christian Marriage, especially for Hispanic/Latinos

FAC 208, Ferrell Academic Center

Mrs. Marina Brungardt, Newman University
"What It Can and Should Do": Supporting Faith Transmission in the Domestic Church

Dr. Arielle Harms, Augustine Institute
Marriage on the Fringes of the Life of the Church

Dr. Luke Arredondo, St. Brendan Center for Evangelization and Spirituality
The Role of Adult Catechesis in the Contemporary Church

FAC 207, Ferrell Academic Center

Sr. Anna Joseph Nelling, University of Saint Francis
Back to the Beginning: The Masculine and Feminine Vocations

Dr. Carrie Duke, University of Saint Francis
Marriage at the Periphery in College Writing

Sr. Mary Augustin Warrell, University of Saint Francis
"Healthcare's" Attack on the Human Person, Motherhood, Fatherhood, and the Family

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COLLOQUIUM SESSION #1 WITH ABSTRACTS

FRIDAY, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

FAC 324, Ferrell Academic Center

Mrs. Sydney Giefer Crnkovich, The Wholeness School
Equipping Women for the Sacred Mission of Motherhood: Life-long Discipleship, Formation, and Cultural Renewal from the Inside Out

Mrs. Madeleine Sparks, St Mary's Parish, Littleton, CO
A WOMAN'S Leisure: The Basis of Culture

Women are often called the “heart of the home,” and the home is the heart of society. Christian marriage supports a woman's leisure, which serves as a foundational element of culture, echoing Josef Pieper's arguments in “Leisure: the Basis of Culture.” While men endure the demands of the workaday world, marriage allows women to engage in nurturing activities that strengthen family bonds and contribute to society's moral and social fabric. This leisure enables women to create a rich cultural home environment. However, the more common narrative is that women must conform to a productivity model that undermines their natural gifts toward nurturing and creativity, straining Christian marriages and impacting how children are raised. I intend to explore how Christian marriage sustains women's leisure, enriching family life and promoting a more fulfilled, morally upright society.

Mrs. Deanna Hodgson, Confraternity of Christian Mothers
Mothers on the Margins: The Confraternity of Christian Mothers in Response to the Erosion of Christian Marriage and Family Values

In the mid-19th century, faithful Catholics in post-revolutionary France faced a cultural climate marked by the dechristianization of the Revolution and the restrictive oversight of Napoleon's restoration of Catholicism. This period saw the erosion of Christian values and widespread moral degradation, with marriage and family life deeply impacted. Amid this cultural climate, the Confraternity of Christian Mothers emerged as a spontaneous response to the challenges of preserving and promoting Christian piety within the family. This paper examines the Confraternity's historical origins, aims, and purposes, arguing for its enduring relevance in response to the contemporary marginalization of Christian marriage and family values. By drawing parallels between the 19th-century French context and today's cultural challenges, this presentation highlights the Confraternity as a compelling example of transformative Catholic action at the peripheries.

FAC 323, Ferrell Academic Center

Mr. Matthew Cleary, Benedictine College
Japanese Population Crisis: The Role of Marriage

Japan is experiencing a population decline projected to significantly decrease its national workforce and adversely affect its economy in the long-term. For the last 50 years, the country's marriage and birth rates have consistently decreased relative to the standard 2.1 replacement rate. This research is concerned with the roots of this crisis, with particular interest in young Japanese adults' views on marital union and the family. Sub research topics include investigations into whether personal feelings of financial instability, the widespread adoption of notions and practices characteristic of the sexual revolution, and historic migration policies have influenced this incredible decrease in Japanese marriage, fertility, and population rates. Finally, a review of the decline's expected economic and cultural consequences are provided on a macro level.

Dr. Jesse Smith, Benedictine College
Do Premarital Partners Undermine Marriage? Evidence from the Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health

Research shows people with more premarital sexual partners are more likely to get divorced, but scholars do not agree about why. Some people believe that having premarital sexual partners erodes commitment to marriage by undermining traditional values or promoting partner comparisons. Others argue that people with more premarital partners start out with characteristics that make marital stability more difficult, such as nonreligiousness or sensation-seeking. In other words, they would have been more likely to get divorced even without premarital partners. In this study I take up this question using data from Add Health. Specifically, I examine whether people with more premarital partners are more likely to divorce even after accounting for early-life factors such as religious involvement, attitudes about sex, parent-child relationships, delinquency, and cautious decision-making style. I find that even after controlling for these factors, divorce risk is higher for those with more partners, especially nine or more.

Mr. Eleazar Palma, John Paul the Great Catholic University
Marriage in Media: How Catholics can harness media to evangelize and form marriages.

When Pope Saint John Paul the Great called for a New Evangelization for the first time in 1983, the Catholic world could not see the impact that media, especially new forms of media, would have on the matter. It was clear enough to see during his Pontificate that the saintly Pope had a love for media and artists, having been cut from that same cloth as a youth. Today, secular culture has hijacked new

forms of media, principally film and TV, using them as a weapon to break down all traditional views of marriage especially those predicated by the Catholic Church. All marriages, young and old, must constantly battle with negative, profane, and sometimes blasphemous portrayals of relationships and marriages in popular media. A possible solution explored in this presentation is showing how Catholics in the United States can use media to evangelize and form marriages and families.

FAC 308, Ferrell Academic Center

Mrs. Kathleen Cory, The Ruah Woods Institute

Beauty in the Chaos — Living Theology of the Body in our families

“The family is the fundamental cell of society” says John Paul II in his Letter to Families. Since the cultural understanding of marriage has shifted, it is even more important to revisit his thought in Familiaris Consortio and the Theology of the Body. In his Theology of the Body, John Paul II refers to the Apostolic Exhortation “Familiaris Consortio.” He says that this teaching “indicates the course of the development of the theology of the body, and thus also the direction of its progressive completion and deepening.” In Familiaris Consortio, John Paul II gives us four “Tasks of the Family” which help us to see how to become the family that God is calling us to be. This presentation will discuss how we are called to live Theology of the Body in our homes and how to help young families find beauty in their family life despite the apparent chaos.

Mrs. Kasey Bujana, Benedictine College

The Gift of Submission and its Role in Transforming Marriage

Feminism has influenced many women to reject the biblical concept of submitting to their husbands, distorting the complementary roles God designed for marriage. This has led to discord within the home, resulting in husband and wife battling for headship, contributing to broken marriages. This paper will explore the role of submission within marriage, drawing from Scripture, the Church Fathers, St. Thomas Aquinas, and modern thinkers such as Dr. Carrie Gress. I will argue that submission is a key factor in restoring and strengthening marriage in America. I will do this by showing how submission is not a sign of inferiority or oppression, but rather an essential element in a couple's marital union, love, and joy fostering a flourishing family life. When lived authentically, it serves as a powerful witness of the love between Christ and His Church to the broader culture. Finally, I will provide practical ways to implement this principle in the home.

Mrs. Anne Nicklaus, University of St. Thomas

The Discipline of Beauty in Creating Culture in the Home (Theology of the Home)

In Plato's Republic, the argument is made that the best way to raise a child is to surround him with good and beautiful things, and by this “the ugly he would rightly disapprove of and hate while still young and yet unable to apprehend the reason, but when reason came, the man thus nurtured would be the first to give her

welcome, and he would embrace her as a familiar friend.” Republic Book III, 402. While reason is important, children come to know what is possible first by experiencing beautiful things. The merely pleasant experiences promoted by modern culture will form children unless parents accept the discipline of beauty. Creating a culture of routines, rituals, and good habits around the faith can be done by any family. Parents cannot make their children love God, but through a beautiful home life, can cultivate the disposition that makes loving God possible.

FAC 307, Ferrell Academic Center

Mr. John Logan, Ave Maria University

Ecclesia Domestica: the Family, Community, and the University of Love

In this presentation, I shall try to elaborate on the Church's words: “The family is, so to speak, the domestic church.” I will argue that to understand the sacred meaning behind the family, one must recognize three fundamental points: (1) the family as the foundation of community, (2) the family as an authentic center for the transmission of tradition, and (3) the revelation of the Trinity within the family. To bring further clarity to these three notions, I will juxtapose the Church's understanding of the family with the modern philosophical view of the person (i.e. socialism and individualism). Through this contrast, I hope to show that only in the Church does the family find its true dignity and accordingly, only in the Church does each person find his true role within the community of God's creation.

Mrs. April Hoopes, St. Benedict's Abbey

The Domestic Church: Called to play a vital role in the future of the Church

The evacuation at Dunkirk during World War II provides an excellent analogy of the way the domestic church can and does function in the Church today and in the future, according to Fr. Jose Noriega, DCJM. Since the large institutions of the Church are now rejected, misunderstood, and “bombed” repeatedly from enemy fire (and even friendly fire), a renewal of the most urgent kind is needed in individual families to re-evangelize Catholics and bring the world to Christ. I will present on Fr. Noriega's conclusion that the best way to do this is to rely on “little boats,” — aka domestic churches — to rescue 20, 30., 40 people in their lifetime by catechizing currently married couples and engaged couples on the great importance of their marriage as the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ in their neighborhood, witnessing in their daily lives path to safety in Christ and his Church.

Mr. Gary Thome, LOVING STONES of CHRIST

Catholic Marriage as an evangelization opportunity

With growing secularization along with many misperceptions about both marriage and marriage in the Catholic Church, weddings at wedding reception venues is a growing trend. Sadly, for many

people raised in the Church, their wedding marks an exit from faith. Yet at the same time we know the Catholic vision for marriage is much grander and nobler than the secular reduction of marriage to a legal arrangement. The Catholic vision, which is progressively being realized through various marriage preparation and enrichment ministries, offers a model for lifelong love. The possibility of Catholic sacramental marriage is an emerging evangelization opportunity. While couples may not initially be interested in a Catholic marriage, they are almost certainly interested in a marriage built on love, which represents an opportunity to introduce a deeper, more meaningful love that grows within a marriage. This presentation will explore ways to promote marriage as an entry into faith.

FAC 301, Ferrell Academic Center

Mr. Jacob Francois, University of St. Mary of Lake-Mundelein Seminary

Marriage's Indissolubility as the Child's Antecedent of Love

Both Marx and Hegel ask the question, 'Is childhood a problem to be overcome?' In subscribing to the dialectic of progress, the structure of childhood is torn asunder by the motto, "my end is in my end." Ferdinand Ulrich, in taking T. S. Elliot's cue, "In my beginning is my end," develops a philosophical anthropology of childhood that takes on light from the sacrament of matrimony's indissolubility. Only within the sexual difference and the indissolubility of their bond do the husband and wife contribute to the child's origin as his antecedence of love in the generation of their one flesh. Without indissolubility at the origin of his existence, the child will view his parents as a miser who withheld the fullness of the gift of his being. With childhood's structure secured by the indissolubility of his origin, the truth of his being is convertible with love.

Mr. Andy Bonjour, Ruah Woods Institute

The From Now For paradigm and the vocational reach of a husband and father

We can transform our communities with three anthropological guideposts: From Now, For. This From, Now, For paradigm unpacks traditional Christian anthropology that addresses original man, historical man and eschatological man, but it does so within a colloquial context that centers on the idea that we come from somewhere, we are now in today's world, and we live for a purpose. When individuals begin to grasp who they are as a human person, others do it to, and communities are transformed. St. Irenaeus says, "The glory of God is man fully alive." When individuals embrace their vocation, communities come alive. John Paul II states that even those of us who aren't called to be artists in the true sense of the term, are called to make our lives into a "work of art, a masterpiece." How am I called to do this in my role as husband and father?

Sr. Kateri Toler, Life Giving Wounds

The Unnoticed: ACOD's Needs when Responding to Their Vocation

Children's experience of love from their parents is their first relationship and encounter with God. Parental divorce and separation have profound effects on people's ability to have a life with Christ, in a way that leads to free discernment and living their vocations. Research and personal testimony uncover the challenges adult children of divorce (ACOD) face when discerning and living their vocations. The work of a Catholic ministry, Life-Giving Wounds, has greatly influenced the redemptive suffering and healing of ACODs. Their work testifies to the truth that healing is real and possible. Wounds of ACODs often prevent the belief that they can joyfully live marriage, religious life, or priesthood. Healing through prayer and accompaniment restores a person's identity as a beloved child of God, thus bearing fruitful discernment. When one vocation is strengthened, they all reap the benefits. With Christ, the wounds of dysfunctional families become wellsprings of life for all vocations to bring about the Kingdom of God.

FAC 219, Ferrell Academic Center

Ms. Ann Koshute, Springs in the Desert, Catholic Infertility Ministry

First Fruits: A Witness from the Peripheries

Couples suffering with infertility experience being "on the peripheries" an emotional, spiritual, and bodily realities. The sense of isolation is prevalent, feeling like outsiders within their families, among friends, and in their parish communities. The mystery of the couple's inability to be "fruitful and multiply" creates distance from God, and each other. This paper will briefly address the effects of infertility on marriage in these aspects, and on how such marriages are signs of contradiction in the world. I will focus on how the "first fruits" of life-giving love in marriages are found between the spouses, making way for a fruitful harvest in the Church and the world. Marriages on the path of infertility have enormous potential to be witnesses, and this paper will explore that potential and the opportunity it presents the Church to both minister to these couples, and to partner with them as powerful evangelizers for marriage.

Prof. Christina Strafacci, Saint Mary's Catholic High School

"To remain with truth, of course": The Healing of Imagination in Karol Wojtyła's Jewel-iard School of Marriage

The "Selfie Generation" exists without the demands of real, embodied relationships, a detachment from reality undermining the capacity to make the good of another one's own. Governed by the cult of melodrama and feelings as arbiters of truth, digitally glamorized fictions fuel imaginations, encouraging slavery to ephemeral passions and inclinations towards disordered choices. Such dwelling in the unreal disables future spouses, crippling abilities and dulling enthusiasm to see and receive persons in their true depth. Karol Wojtyła's dramatic work "The Jeweler's Shop"

(1960) responds to similar failures in receptivity. Transformed by the Blessed Mother's trust-filled openness and imagination governed by faith and reason, WojtyÅa's women become channels of grace, inspiring virtuous growth in their companions by illuminating the perils of leaving "thought and imagination on their own". "To remain with truth" enables the spouses' full participation in the communio personarum of marriage and the unpredictable drama of the domestic church.

Deacon Henry Zmuda, St. Madeleine Catholic Church
The Oikonomia of Amoris Laetitia and the Tradition of the Church

The Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia (AL), published by Pope Francis, beautifully articulates the joys and sorrows of marriage and family life while examining difficulties faced by the Church in modern

society. For all its beauty, debate has arisen regarding statements found in Chapter 8. These ongoing debates lie not as much in what was said but unsaid, with some claiming AL represents a significant change in Church doctrine by applying the Orthodox praxis of oikonomia, a relaxing of Church and divine law as a condescension to human weakness. Yet if God's law can be dispensed with, they cannot be in accord with human nature. By applying the theological Principle of Integration, this paper will argue that AL, properly understood, does not change Church doctrine and preserves the teachings about marriage and the Eucharist while keeping the salvation of souls, "the supreme law in the Church," always before one's eyes.

COLLOQUIUM SESSION #2 WITH ABSTRACTS

SATURDAY, 9:45 – 11:00 AM

FAC 324, Ferrell Academic Center

Dr. Andrew Salzmann, Benedictine College
Anti-Consumerist Family Life

Consumerism is not the excessive attachment to material things, but the failure to be attached to greater things (William Cavanaugh). Consumerist families share a common life of bonding over the parallel consumption of a stream of passing goods. Looking at the Holy Family, however, we find a common life of bonding over shared productivity and shared rest. Anti-consumerist family life is marked by shared productivity, whether economic activity or formation. Anti-consumerist family life is marked by shared recreation, in which the enjoyment of material goods is not parallel but truly shared. Anti-consumerist family life is marked by shared leisure, in which our lives are structured and given meaning by ritual. Indeed, sharing our central civil and religious rituals anew, with the young, is what these rituals vital (Mary Eberstadt). Families face the challenge that some of these rituals are dissipating, even as others metastasize under the influence of consumerism.

Dr. Gustavo Santos, The Catholic University of America
Family Public Policy: from "defamilization" to a relational perspective

Family public policy has been treated as encompassing pro-natalist policies (e.g. family allowances), as well as anti-poverty policies (e.g. child tax credits). In certain welfare state theories, family policies have been characterized as "defamilializing" to the extent that they unburden family members of their responsibilities (Esping-Andersen, 1990). Such theories fail to consider the family as a foundational human relationship with its own specific nature,

structure, and role. In contrast, Pierpaolo Donati (2012) has developed a relational approach that sees the family as a relational good for its members and society, and the goal of family policy as "producing more family". This paper will examine Donati's ideas on family public policy and his call for a new organization of the welfare state and its policies based on a "complex subsidiarity", with an emphasis on the specific role of the family as a relational good and generator of primary social capital.

Dr. James Young, Benedictine College
Value, Cost and the Family

After decades of alarm over a population bomb, society has reversed course. Declining birth rates are increasingly a concern. One hypothesis for current demographic trends is that the cost of starting a family is insurmountable without aid. Whether it be the high price of purchasing a first home or ongoing childcare cost for working parents, politicians have offered solutions to reduce the financial burden of having children. However, policies focused on cost have not been a sufficient solution. The reason for this is that the costs of providing services across time are not independent of what people value. A market economy can channel innovation towards what people have valued in the past, which sways future generations. Instead of cost alone, it is then a question of the value society and individuals place on the raising of children and the institution most fundamentally connected with that task: marriage.

FAC 323, Ferrell Academic Center

Mrs. Jennifer Meehan, Archdiocese of Saint Louis

Side-by-Side: Mentoring Engaged Couples Through the First Year of Marriage

Fewer couples are choosing to marry in the Catholic Church. Those who do often appear to be “checking a box” or fulfilling a family tradition. Diocesan-wide marriage preparation weekends have had little success in forming married couples who become engaged in parish life and regularly receive the Sacraments. By moving marriage preparation to the parish level, we create a stronger connection between the couple and the parish. Trained Mentor Couples walk with engaged couples through the engagement period and the first year of marriage. In this session, you will learn how to select and form Mentor Couples. You will leave with a blueprint for a vibrant, parish-based Mentor Couple program to serve your engaged and newly-married parishioners.

Mr. Jake Samour, Catholic Diocese of Wichita

“A Road To Emmaus” Catechumenal Formation for Mentor Couples

The Catechumenal Pathways for Married Life document states that “The preparation of couples for marriage is a true work of evangelization, and the lay faithful, especially married couples, receive an equally important call as religious and ordained ministers to participate in the Church’s evangelizing mission: they are pastoral workers.” (n10) The Road to Emmaus Catechumenate model of mentor-couple formation is a novel approach to marriage preparation. It calls upon mentor couples to become evangelizing and catechizing agents. The disciples’ hearts became gradually on fire as they walked with Jesus on the Road to Emmaus. This paper’s hypothesis is that engaged couples’ hearts will do likewise as they are accompanied by properly formed mentor couples. But the ministry that mentor couples should provide as would be catechists hinges on the proper mentor-couple formation.

Dr. Joseph E. Burns, Augustine Institute

The Marriage Catechumenal Breakthrough

In a Canon Law class more than 25 years ago, our distinguished canon lawyer, Ed Peters, said something that has remained with me ever since. He said that we don’t have a Catholic marriage problem; we have a Catholic marriage preparation problem. Back in 1981, Pope John Paul II addressed this marriage prep problem by requesting that both the proximate and immediate preparation for marriage be in the form of a CATECHUMENATE. This request remained unfulfilled until June 2022 when the Vatican issued its landmark document, “Catechumenal Pathways for Married Life.” This document is a major breakthrough in what has, until now, been an entrenched parish paradigm that prevents Catholic parishes from fully embracing the Vatican II call to be transformed into Catechumenal Communities. My presentations focuses on a key underlying issue that must be addressed for marriage prep to be fully successful,

that is, the supporting parish itself must also be transformed into a Catechumenal model.

FAC 308, Ferrell Academic Center

Dr. Ryan Messmore, Institute for Catholic Liberal Education

Sex as Covenant Renewal and Other Lessons from the Biblical Story of Betrothal and Marriage

Sadly, even among Catholics, the dominant story in Western culture tends to shape the expectations and script for marriage. How might our imaginations be guided by an older narrative? Drawing from the customs and traditions surrounding betrothal and marriage in ancient Israel, I point to several lessons we can learn about the nature of love, sex, and marriage. Most significant is the notion of marriage, not as a romantic connection based on felt intimacy, but as a covenant based on faithfulness and fruitfulness (CCC 1662). As I outline in my book on the topic, such an understanding can shape the way Christians understand and speak of love, approach engagement and pre-marital counseling, and form expectations about marrying their soul mate. This story also illumines a deeper meaning of sex that is largely ignored today: sex as covenant renewal. Finally, this ancient Jewish narrative points to an even greater love story—God’s spousal relationship with the Church.

Dr. Charles Anthony Stewart, Benedictine College

Holy Matrimony as Sacred Icon

Marriage is complex. It is universal, common to every culture; and yet, it is a fragile institution, demanding meticulous daily maintenance. Strangely, though we are a highly educated society, today many Americans are confused; over a century of secularization and de-Christianization has left many stupid on the matter. The masses imbibe contemporary images of romance shaped by superficial social media and Disneyfication; intellectual elites blindly accept its scientific reduction to mere evolutionary mating ritual. Against these trends stand the Catholic magisterium, which emphasizes marriage as holy (*sancto matrimonio*) and divinely created. How can we educate the secular masses and elites regarding a thousand years of doctrine? Fortunately, throughout history Catholic artists depicted images of marriage. Besides being beautiful, these masterpieces serve as didactic and mnemonic devices to remind viewers of matrimony’s divine purpose. By examining key artworks, the highest potential of holy matrimony is powerfully communicated and realized.

Dr. Richard White, Benedictine College

The Sacramentality of Marriage through Film: A Case Study

This paper will place Catholic teaching on the sacramentality of marriage in conversation with film. This teaching will first be examined from the standpoint of the sacred sign (*sacramentum tantum*), reality and sign (*res et sacramentum*), and ultimate reality (*res tantum*), and then placed in dialogue with Richard Brooks’ 1956

film, *The Catered Affair*. The movie illuminates Catholic teaching on the sacramental dignity of marriage.

FAC 307, Ferrell Academic Center

Mrs. Cassandra Taylor, Springs in the Desert | Catholic Infertility Ministry

Walking the Peripheries: The Path of Infertility

In an age of falling fertility rates, the ideal of the “big Catholic family” survives. For couples struggling with infertility however, that ideal can become a measuring stick against which spouses evaluate their marriages, holiness, and worth. With Catholics included in the 1 in 5 who are dealing with infertility (CDC), it is imperative and urgent that the Church, from the clergy to the laity, be able to grasp the gravity of infertility and the unique impacts it has on Catholic couples.

We will summarize relevant statistics to introduce the problem of infertility, outline the particular difficulties faced by Catholic couples, and offer a call to action for transforming the culture in the Church with respect to infertility. With such a shift, these couples can be brought in from the peripheries so that they can bear witness to God and the goodness of the sacrament of marriage.

Mrs. Jillian Kubik, Springs in the Desert | Catholic Infertility Ministry
Support for the Peripheries: Ministering to Those with Infertility

From seminary formation and diocesan marriage preparation to pastoral efforts at the pulpit and parish evangelization programs, the Church has structures in place to ensure that the Body of Christ is being formed and ministered to well. But what happens when, because of a lack of awareness, the Church’s efforts go unnoticed by those who need it the most? As the second paper in a panel, we will discuss the pastoral needs of those carrying the cross of infertility, what changes could take place within the structures of the Church to address those needs, and how these changes would unify the Body of Christ. By examining the challenges faced by those carrying the cross of infertility, the Church will be better positioned to carry out the mission given by Christ to those with infertility and beyond.

Dr. Megan Reister, Franciscan University of Steubenville
Preparation, Forming, & Healing: Unexpected Fruitfulness within (Secondary) Infertility

We all have an idea as to what something will look like when planning for something or someone. However, despite our best preparations, it is never guaranteed the plan will unfold the way we envision it. Our pasts, dreams, and current circumstances influence and impact our perceptions of our lived experiences. This presentation, as part of a panel, will explore possible different ways couples can be fruitful, drawing from stories from and experiences of a presenter living with (secondary) infertility. For so long, one can work toward an aimed for goal or prepare for a certain expectation. However, one must also live in the present moment and be open

to bearing fruit in other ways, even if it turns out to be dramatically different from what was originally planned or envisioned.

FAC 301, Ferrell Academic Center

Dr. Brett Robinson, University of Notre Dame

I-Thee-Web.com: Digital Lives and Incarnational Living

All of the Sacraments point to the striking ramifications of Jesus Christ’s Incarnation for reality. However, Holy Matrimony, with its “flesh-of-my-flesh” promise serves uniquely as a physical manifestation of Christ’s “dwelling among us.” It only make sense then that in a digital age prone to what William Cavanaugh calls “excarnation,” Holy Matrimony would find itself particularly called into question. Utilizing insights from Theology, Philosophy, and the Social Sciences, this three person panel will explore theoretical and practical difficulties for both this Sacrament and those who try to live out its covenant in our digital era. Pushing neither for digital utopianism nor absolute technological pessimism, the panel looks for practical wisdom for the Church grounded in a digital realism grounded in the Hope of Jesus Christ, the Word made Flesh.

Mr. Bo Bonner, Maryvale Institute – St. Mary’s University

I-Thee-Web.com: Matrimonial Incarnationality In Our Digital Age

The algorithm is, among other things, a spiritual discipline, and quite specifically one modeled on what Pope Francis calls the “Technocratic Paradigm.” This discipline leads to a “digital onanism” that vindicates how Church ethics described a certain subset of sins against the 6th Commandment as “self-abuse,” but not primarily due to the sexual nature of those sins, but rather as it inculcates a foundational utility when considering our bodies, souls, and persons. This leads to the dominance of “compatibility” as the measure of contemporary courtship relationships, not only hamstringing the possibility of pairings that end in matrimony, but founding them on problematic grounds. This must be countered by ensuring a role for Providence to guide human courtship.

Dr. Bud Marr, Mercy College of Health Sciences

I-Thee-Web.com: Marriage and “Liquid Modernity”

The digital age has created unique stressors for the institution of marriage. The rate of divorce, both within and outside the Church, testifies to how challenging it can be to sustain a marriage amidst the various distractions and temptations that are prevalent in contemporary society. As our culture increasingly shows signs of confusion even about the nature of marriage, faithful and lifelong relationships will become an important countersign to what Zygmunt Bauman has called “liquid modernity.” As one facet of the Church’s witness, loving marriages can offer a kind of incarnational evangelization that proclaims the truth of what God has revealed about this sacrament when the possibility of reasonable discussion around the topic has broken down.

Murphy-McPhee Auditorium – Westermann Hall

“The Phoenix of Love” — Directed by Zachary Luloff,
Translated by Mr. Christopher Rziha, University of Notre Dame
Reviving the Eucharistic Drama: José de Valdivielso’s “The Phoenix of Love,” Performed in English for the First Time Ever

Featuring allegorical, saintly, and Biblical characters and often ending with the celebration of a Mass, the Eucharistic Drama was an especially popular brand of theater found only in Baroque Spain that embodied a unique fusion of mystical spirituality, post-Trent theological reform, and lay piety. This session seeks to initiate a

revival of the Eucharistic Drama through the first-ever English performance of José de Valdivielso’s “The Phoenix of Love,” which follows the efforts of rival suitors Christ and Lucifer to win the love of Soul and the loyalty of her servant Body. After a night of intrigue that includes sword-fighting, wall scaling, and the invasion of the Seven Sins, Christ and his allies triumph over Lucifer, and Soul is finally united with her divine spouse in a wedding banquet that is both Eucharistic and mystical.

*A panel discussing and analyzing the play will be held during Colloquium Session #3, in FAC 307.

FEATURED PRESENTER SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

Session A: Theological and Philosophical Roots of Catholic Teaching on Marriage

Murphy McPhee Auditorium, Westermann Hall (1st Floor)
Pia de Solenni, IWP Capital, and
Christopher Kaczor, Loyola-Marymount University
(Biographies appear on page 8.)

Session B: Marriage Preparation in the Church Today

McAllister Boardroom, Ferrell Academic Center (4th Floor)
John and Clare Grabowski, Catholic University of America
(Biographies appear on page 9.)

Session C: Ongoing Formation of Husbands and Wives

Gangel Seminar Room, FAC 301, Ferrell Academic Center
John Bishop, FORGE, and **Marcie Stokman**, Well-Read Mom
(Biographies appear on page 9.)

COLLOQUIUM SESSION #3 WITH ABSTRACTS

SATURDAY, 3:45 – 5:05 PM

FAC 324, Ferrell Academic Center

Dr. Jennifer Bryson, Ethics and Public Policy Center
Balancing Kinship and Eros: Ida Friederike Görres in Defense of the Indissolubility of Marriage

In her book *What Binds Marriage Forever* (Berlin, 1971), Ida Friederike Görres defends the Catholic teaching on the indissolubility of marriage as uniquely suited to human well-being. After exploring problematic aspects of historical models of gens (kinship) marriage and eros-based sexual pairings, she sees the development of the Catholic teaching on the indissolubility of marriage, bound by covenant, law, and grace, as a natural and invaluable solution. However, in the era of the 1968 revolution, Görres was a peripheral voice. She faced a rising onslaught of support by contemporary Catholics to allow divorce and remarriage in the Church, including at the Synod of Würzburg where she was a delegate. Her book

exposes the weakness and potentially harmful consequences of her contemporaries’ views, but her unpopular views in this book, sent to the publisher eight days before her death, were quickly pushed beyond the peripheries; this book has been largely forgotten.

Dr. Daniel and Marisa Pierson, Benedictine College
Self-Sacrifice or Self-Interest: Jane Austen and Thomas Hobbes on Marriage

Jane Austen is known for tales that end in happy marriage, but her stories are more than feel-good romances. Austen’s characters learn that happiness requires virtue. In *Pride and Prejudice*, before arriving at their happy ending, Miss Bennett and Mr. Darcy undergo a process of personal conversion, in which increased self-knowledge leads to increased capacity for self-sacrifice. In our day, when marriage itself—and certainly any connection to self-sacrifice—has

been pushed aside, Austen's message loses none of its relevance. In this presentation, we will contrast Austen's view of marriage with that of the philosopher Thomas Hobbes, whose contractual idea of morality is based solely on calculated self-interest. We will show that his view of marriage, which is now (arguably) the culturally dominant one, makes the kind of marriage depicted by Austen impossible. As long as Hobbes's view is widely accepted, marriage that involves self-sacrifice will remain at the peripheries.

Mr. Matt Wilde, Donnelly College

The Creative Vow as the Fulfillment of the Marriage Vow: Gabriel Marcel's Vision of Parenthood

20th Century Catholic philosopher Gabriel Marcel notes that married couples often struggle to discern if their relationship is characterized by genuine reciprocal love or a mutually shared narcissism. The main way a couple discerns how much of their love is really mutual egotism is through children entering their relationship. Marcel believes that marital egotism is exposed when parents reject the test of parenthood--such rejections include overt hatred, apathy, self-idolatry through the child, and child-idolatry through the self. After Marcel clears away false responses to the test of parenthood, he comes to the essence of parenthood (and therefore also marriage)--the creative vow. It is in the creative vow, where the parent recognizes the child as a gift and offers the child to God in hope, that biological, adoptive, and spiritual parenthood find their shared nature, and that the married couple becomes a family.

FAC 323, Ferrell Academic Center

Rev. James McConville, Metropolitan Tribunal, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Curing "Divorce Mentality": Canon 1063

Alexander Pope wrote, "Vice is a monster of so frightful mien as to be hated needs but to be seen; yet seen too oft, familiar with her face, we first endure, then pity, then embrace." I propose that, as a Church, by treating symptoms rather than the disease, we have been pitying and embracing vice: the "soluble" marriage bond. Pastors and couples treat annulments as purely administrative nuisances, akin to resetting a computer password, and thereby tacitly accept divorce. I believe, based on over twenty years of Tribunal work, once an annulment has been granted, pastoral solicitude for the success of the couple's intended union is neglected because the fundamental disease--Original Sin--goes unaddressed. Surprisingly, a powerful solution has already been given to us in canon 1063 of Code of Canon Law. I believe its prescriptions can begin to address the monstrous vice we have come to embrace.

Dr. Maria M. van der Ree Rojas, Ecclesiastical Tribunal, Archdiocese of Lima, Peru

The Canonical Notion of Marriage

Marriage is an institution of natural law which has been elevated to the dignity of a sacrament among the baptized. The canonical notion of marriage is a reflection of what marriage is intended to be, a covenant by which a man and a woman establish a partnership of the whole life ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children. St. John Paul II in two addresses to the Roman Rota explained that canonical norms are a juridical expression of an underlying anthropological and theological reality, because marriage is a pre-judicial reality. The function of canon law is to respect this natural reality of marriage and to regulate it with regard to its three pillars, namely, consent, impediments and the canonical form for contracting marriage. Of the three, consent is the most important since it makes marriage.

Dr. Joyce Konigsburg, DePaul University

Interreligious Marriage at the Periphery: A Catholic Sacramental Reevaluation

Catholicism, like many religious traditions, does not encourage interreligious marriage. However, with increasing numbers of interfaith weddings, the Catholic Church must confront this pluralistic reality rather than push interreligious marriage to the periphery. This paper proposes a reevaluation of the Catholic Church's sacramental theology of marriage, particularly in response to interreligious unions. After briefly describing the Church's definition of marriage and its position regarding interfaith nuptials, the paper examines changes in Catholic theology from an emphasis on Canon Law to a focus on Scripture and Tradition, especially Encyclicals from and since the Second Vatican Council. Next, the paper investigates the sacrament of marriage from interreligious perspectives, principally the marital bond, fidelity, symbols and signs, and the roles of faith and grace within a sacramental union. The paper concludes with theological arguments that substantiate a reevaluation of Catholic Church teachings regarding interreligious marriage at the periphery.

FAC 308, Ferrell Academic Center

Rev. Michael Rennie, Archdiocese of St. Louis; Dappled Things Magazine

Motherhood As Poetic Act

I could also expand this, if need be, to parenting more generally. Motherhood is a symbolic, poetic action that draws each particular, unique woman up into the universal motherhood of Our Lady and the universal love of God (like all symbol and beauty, motherhood is analogical). This means, among other things, that individual mothers have a vocation far beyond the practical or functional. Mothers are instruments of magnification, mediating that which is small and humble (all of us, really), into grace.

Mr. Alexander Taylor, Christendom College

Oikolatria at Hetton: Or, how Evelyn Waugh's A Handful of Dust, Sir Roger Scruton, and Louise Cowan Reveal that Marriage needs God to Truly Form a Home

The problem that Western Civilization faces today is homelessness. Not simply the reality of those who live on the streets, many today struggle with a psychological, but no less real, alienation from their families, nation, and Church, the aggressive form of which philosopher Sir Roger Scruton dubbed oikophobia. While encouraging marriage seems a fitting response to such turmoil, Catholic novelist Evelyn Waugh showed ninety years ago showed the consequences of attempting to found the city upon marriage without God. By examining marriage in his novel *A Handful of Dust* in conversation with literary critic Louise Cowan's essay "Marriage as a Creative Work," I will argue that the Church, by safeguarding and proclaiming the *télos* of marriage to be God Himself, offers the contemporary world an example of oikodulia, the right praise of the home, which is necessary for those who are and those who are called to be married.

Dr. Jeremy Sienkiewicz, Benedictine College

The Crisis of Marriage is the Crisis of Meaning

Given both the Trinitarian ontology of reality and its consummate reality in creation at the Paschal Mystery, the union of distinctions is the paradigm of all reality. More than this, it is reality. Thus, the Western crisis in gender and marriage is not merely a moral side issue which will hopefully be cleared up eventually but, instead, a crisis of epic proportions which shakes the foundations of ontology itself. To fail to understand marriage is to fail to understand the real. More to the point, to fail to live the reality of authentic human sexuality in marriage and virginity dooms a people to live falsely in all realms of life and culture. As John Paul II stated: "The future goes by way of the family." What is the future of a people without families?

FAC 307, Ferrell Academic Center

Dr. Edward Mulholland, Benedictine College

Words made Flesh: Theatre and Theology, a match made in Athens

Classical theatre grew out of the worship of Dionysus in Athens. Compulsory for citizens to attend, theatre for Athens was a place where abstract ideas found voice, arrayed in word and gesture. Theatre re-emerged in Christendom, also within the context of religious festivals. In Spain, where the Mediterranean sun likewise fosters outdoor celebration, drama had a special role in illustrating principles, giving the common people concrete manifestations of moral exempla. Thus, these translations of Valdivielso's dramas not only grant access to an important tradition of Christian theatre but hearken back to the very origins of the artform.

Dr. John Rziha, Benedictine College

The Generous Bridegroom: The Role of the Eucharist in The Pheonix of Love by José Valdivielso

During the late 1500s most of the laity only received communion once a year. Consequently, the relationship between the Eucharist and the moral life was primarily that of emphasizing fear of the Lord and the unworthiness of the communicant. José de Valdivielso's Eucharistic Dramas, presented during the Corpus Christi processions, attempt to reintroduce the importance of the Eucharist in the life of the Laity. In the Pheonix of Love Christ, as a suitor of the soul, triumphs over the devil to be united with the soul in marriage through the Eucharist. By emphasizing that Christ is the bridegroom, Valdivielso is able to show how the Eucharist draws humans with deep love to act morally, overcome temptation, and grow in virtues. This presentation will explore this rich Eucharistic theology and show how Valdivielso takes the Eucharistic nuptial imagery found in the tradition and artistically presents this theology to the common people.

Mr. Christopher Rziha, University of Notre Dame

Liturgical Mysticism in the Eucharistic Dramas of José de Valdivielso

This presentation will analyze the relationship between grace and nature in three 'Autos Sacramentales,' or Eucharistic Dramas, written by the baroque Spanish playwright José de Valdivielso: 'The Phoenix of Love,' 'The Tree of Grace,' and 'The Proofs and Nobility of the Human Race.' More specifically, this study will demonstrate that Valdivielso's dramas reveal a profound synthesis of two central theological dictums: that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian Life, and that mysticism is the normal end and perfection towards which every member of the faithful is called. By examining how Valdivielso utilizes the medium of dramatic performance to characterize the relationship between divinity and humanity as one that culminates in a liturgical wedding banquet, this essay seeks to propose the revival of the Eucharistic Drama as a method of reflection on the role of the 'liturgical mystic' in modern society.

FAC 301, Ferrell Academic Center

Dr. Jonathan Fuqua, Conception Seminary College

A Metaphysical Critique of Same-Sex "Marriage"

There are instantiation conditions that must be met for a particular to be able to instantiate a monadic (singular) property. My apple tree can't possess the property of believing in the law of noncontradiction, for instance: the instantiation conditions, which include having an intellect, cannot be met in this case. Likewise, there are instantiation conditions for polyadic properties, i.e., for relations: it's not the case that any two particulars can instantiate any relation. Can two individuals of the same sex instantiate the marriage relation? That depends on whether marriage has - to borrow some

verbiage from Locke - a nominal essence only or a real essence. If marriage has a nominal essence only, then, arguably, it can be instantiated by a same-sex couple. However, if Aristotelianism or theism is true, then marriage has a real essence, and, arguably, its real essence precludes it from instantiation by two individuals of the same sex.

Dr. Amy Hamilton, University of St. Thomas — Houston
The Science of Sexual Identity: Same-Sex Attraction and Guarding the Open Future

Social factors such as greater acceptance and visibility of homosexuality have led to population-wide increases in reported expressions of same-sex attraction and behavior. Current surveys find over 30% of Gen Z young adults identifying as LGBTQ. Yet recent scholarship shows 1) homosexuality is not inborn nor even primarily heritable and 2) sexual attractions, behaviors, and identities can and do shift over time, especially among adolescents and young adults. As young Christians come of age in this context, how do we disciple them in the midst this culture and in their own struggles? We must accompany them while anchored in Christian anthropology and resist sexual identity labels that can limit or misguide the future life trajectory. Effectively ministering to them in the “now” requires keeping a whole-life perspective, fidelity to truth, and seeking their overall human flourishing.

Dr. Lucia Luzondo, EPPC- Person and Identity Project
Gender Theory: An Ideological Colonization Denigrating Christian Marriage, especially for Hispanic/Latinos

America's ever-shifting demographic is marked by a drastic increase in Hispanic/Latino populations, especially within the U.S. Catholic Church, where Hispanics will soon become the majority group and constitute over 60% of Catholics 18 years or less. This lecture will address how the ideological colonization of gender theory has impacted the Christian understanding and incidence of marriage in the United States especially among Hispanic/Latinos, a cultural family at the periphery of the national Church who has been most vulnerable to gender ideology due to the sociological reality of machismo and marianismo. But there is hope!

FAC 208, Ferrell Academic Center

Mrs. Marina Brungardt, Newman University
“What It Can and Should Do”: Supporting Faith Transmission in the Domestic Church

Catholic parents today face the considerable challenge of transmitting the Catholic Faith to their children in a post-Christian society. With 21% of Americans who were raised Catholic disaffiliating from the faith, modern approaches to faith transmission have been ineffective. “Christian marriage and Christian family build up the Church,” Pope Saint John Paul II wrote in *Familiaris Consortio*, and yet the data shows that spouses often do not know how to approach this mission in their role as parents. This paper proposes

to examine the theological grounding and sociological supports for family faith formation. Family faith formation can help families build a rich domestic Church grounded in the liturgy, supported by the Church through their parish. This approach supports parents in their role as the primary educators of the faith for their children, helping the family to live out its mission as the domestic Church.

Dr. Arielle Harms, Augustine Institute
Marriage on the Fringes of the Life of the Church

The Christian perspective on marriage is challenging even for those who consider themselves Catholic and make an effort to practice their faith. Many self-identified Catholics are in marriages that do not conform to the teachings of the Church. For these Catholics living in what the Church calls an irregular marriage, their ability to live their faith and pass it on to their children is challenged. Judgment or fear of being judged is an obstacle to presenting their children for Baptism. Because of their inability to share in the Eucharist or receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, these couples can feel like outsiders, and they usually have less desire to attend the Sunday Eucharist regularly. The effort of trying to form a new habit here makes it all the more difficult for these families to meet Mass attendance requirements for children's sacrament preparation. Yet, Pope Francis reminds us that these couples are not excommunicated and should be invited into the life of the Church. Those who care for souls should be all the more attentive to these family situations, where helping the parents regularize their situation can lead to better outcomes for children's faith formation. This presentation seeks to explore ways that parishes, in particular, can minister to families who identify as Catholic but have failed to live up to the Catholic ideal regarding marriage in a way that remains faithful to the teachings of the Church regarding morality and the sacraments but nevertheless welcomes those on the fringes of the life of the Church.

Dr. Luke Arredondo, St. Brendan Center for Evangelization and Spirituality
The Role of Adult Catechesis in the Contemporary Church

The General Directory for Catechesis, published in 2020, is a systematic recalibration of the Church's presentation of the organizing principles of catechesis, reflecting the changing conditions of the modern world. This is especially clear in the Directory's presentation of the role of adult formation. Contemporary research demonstrates that young people are abandoning religion sooner, and that disaffiliation likely outpaces the hoped-for return of parents to the faith when they have children to baptize. In light of this research, the necessity of forming adults has become incredibly important for the future of the church. My presentation will consider two specific challenges to implementing this view Directory and will offer some suggestions for a path forward: (1) Major producers of catechetical materials have continued, largely, on children rather than adults. (2) Parish and diocesan structures still emphasize catechesis of children far more than the formation of adults.

Dr. Carrie Duke, University of Saint Francis
Marriage at the Periphery in College Writing

Catholic teachings such as marriage protects women and children and that children need their fathers to grow into happy, healthy adults. While I help my students discover these truths with their research, I also hope to promote these ideas campus wide through discussions and presentations. In order to shift the culture towards embracing rather than rejecting Catholic values, young people need to be aware of the dangers posed by the destruction of the nuclear family and traditional marriage.

When a society forsakes the Lord, the Source of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness, its very foundations that seemed “common ground” and factually based quake and fail. Such is the materialistic amoralistic philosophy pervading a branch of modern science that uses the tools of healthcare not to serve truth, but to promote a destructive mentality that masquerades as “treatment” or “care.” In this way, healthcare betrays its own name and becomes a poison that not only physically harms the patient, but also wreaks havoc in every other aspect of his or her life, including but not limited to the person’s mental health, relational dynamics, and family structure. This paper will use a scientifically based approach to examine how modern perverted healthcare techniques attack motherhood, fatherhood, marriage, and the family as well as the devastating repercussions.

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NOTES

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. The background is a clean, solid white color.

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*Renewing K-12 Catholic schools
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the Church's educational tradition
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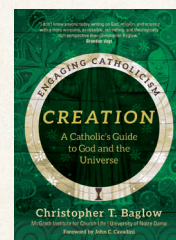
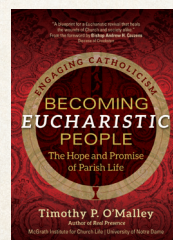
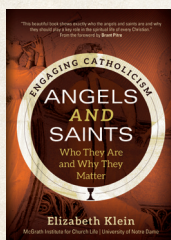
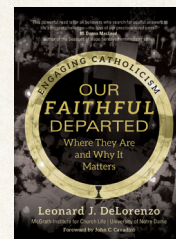
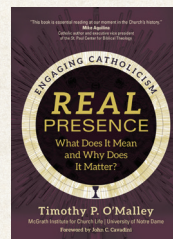
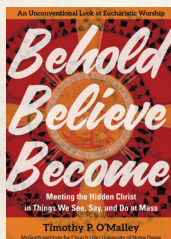


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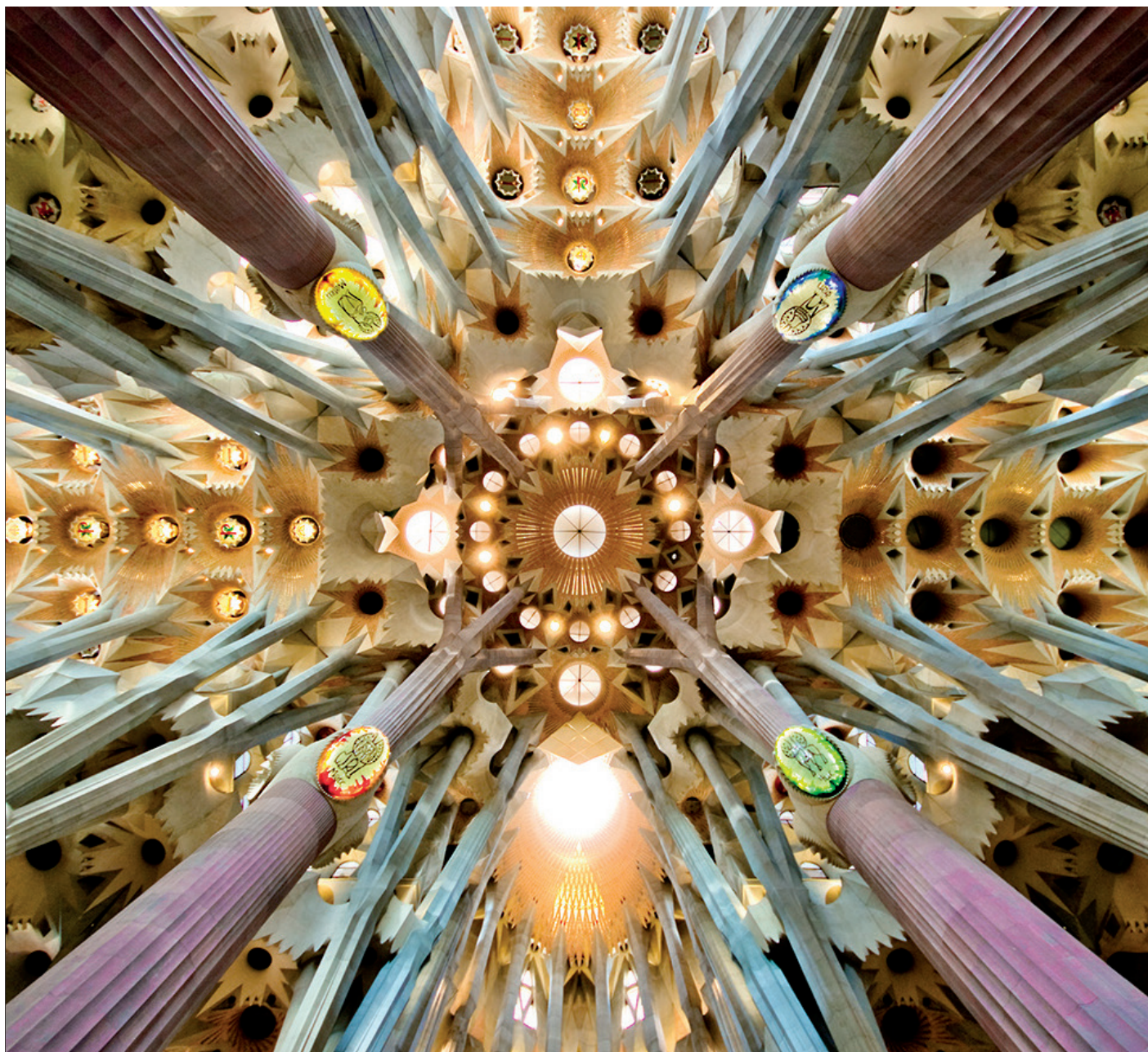
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