

COLLOQUIA

Thursday, November 7 | 1:30-2:45 p.m.

Friendship in and with the Word

SALON A | Moderator: Kristi Haas

“Restoring Aquinas’ *Expositio super Job ad litteram*”

Noelle Johnson (University of Notre Dame)

Dei Verbum tells us that in Revelation, God “speaks to men as friends” (DV 2). We enter into friendship with God through the reading of Scripture. However, the interpretation of Scripture relies on first understanding the literal sense of the text. St. Thomas Aquinas attempts this in his *Expositio super Job ad litteram*. In this paper I will argue that current research on “resurrection” in Israel’s history contradicts Aquinas’s understanding of the term. Adopting this research results in a literal reading of the text which remains sensitive to Aquinas’ theological concerns while resolving difficulties regarding his interpretation of Job 42.

Bio

Noelle Johnson is a senior at Notre Dame studying theology and physics. She hails from Los Angeles, California, and has spent summers there working with the Diocese of Los Angeles to revamp catechesis curriculum for Catholic schools.

“Supreme Friendship: Mary and Joseph’s Betrothal” (Paraic Maher, Intriguing Stories)

The betrothal of the New Testament Mary and Joseph will be investigated as a supreme example of altruistic friendship. It will be examined according to Aristotle’s view of friendship as making another person’s good one’s own, but in the unique context of a continent marriage replete with a delicate balancing of goods given and received out of love for God. I will present the historical, scriptural and traditional sources explaining the meaning of their betrothal. I will conclude with a visually mesmerizing display of images of artwork from Irish Churches depicting the moment of their betrothal.

Bio

Paraic Maher hails from Listowel, County Kerry in Ireland. He graduated from University College Cork in Mathematics and Computer Science, and from the Gregorian University in Rome with a Baccalaureate and a Licentiate in philosophy. He engaged in further studies in

philosophy at the Catholic University of America, Washington D.C., where he concentrated on classical virtue ethics and where he also taught introductory courses in philosophy for five years. In 2018, he published his first book *Betrothed: Glimpses of the Betrothal of Mary and Joseph* which can be purchased online at intriguingstories.ie. He now works as a broadcast journalist for Spirit Radio in Ireland.

“Philology: Love of the Word”

Abe Schoener (Scholium Wines)

A preliminary approach to the meaning of the Greek word φίλος, with a focus on the inherent relationship between love and the word.

Bio

Abe Schoener is the founder and winemaker at the Scholium Project. He received his doctorate from the University of Toronto and previously served as a professor in classics at St. John’s College in Annapolis, MD for nine years. After taking a sabbatical from academia in 1998 to study grape growing, Schoener made the leap into winemaking. He later launched the Scholium Project, known for its experimental winemaking process, earning him a profile in the *New York Times* as “the fearless, risk-loving winemaker.”

Holy Friends

SALON B | Moderator: Ellen Fantini

“‘Heroic Friendship’: The Abrikosova Dominican Community in Red Moscow”

Geraldine Kelley (Translator)

Following Aristotle’s observation that friendship is “a kind of virtue, or it implies virtue,” I propose that the friendship sustained within a Dominican community of women over the course of seventy years of persecution by the Soviet regime illustrates “heroic friendship”. “Heroic virtue,” coined by Augustine to describe the virtue of early Christian martyrs, is defined in the Catholic Encyclopedia (1917) as virtue practiced “with unflagging perseverance, during a long period of time, or under circumstances so trying that by them men of but ordinary perfection would be deterred from acting.”

Bio

Geraldine Kelley, of Littleton, Colorado, earned her doctorate in Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Wisconsin. Most of her working years were spent in a variety of administrative positions, but upon retirement she undertook the translation of archival materials

concerning the persecution of Catholics during the Soviet period. She is the translator of the 1,864 entries in the *Book of Remembrance* posted on a website developed by the Hesburgh Libraries, and *Brides of Christ, Martyrs for Russia*, a collection of materials about the Abrikosova Dominicans that was compiled by Irina Osipova, of the human rights organization, Memorial. Her presentation today draws from these translations.

“God Is Friendship: The Sources and Message of Aelred of Rievaulx’s Spiritual Friendship”

Nathaniel Peters (The Morningside Institute)

This paper analyzes the way in which Aelred of Rievaulx draws on the thought of Cicero, Ambrose, and Augustine in composing his celebrated treatise *Spiritual Friendship*. It also gives a robust account of Aelred's theology of friendship and its relationship to charity, and offers contemporary applications of that theology.

Bio

Nathaniel Peters is the Executive Director of the Morningside Institute. He received his B.A. from Swarthmore College in linguistics, with a focus on French and Latin, his M.T.S. from the University of Notre Dame, and his PhD in the history of Christian thought and Christian ethics from Boston College. He is currently working on an English translation of letters of William of Saint-Thierry.

“Friendship among the Saints: An Examination of Laity Who Are Up for Canonization in the United States”

Joshua Wopata (University of Dayton)

According to Alasdair MacIntyre's latest work (2016), friendship can help forge a narrative through a shared deliberation about the shape of a person's life in relationship to their final end. This paper examines the friendships of holy American lay persons—who are up for canonization—as a model for how this can work. Specially, I will argue that their relationships were formed by alternative imaginations about friendship, that these friendships tended to be formed outside of and even in spite of their institutions, and these friendships also often allowed them to transcend immediate cultural boundaries, traditional practices, or institutional habits.

Bio

Josh Wopata is a doctoral student from the University of Dayton whose work focuses on current American lay causes for sainthood. In particular the past few years he has served on the Historical Commission for the cause of Cora Evans, whose case will be moving to the Vatican in a few days. Josh also serves as a catechist for his home parish and enjoys discussing the saints

with his wife and three children as they wonder together what it means to be holy in the modern world.

‘Night Shines as the Day’ (Ps 139)

SALON C | Moderator: Jessica Keating

“Healing from Grief Through Friendship”

Leticia Ochoa Adams (Holy Apostles College and Seminary)

Grieving a tragic loss of a loved one is one of the most difficult things to navigate in this life. I believe that the way we survive such a loss is through our friendships. Everyone will face a death of a loved one in this life that will blindside them. I will use the writing of Aristotle, C.S. Lewis, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church to show how God created humans to have friendships that sustain us during tragedies such as losing a child to suicide. It is through friendships that we heal from grief when it is too much for us to carry alone.

Bio

Leticia Adams is a writer, blogger, and speaker currently earning her BA of Philosophy at Holy Apostles College and Seminary. She has been a regular on radio shows such as *Aleteia* and *The Jen Fulwiler Show*, contributed chapters to *Surprised by Life* and *The Catholic Hipster Handbook*, and was recently a speaker at the FemConference at Loyola University in March.

“The Recovery of Friendship: Virtue, Addiction, and the Common Good”

Sr. Maria Gemma Salyer (Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration)

Can virtue exist in a person suffering with an addiction? If so, what kind of virtue? In order to answer these questions, it is necessary to discuss the meaning of addition and virtue. It seems likely that infused virtue may exist in the addict, which propels him into a friendship with God. I suggest that addiction is, at least in part, caused by a lost notion of a common good. Friendship with others and with God allows the addict to regain access to the common good. This is why friendship seems to be the most effective method in battling addiction.

Bio

Originally from Newark, Ohio, Sister Maria Gemma is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka, Indiana. She joined the community in 2006 after finishing a bachelor's degree in theology. Since becoming a Sister, she has taught high school theology, worked in vocation ministry for the community, and recently finished a master's degree in

philosophy. Sister is currently pursuing a PhD in Educational Administration with a focus in Higher Education Leadership. She lives and works with her Sisters at the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, IN.

“Friendship with God: Graham Greene’s Response to Nietzsche’s *Birth of Tragedy*”

Rev. Justin Brophy, O.P. (University of Notre Dame)

In his novel *The Power and the Glory*, Graham Greene masterfully extols the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity in the midst of the suffering and uncertainty of life. But his protagonist, the whiskey priest, must be understood as a representative of the Dionysian amidst the opposition of the Apollonian. Greene presents us with a work that does not deny the depravity of human existence, but offers a more compelling interpretation than Nietzsche of how humans may find meaning amid suffering. The paper argues that Greene offers a most compelling presentation of friendship between God and humans through grace.

Bio

Father Justin Brophy is a Dominican priest, a doctoral student in Political Science at the University of Notre Dame, and a Graduate Mission Fellow of the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture. He works on the relationship between law and desire in Plato and also has interests in Augustine, Nietzsche, and Freud. He is a tremendous cook and enjoys competitive bowling.

Friendship Across the Aisle

Joyce Room | Moderator: Melody Wood

“The Aristotelian Political Friendship from a Catholic Perspective”

Fernando Galindo (Universidad Anahuac Mexico)

According to the Aristotelian doctrine of friendship, true and perfect friendship is based on virtue and exists only among virtuous people. As a consequence, political friendship goes hand in hand with justice and it’s possible only in so far as citizens share values and beliefs. But the Gospel seems to suggest precisely the opposite view: that love should be directed primarily to those who are “our enemies”; those who are excluded from the community on moral, economic or political grounds. See for instance Lk. 6, 27–36. How are we to square these apparently contradicting positions for our present world?

Bio

Fernando Galindo is a permanent lecturer and researcher in business ethics at the Department of Economics and Business at the Universidad Anahuac Mexico. He holds a PhD in Philosophy from the Universität Konstanz (Germany). The topic of his dissertation was “Praise and Blame in Aristotle”. He is also head of the Crime Prevention Division (“Prevención Comunitaria”) at the Police Department of the city of Toluca, in Mexico. He is also a political essayist.

“‘There is No Male and Female’: Allies, Friends, and Ambiguity in Politics and Religion Today”**Stephanie MacGillivray (Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England)**

The central premise of this paper is that the ambiguities found within the scriptural and social teaching of the Catholic Church are helpful for discussing identity and subjectivity. I will posit that the increasingly popular language of ‘allies’ over ‘friends’ is unhelpful for cultivating meaningful relationships, and will advocate for a move towards a discourse of friendship and neighbourly love in politics and religion today. These ambiguities provide a suitable language to engage in debate and cultivate friendships across religious and political divides, so that we may love each other, as Jesus commanded us when he called us his friends.

Bio

Stephanie MacGillivray works in research and policy in the Department for Social Justice of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. Her work focuses on life issues, mental health, gender identity, and domestic abuse. She holds undergraduate and master’s degrees in music from the University of Oxford, and a second master’s degree in Contemporary Ethics from Heythrop College, University of London. She is a visiting lecturer on the Catholic Social Teaching master’s degree program at St Mary’s University, Twickenham. Steph’s interests include song-writing, cooking, long distance running and walking, and finding the perfect ratio of ingredients for a Negroni cocktail.