



Asking the Right Question

In November, the LRI Director had the honour of sharing a rostrum with Fr Massimo Pampaloni, SJ, at a conference at the Gregorian University in Rome. A professor at the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Pampaloni is an expert in patristic Christology who is using Lonergan's technique of dialectic to analyze the Christological conflicts of the past and contemporary ecumenical dialogue with eastern Christians. He pointed out the ecumenical significance of asking the right question. Doctrines are formulated in answer to questions. By returning to the original question we may be able to break out of the impasse of opposed traditions of expression and find a basis for mutual understanding. ☒

Good Things to Come

We are thrilled to bring you a distinguished slate of presenters in the Winter edition of our Graduate Seminar, with the common thread of hospitality.

On January 10 we present Claudio Monge, a visiting professor from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. For many years, Monge lived and worked in Turkey where he became skilled in the art of Muslim-Christian dialogue. Author of two books on traditions of hospitality in the three 'Abrahamic' religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—the question he poses for his seminar is 'Can Abrahamic Religious Believers Pray Together?' John Dadosky, well known to our community for his work on religious knowing and aesthetics, will offer a response.

On Valentine's Day, Boyd Blundell, professor of ethics at Loyola University New Orleans and author of a book on the dialogue of philosophy and theology in the thought of Paul Ricoeur, presents 'The Circuit of Grace: Virtue, Narrative, and Trinity.' Bryan Gent, a Regis doctoral student and LRI Research Assistant, responds.

Finally, on March 21 we feature Thomas Reynolds of Emmanuel College. Like Blundell, Reynolds is especially interested in questions of Christian narrative identity in light of hermeneutical philosophy. Author of two books exploring the themes of communion, solidarity, and hospitality, Reynolds will speak to 'Negotiating Religious Pluralism Today: Canadian Challenges.' The respondent is Ronald Kuipers, professor at the Institute for Christian Studies and author of a book on religion in the public sphere as well as of a study of Richard Rorty.

Please join us for these stimulating conversations! For more information, visit our website. ☒

Collected Works

The Incarnate Word is in the final stages of editing for CWL. We expect to send the completed volume to the press early in the new year. For quality assurance, it will then be reviewed by external readers before proceeding to publication. On a related note, congratulations to CWL General Editor Bob Doran who received the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa* from the University of St Michael's College at its November convocation. ☒

Eternal Repose

'Please don't agonize over anything regarding me; either God wills for me to live longer, in which case I shall do so, or God wills otherwise, in which case I trust him to receive me with the same grace and kindness He has always shown me. The path ahead is not easy and may be painful, but it won't be dark or confusing. God lights the way, no matter where the path leads.' So Deacon John Denson, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer at the end of August.

John and Margaret Denson were my students in the diaconate program in Houston; we became good friends. After a successful career as an attorney, John was asking what God wanted of him next. He was constantly looking for ways to be of service to God. Irrepressibly generous, John and Margaret made a significant gift to start the LRI Research Assistantship program.

As it turned out, the signal ministry of John's diaconate was to be an edifying death. July's pancreatitis turned out to be August's cancer. November 11 was the memorial of St Martin of Tours, and the Vespers antiphons might have been John's: 'he neither feared to die nor refused to live'; 'O Lord, if I am still needed by your people, I will not refuse the task; your will be done.' On November 17, John slipped away into a life prepared for him from the foundation of the world. May we who mark the turning of another year share his serene trust in God who works all things to the good.

-Jeremy Wilkins ☒

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