



The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies

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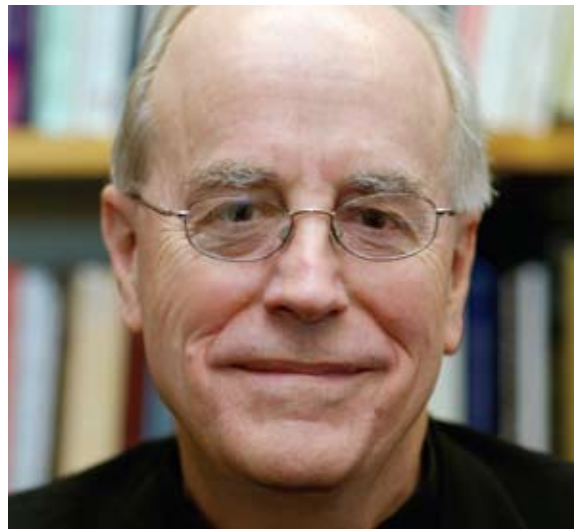
From the President

Dear Friends of the Institute,

While the economy and the election have understandably been on most people's minds, we have continued to focus on enriching Catholic life and thought around the world and here on the USC campus. We had a superb international conference on the economy and justice last June. The issues involved could not be more timely. On our website, you'll find a copy of an article published in the August 23rd issue of the *London Tablet*, which describes the theme of the conference as an approach close to the heart of John Paul II: "building an economy makes a true appraisal of human nature--embracing neither the failures of Marxism nor those of 'savage capitalism.'"

Two other important research projects are now in the final stages of editing: one on "Authority, Tradition and Dissent" and the other on "Learned Ignorance." Both books should be published late next year.

On campus, following up on a very successful lecture series, "Catholicism and Other World Religions" (also to be published as a book next year), we have organized a lecture series this year on "Religion and Film" (see our website for times and topics). These lectures are held in the late afternoon and are free for the public. Also, this year I have a leading senior seminar on "Religion and Violence,"



specifically for majors in the Schools of International Relations and Religion. For any of you who might be interested in the content of the course, the syllabus is on the website.

We are fully aware that the economy is undergoing great upheaval, shakedowns and stress. All the same, the Institute is here to stay, and we are carefully building our future on solid foundations, which includes your interest and continuing support; thank you for both!

Sincerely yours,
Fr. James Heft, S.M.

The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, located at the University of Southern California, fosters Catholic intellectual and scholarly life. It brings together scholars from across the world in all disciplines who desire to engage in cross-disciplinary, ecumenical, and inter-faith conversation and research that retrieves, critiques, and develops a deeper understanding of the roles of religion and, particularly, Catholicism today.

Giving Opportunities

“More than money, more than politics, ideas are the secret power that this planet runs on.” So says the March 24, 2008 cover story of *Time* magazine. And so says the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, especially in regards to deeply held religious ideas—ideas grounded in faith and history—that engage openly and competently the great issues of our day.

Rooted deeply in Catholic life and tradition, the Institute is committed to inter-religious dialogue as well as research and dialogue with various Christian denominations. This unique free-standing institution tackles many of today’s most pressing issues, from economics and social justice to passing on the faith to future generations.

We invite you to learn more about the exciting mission of the Institute so that you can support us in being a positive force in today’s world by wrestling wisdom from the past while imparting insight for the present and future.

Conferences and Symposia

These meetings bring together scholars from around the world who address key issues, drawing upon multiple disciplines and the best of ideas, both ancient and new. Past conferences have focused on religion and violence resulting in the publication *Beyond Violence* in 2004. A future publication will be produced based on the July 2008 “True Wealth of Nations” conference that addressed Catholic teaching on government corruption and wealth.

Research Projects

Individual scholars write books and articles on issues which enhance the understanding and depth of religious traditions, especially Catholicism.

Lecture Series

Lecture series, such as “Catholicism and Other World Religions” and “Film and Religion,” enrich campus life and provide stimulating opportunities for the wider Los Angeles community to think through fascinating and important issues.

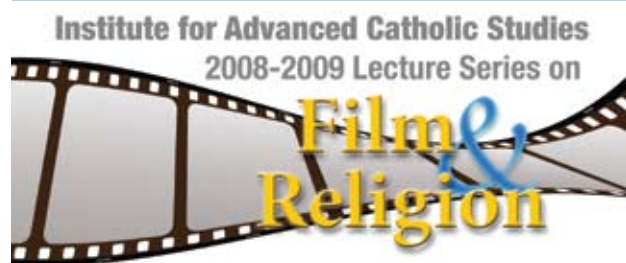
Endowments

Endowments support visiting scholars, publications and scholarly chairs within the Institute.

Operational Funds

Unrestricted Funds are the day-to-day life blood of any organization. They provide funding for key projects and assist with the general maintenance of our organization, which in turn allows for the development of strategic initiatives.

To learn more information on how you can contribute, please contact Thom Rhue at 213.740.1218.



September 24, 2008

‘On the Waterfront’: The Great American Catholic Movie (Made by Non-Catholics)

Davidson Conference Center • Reception 4:30pm, Lecture 5pm

James T. Fisher is a cultural historian of ethnicity and religion in the U.S. with a special interest in urban Catholicism. He is a Professor of Theology at Fordham University.



Prof. of Theology James Fisher of Fordham University and Prof. Leo Brady of USC’s School of Cinematic Arts

Respondent: Prof. Leo Brady, University Professor of American Literature and English at USC, author of *On the Waterfront*.

November 12, 2008

Brave Knights and Heroic Courage

Davidson Conference Center • Reception 4:30pm, Lecture 5pm

Michael Flaherty is the co-founder and president of Walden Media, a producer of films, books, and interactive programs that tie directly into school curricula.

Respondent: Sister Rose Pacatte, FSP, is the founding director of the Pauline Center for Media Studies.

January 26, 2009

Religion and the Movies: Now What?

Davidson Conference Center • Reception 4:30pm, Lecture 5pm

Richard A. Blake, S.J., a Jesuit priest, has been reviewing films since 1975 and is currently on faculty at Boston College.

Respondent: Mark Jonathan Harris is an Academy Award winning documentary filmmaker, journalist, novelist and Distinguished Professor in the School of Cinematic Arts at USC.

February 4, 2009

Seeing in the Dark:

Catholic Spirituality and the Cinematic Art

Ron Austin is the Professor Emeritus of USC’s School of Cinematic Arts.

Respondent: John Furia, Jr. is a tenured professor and Founding Chairman of the Division of Writing in the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California.

March 10, 2009

The Passion, the Feast and the Chocolate

Davidson Conference Center • Reception 4:30pm, Lecture 5pm

Ron Hansen is the Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J. Professor in the Arts and Humanities at Santa Clara.

Respondent: Edwin McCann is Professor of Philosophy and English with responsibility for faculty affairs at USC.

Mission Statement:

The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies

What is the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies?

The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies is an independent organization hosted at the University of Southern California which fosters Catholic scholarly and intellectual life. It brings together scholars from across the world in all disciplines who desire to engage in cross-disciplinary, ecumenical, and inter-faith conversation and research that retrieves, critiques and develops a deeper understanding of the roles of religion and, particularly, Catholicism today.

What does the Institute do?

The Institute sponsors research projects, a yearly lecture series and conferences leading to publications. As a result, Institute scholars enrich not only the lives of people from around the world, but also all universities—Catholic, private, and secular institutions—by stimulating research in areas not sufficiently explored.

What is the Institute's guiding philosophy?

Religion plays a central role in the lives of billions of people around the world. However, in the United States, Canada, and Europe, where universities tend to be secular, professors typically relegate the study of religion to the margins. Indeed, many intellectuals have little or no interest in the serious study of religion. At the same time, many religious people in the North Atlantic may have little or no interest in the intellectual life.

The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC works to bridge this divide by helping scholars deepen their interest in the serious study of religion, and strengthen their capacity to address some of the major questions that preoccupy most everyone. It is a one-of-a-kind institutional innovation that supports ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue by creating and supporting an international network of scholars committed to ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue rooted Catholic traditions. The Institute provides a fertile environment for a thoughtful and sustained exploration of the fundamental questions that religion, especially Catholicism, explores. In this way, through the writings of scholars with an appreciation for religious traditions, the Institute inspires people of all faith traditions to a deeper understanding of the riches of religions and how they can contribute to the common good.

What projects has the Institute sponsored over the past years?

The Institute has hosted several conferences that have contributed powerfully to the quality of religiously relevant scholarship and made a profound contribution to inter-religious dialogue. At the “Beyond Violence” conference in 2003, for example, an international group of religious scholars and leaders from the Abrahamic religions converged at the Institute to discuss and offer novel strategies as to how they could work more efficiently for justice and reconciliation, especially among groups of people who have been historically and religiously divided. The major presentations at this conference are now published as a book, *Beyond Violence*, which is currently being translated into French, ensuring that the important ideas expressed at the conference will reach a wider audience. Likewise, the Institute’s “Learned Ignorance” conference, held in Jerusalem in 2007, was also international in scope, bringing together fifteen scholars (Muslims, Jews, and Christians) to discuss the notion of “epistemic humility,” by focusing on the inescapable limitations of our ability to fully understand divine revelation. The papers presented at this conference will also be published as a book, which will also be translated into French. Such important research on critical issues clearly demonstrates that Institute scholars enjoy a growing international impact.

What are the Opportunities for Involvement?

The Institute’s work is only beginning. Upcoming conferences and research projects will explore many other important issues—from the authentic interpretations of Vatican II, to the relationship between religion and contemporary cinema, to issues of justice and the economy. Through such research and publications, the Institute seeks to build on its past successes and engage society’s most critical questions and intractable problems. It is also building an international community of scholars who will benefit from exchanging ideas that address these and other challenges.

What kind of support does the Institute need?

To support these initiatives, and enhance their effectiveness, the Institute must create endowed fellowships. These fellowships will make it possible for distinguished scholars to live and study as Institute Fellows for a year in Los Angeles, devoting all their time to research and interacting with other scholars from around the world. Important scholarship funds, staff salaries, travel costs to meet generous donors, and regular office expenses comprise a substantial measure of the Institute’s budget. The money needed to meet operating expenses will obviously be of vital importance to the Institute’s daily life and growth. Such funds will also ensure that we will be able to effectively build the endowment and support scholars in residence.



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What Happened at Vatican II



On February 27–28th, the Institute will convene a symposium on Jesuit historian John O'Malley's latest book, *What Happened at Vatican II* (Harvard University Press, 2008). A group of nine distinguished international scholars will evaluate O'Malley's book, about which Charles Taylor, Templeton Prize winner and eminent Catholic philosopher, wrote: "This remarkable book, in places a veritable page-turner, not only recaptures the drama and struggles of Vatican II but also gets to the very heart of the issues under all the many ramifying words and acts of the Council." The Institute will publish the papers of this symposium in 2010.

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