



Symposium Disputatio

E-Newsletter of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Australia

AMDG

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To join the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars (FCS) Australia visit

www.fcsaustralia.org.au

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Newsletter contributions

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2004 was a good year for the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars in Australia. A very successful annual conference and membership drive gave us a big lift and a renewed sense of energy. The goal for 2005 is to build on the good work last year and expand the activities of FCS Australia.

To do this we need more members to consider helping out in the Fellowship's work. A major opportunity for this is opening up with the 2005 Annual Conference. Last year members agreed that the conference should alternate each year between Sydney and Melbourne, and be held sometime in March. This means that work needs to begin in organising the 2005 Conference in Melbourne. I would be very grateful to hear from any Melbourne-based members who would be willing to take on this task - and it would be good to hear from members anywhere in Australia who are interested in giving a paper at the conference.

A couple of quick house-keeping matters. Some of you may have noticed that the website was unavailable in the early part of this year. This has been caused by the transfer of the registration of the domain name (www.fcsaustralia.org) and we are working to rectify the situation as soon as possible.

Some members may have received dues notices from the Fellowship secretariat in the USA. Please disregard these notices, but do email me and let me know if you have received them. Membership renewals for Australian members of the Fellowship are handled by FCS Australia, and a proportion of the annual dues is sent to HQ in the USA to cover our obligations to the Fellowship internationally. Members who signed up in the membership drive last year are not due for renewal until the end of July, and notices will be sent to them at that time. For members of longer standing, dues notices for 2005 will go out shortly. If you have any queries on any of these matters please let me know. Otherwise, I wish you all the best for your work in the service of faith and reason in the year ahead.

M. A. Casey
CO-CONVENOR

"...The Church cannot but set great value upon reason's drive to attain goals which render people's lives ever more worthy"

Fides et Ratio (Paragraph 5)

Many people today are disoriented and lost in search of genuine **fellowship**. Often their lives are either too superficial or shattered by brokenness. Their work often is dehumanizing. They long for an experience of **genuine encounter** with others, for true fellowship.

Pope John Paul II, *Draw Near to God*.

*Church communion is a gift, a great gift of the Holy Spirit, to be gratefully accepted by the lay faithful, and at the same time to be lived with a deep sense of responsibility. This is concretely realized through their **participation** in the life and mission of the Church, to whose service the lay faithful put their varied and **complementary** ministries and charisms. A member of the lay faithful "can never remain in isolation from the community, but must live in a continual interaction with others, with a lively sense of **fellowship**, rejoicing in an equal dignity and common commitment to bring to fruition the immense treasure that each has inherited.... the charisms, the ministries, the different forms of **service** exercised by the lay faithful exist in communion and on behalf of communion. They are **treasures** that complement one another for the good of all and are under the wise guidance of their **Pastors**.*

Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, 1988, #63.

From the Editor

Funding opportunities

TOPIC	SPONSOR	FUNDING	SYNOPSIS	DUE	CONTACT URL
Literature	Graywolf Press	S. Mariella Gable Prize - \$15,000 advance and hardcover publication	For a novel manuscript that in some way takes on the social and cultural challenges of contemporary life.	-	http://www.graywolfpress.org/Company_Info/Submission_Guidelines/Prose_Submission_Guidelines/
	University of Georgia Press	Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction	The sponsor selects two winners of the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. Authors of winning manuscripts receive a cash award of \$1,000 and their collections are subsequently published by the Press under a standard book contract. The sponsor may occasionally select more than two winners	31/05/05	http://www.ugapress.org/info_aup_submitfoc.html
Mathematics	AMCI/MASCOS	AMCI MASCOS Fellowship – flexible financial assistance package negotiated to enable workers to work full-time for up to 3-4 months with MASCOS Chief Investigators	Provides research-intensive time either as part of, or separate from, the usual outside studies programs to enable workers in Complex Systems from within Australia to collaborate with MASCOS staff. Not restricted to staff of university mathematics and statistics departments.	-	www.complex.org.au
Medical	Thrasher Research Fund	Grants program – see URL for funding and application details	The sponsor seeks to improve the health of children through research that offers substantial promise for meaningful advances in the prevention and treatment of children's diseases	-	http://www.thrasherresearch.org/submission_guidelines/0,7078,00.html
Economics	Independent Institute	Olive W. Garvey Fellowships	Fellowships awarded biennially to outstanding college students around the world through a competitive essay contest. Essay submissions may be made by both students and junior faculty members	1/05/05	http://www.independent.org/garvey.html
Business History	Harvard University	Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., International Visiting Scholars in Business History Program	The sponsor invites established scholars in business history based outside the United States to spend a period of time in residence at Harvard Business School	15/03/05	http://www.hbs.edu/businesshistory/fellowships.html
Community	DuPont	Community Outreach Program	Through financial contributions and volunteer efforts of its employees, sponsor supports programs and organizations that address social progress, economic success and environmental excellence	Requests reviewed in spring and fall - usually May and September	http://www1.dupont.com/NASApp/dupontglobal/corp/index.jsp?page=/content/US/en_US/social/outreach/index.html
Misc	Spencer Foundation	Major Research Grants – research projects requiring more than \$40,000 Small Research Grant - Short-term research projects of two years or less that require no more than \$40,000 to complete	Projects originate from research ideas initiated in the field by scholars and other researchers	-	http://www.spencer.org/programs/grants/major_grants.htm http://www.spencer.org/programs/grants/small_grants.htm
	Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences, Stanford	Residential Postdoctoral Fellowships	Up to fifty residential postdoctoral fellowships each year to scientists and scholars who show exceptional accomplishment or promise in their respective fields	-	http://www.casbs.org/programs.php
	Australian National University	R.G. Menzies Scholarship to Harvard	Australian citizens or permanent residents, who are graduates of an Australian university may apply for scholarships for study at any graduate school at Harvard University during the 2005/2006 academic year. Scholarships may provide up to US\$50,000	31/01/05	http://www.anu.edu.au/casbs/scholarships/index.html
Ethics	Hastings Center	International Visiting Scholars Program – 6 week duration with sponsor providing low-cost campus-style on-site accommodation	Support for independent study of ethical problems in medicine, the life sciences, and the professions. No deadline stipulated but space extremely limited so applications to be submitted at least three months in advance of proposed stay	-	http://www.thehastingscenter.org/visitors/visitorsint.htm
Human Rights	Kennedy (Robert F.) Memorial	Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award	The sponsor provides an award to honor creative individuals who are, often at great personal risk, engaged in strategic and non-violent efforts to overcome serious human rights violations	15/04/05	http://www.rfkmemorial.org/human_rights/nomination_guidelines.htm
Manuscripts	Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, St John's University	Heckman Travel Grant – Up to ten stipends of \$1500	Stipends to undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral scholars to conduct research using materials from the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library at Saint John's University	15/04/05	http://www.hmml.org/scholars/research/heckman.asp
Myer Programs	Myer Foundation	Arts and Humanities	Various funding programs offered by the Myer Foundation covering an array of topics and programs	Various	http://www.myerfoundation.org.au
China Studies	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Australia-China Council Funding - \$1,000 -20,000	Aims to promote Australia's national interests in China through furthering greater awareness of Australia in China, and building greater awareness of China in Australia, with particular emphasis on customs, cultural and ethical values, business priorities and contemporary issues	-	http://www.dfat.gov.au/acc/acc_funding_guidelines.html

Please note: These funding opportunities are for information only. Inclusion of any of these schemes in this newsletter should not be interpreted as endorsement by FCS Australia.

Dr Hayden Ramsay

Dr Hayden Ramsay moved to Sydney in February 2004 working in support of Cardinal Pell. He was appointed Dean of Studies at Good Shepherd Seminary Sydney in August 2004.

Hayden has taught a course on the Human Person at the Catholic Institute of Sydney and will be teaching another, 'Philosophy for Life', there in Semester 1, 2005. Hayden is also teaching 'Virtues, Norms and Happiness' and 'St Thomas for the Twenty first Century' at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family Studies.

Dr Ramsay has a series of four articles on death coming out in *New Blackfriars* over the next four editions. He has completed and had accepted a manuscript *People Playing: reclaiming leisure* which Palgrave-Macmillan are publishing in the middle of 2005.

Hayden provided the book recommendation for this issue.

2005 Conference

This year's Annual Conference is scheduled to be held in Melbourne in March. It won't happen, however, without your help, and in particular without the help of Melbourne-based members.

Please let Michael Casey know if you are able to help organise the conference in Melbourne, or if you would like to give a paper. Ideas and suggestions for the Conference format and theme are also welcome.

Rev Peter Joseph

Father Peter Joseph is Chancellor of the Maronite Diocese of Australia, working with Bishop Abikaram.

Last year, he taught two sessions at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family Studies, one on the authority of the Magisterium and one on the theology of Holy Orders.

Father Joseph lectured on sacraments of healing for the Catholic Institute of Sydney for the first semester of 2004. He also lectured at the Maronite Adult Faith Formation Centre during the year.

Book Recommendation

Faithful Reason: Essays Catholic and Philosophical, John Haldane

In *Faithful Reason*, the noted Catholic philosopher John Haldane explores various aspects of intellectual and practical life from a perspective inspired by Catholic thought and informed by his distinctive philosophical approach: "Analytical Thomism."

Haldane's discussions of ethics, politics, education, art, social philosophy and other themes explain why Catholic thought is still relevant in today's world, and show how the legacy of Thomas Aquinas can benefit modern philosophy in its efforts to answer fundamental questions about humanity and its place within nature.

Drawing on a Catholic philosophical tradition that is committed to concepts of the world's intrinsic intelligibility and the objectivity of truth, *Faithful Reason's* bold and insightful perspectives provide rich matter for debate, and food for further thought.

Dr Samuel Gregg

The article on the following page is provided by an Australian scholar Dr Samuel Gregg who is currently working in Michigan, United States.

Dr Samuel Gregg is a moral philosopher who has written and spoken extensively on questions of ethics in public policy, jurisprudence, bioethics, and ethics in business. He has an MA in political philosophy from the University of Melbourne, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in moral philosophy from the University of Oxford, which he attended as a Commonwealth Scholar, working under the supervision of Professor John Finnis.

Dr Gregg is the author of several books, including *Morality, Law, and Public Policy* (2000, and, most recently, *On Ordered Liberty* (2003). He also publishes regularly in journals such as *Markets&Morality*, *Crisis*, and *Policy*. He is the American editorial consultant for the Italian journal, *La Societa*, as well as American correspondent for the German newspaper *Die Tagespost*.

Dr Gregg is Director of Research at the Acton Institute, a Visiting Professor at the John Paul II Pontifical Institute for Marriage and the Family, and a consultant for Oxford Analytica Ltd. In 2001, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

The New Fundamentalism

Christians are out. Comrades are in. That, apparently, is the lesson of the recent struggle between the EU Commission and the European Parliament over the latter's rejection of Italy's Minister for European Affairs, Rocco Buttiglione, as a European commissioner.

While Mr. Buttiglione was busy being labeled by members of the European Parliament as a potential inquisitor on account of his politically incorrect views about women and homosexuality, the same Euro MPs calmly evaluated the nomination of several ex-Communists from the former Eastern Bloc, without mentioning the deep involvement of at least two of these individuals in the Communist dictatorships that controlled their countries until the late 1980s.

Consider, for example, the Hungarian commissioner, László Kovács. Until Communism's collapse, Mr. Kovács was what one might call a "career-communist." For many years, Mr. Kovács enjoyed the title of "Deputy Head of the Department of International Relations." While this sounds rather innocent, it acquires a more sinister tone when one realizes that this was a "department" of the Hungarian Communist Party's Central Committee. This meant that years before glasnost, Mr. Kovács worked closely with the leadership of János Kádár's regime: a regime installed literally over the dead bodies of those killed by Soviet tanks following the 1956 uprising against the Communist Party's monopoly of power.

Given that Communist systems imprisoned, tortured, and murdered millions of persons, one might think that Euro MPs might have been slightly concerned about how deeply Mr. Kovács was implicated in some of the darker aspects of a Communist dictatorship. Just as searching questions were asked of ex-Nazi party members seeking public office in post-war Germany, they might have queried speeches that Mr. Kovács gave in the 1980s, attacking Western institutions such as NATO and extolling the Soviet Union as the bedrock of Eastern Europe's "stability."

Instead, the MEPs confined themselves to grumbling about Mr. Kovács' somewhat scanty knowledge of energy policy. As a result, he is now the EU's new Commissioner for Taxation and Customs.

Considering the generous way in which the Euro MPs treated a former senior official of a political system accurately defined as criminal, one would think that Mr. Buttiglione must have done something terribly egregious to raise the Euro MPs' ire.

Actually, all the mild-mannered philosophy professor did was articulate his belief that, like any orthodox Catholic, he regards homosexual acts as sinful. Interestingly, Buttiglione did not argue that homosexuals were depraved or that homosexual acts ought to be criminalized. His mistake was to assume that the Euro MPs were open to a mature discussion of his views, including his opinion—which, incidentally, is also taught by Christianity—that not all sins ought to be treated as criminal offenses.

Many MEPs, however, were not interested in such a discussion. Buttiglione was, as Americans say, "borked" because he was not afraid to articulate truthful answers to questions about his beliefs. As a result, while ex-communists assume positions of authority in Brussels, believing Christians have been informed in no uncertain terms that there is no place for them in Europe's public square.

Americans like to think that the United States is free from such witchhunts. Yet secularist fundamentalism is alive and well in America. Its temples are found—where else!—in the academy, where "speech-codes" are regularly employed in universities to harass any religious organization whose views on particular moral questions offend groups ranging from militant atheists to belligerent feminists.

Secularist fundamentalism also rears its head in the political realm. The former Attorney General John Ashcroft was the target of opposition for being a religious believer. The American Civil Liberties Union and a chorus of other opponents repeatedly told Americans that Mr. Ashcroft would try to impose his religious beliefs or even seek a theocracy. Another example is Judge Bill Pryor, whose confirmation process included senators darkly alluding to the fact that he was a orthodox Catholic, and implying that this rendered him unfit for public office.

Moreover, when any American Catholic prelate or Protestant minister publicly argues that there is something wrong with abortion-on-demand, they are routinely accused of attempting to impose their religious beliefs upon others. When such clergy protest that their opposition to legalized abortion is not just based upon faith, but also upon sound public reasons accessible to believer and non-believer alike, this is invariably dismissed as sophistry.

Thus in the world inhabited by the ACLU and similar groups, the only acceptable discourse is effectively one informed by atheism—a worldview that is hardly neutral. Of course, one waits in vain for such groups to complain about the involvement in public life of the *Rev. Jesse Jackson* or the *Rev. Al Sharpton*. Apparently not all religious involvement in politics is a bad thing—provided the cause is popularly identifiable as "left-wing."

Despite, therefore, Europe and America's alleged differences, both are witnessing a curious phenomenon of those who present themselves as guardians of tolerance committing terrible acts of intolerance in the name of tolerance. One need not be religious to regard this as a disturbing trend. Anyone who desires genuine, open conversation in the public square has every reason to resist the secularist fundamentalism that is rapidly becoming a new orthodoxy.



Samuel Gregg
Director of Research at the Acton Institute

Patroness of Scholars –

Brigid of Ireland

Born 453 at Faughart, County Louth, Ireland

Died 1 February 523 at Kildare, buried in Downpatrick with Saint Patrick and Saint Columba; head removed to Jesuit church in Lisbon, Portugal

Name meaning fiery arrow

Daughter of Dubtach, pagan Scottish king of Leinster, and Brocca, a Christian Pictish slave who had been baptized by Saint Patrick. Just before Brigid's birth, her mother was sold to a Druid landowner and Brigid remained with her mother till she was old enough to serve her legal owner. As a child, she heard Saint Patrick preach, which she never forgot. After many charitable events that caused the ire of her master, Brigid was given her freedom. She returned to her father, who arranged a marriage for her with a young bard. Bride refused, and to keep her virginity, went to Bishop Mel, a pupil of Saint Patrick's, and took her first vows. Legend says that when Saint Patrick heard her final vows, he mistakenly used the form for ordaining priests. When told of it he replied, "So be it, my son, she is destined for great things." Her first convent started with seven nuns but at the invitation of bishops, she started convents all over Ireland. Brigid invented the double monastery, the monastery of Kildare on the Liffey being for both monks and nuns. She was a great traveller, especially considering the conditions of the time.



Source: <http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/saintb03.htm>

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The primary functions of FCS Australia are:

- to provide the means and opportunity for fellowship and support among like-minded scholars. The main vehicle for this is the annual FCS Australia Conference.
- to study and clarify challenges to the credibility of the faith and evangelisation. FCS Australia is at the service of the Church in our country, and works to explain and defend the Magisterium, especially as it has been elaborated by Pope John Paul II, to all.
- to disseminate its work to the Church's hierarchy and to its own members. All members are welcome to contribute to the FCS Quarterly (produced by the US chapter), and to take part in the annual conference.

Prayer

Consecration to Mary, Seat of Wisdom

O Mary, Seat of Wisdom, so many persons of common intellect have made through your intercession admirable progress in their studies.

I hereby choose You as guardian and patron of my studies. I humbly ask You to obtain for me the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that from now on I can understand more quickly, retain more readily, and express myself more fluently.

May the example of my life serve to honor You and your Son, Jesus.

Amen.



The University in History

Universitas, as understood in the Middle Ages, was a legal term; it got its meaning from the *Corpus juris civilis*, and it denoted an association taken as a whole, i.e. in its corporate capacity.

Employed with reference to a school, *universitas* did not mean a collection of all the sciences, but rather the entire group of persons engaged at a given institution in scientific pursuits, i.e. the whole body of teachers and students: *universitas magistrorum et scholarium*.

This is the meaning of the term in official documents relating to Paris and Bologna; thus Alexander IV (10 Dec., 1255) states expressly that under the name university he understands "all the masters and scholars residing at Paris, to whatever society or congregation they may belong." Gradually, however, the terms *universitas* and *studium* came to be used promiscuously to denote an institution of learning.

Catholic Encyclopedia <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/>