



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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This number of *Symposium Disputatio* comes at the close of a quiet year for the Fellowship in Australia. Unfortunately the year passed without a conference, highlighting the very real need for members to become actively involved in organising and running events for the Fellowship in their local area. A few members in Brisbane have raised with me the possibility of holding a conference in Brisbane next year, so we hope we will be able to do better in 2006.

2006 will be a big year in higher education for the Church in Australia. The academic year will open with two new players in Sydney. Champion College, Australia's first Catholic liberal arts college opens will begin teaching in Old Toongabbie, and the Fremantle-based University of Notre Dame will open its Sydney campus at Broadway, right in the heart of the city's university precinct.

Campion College is the most exciting and innovative development in higher education in Australia for many years. The liberal arts tradition in Australia has not been strong in the traditional university sector for some considerable time now, and the Catholic liberal arts tradition has never had an institutional base in Australia. The College's President, Fr John Fleming, and his team have done a stunning job in preparing a beautiful campus at Old Toongabbie, and in ensuring a world-class liberal arts programme for their students. The best news of all, however, is the good number of students who are enrolling to take part in the programme's inaugural year.

The Sydney Campus of the **University of Notre Dame** will give the Church in Eastern Australia its first-ever Catholic law school. This will be followed in 2008 by the opening of a medical school next to St Vincent's hospital in Darlinghurst. These developments reflect the way Catholic higher education has come into its own in Australia. For most of its history Catholic higher education has been focussed on the critically important work of teacher training. Catholic colleges attached to universities also provided formation to those studying for other professions, although the capacity for the colleges to continue this service has been eroded over the last forty years.

***"In what is fundamental,
unity; in what is doubtful,
freedom; in all things,
charity"***

St Augustine

We are all aware of how developments in law and medicine play such a significant part in driving cultural change in our society. Many things are at stake in the coming decades and it is perhaps more important than ever to be able to train and provide a solid formation for Catholic doctors and lawyers. The University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter Tannock, understands this and he and his colleagues deserve our thanks and congratulations for their courage, generosity and vision in responding to Cardinal Pell's invitation to establish a campus in Sydney. The site at St Benedict's parish has been magnificently restored and extended, and there has been enormous student interest, with applications far exceeding the number of places available for 2006.

Of course the establishment of these new centres of Catholic university education opens up new opportunities for co-operation and involvement by the Fellowship and its individual members. I hope we will be able to take up these opportunities in the years ahead.

M. A. Casey

CO-CONVENOR

From the Co-Convenor

Papal Profile



Pope Benedict XVI

Benedict XVI's Commitment to Faith and Reason in Universities (extract from Timothy O'Donnell on New Pope's Mission in Academia)

FRONT ROYAL, Virginia, MAY 16, 2005 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Our new Holy Father will continue the good work initiated by Pope John Paul II in his apostolic constitutions "Sapientia Christiana" and "Ex Corde Ecclesiae."

So says Timothy O'Donnell, president of Christendom College, whose faculty members take an oath of fidelity to the magisterium every year and who first met Cardinal Ratzinger in 1996 during a trip to Rome.

Q: What was your impression of him as an intellectual?

O'Donnell: It was clear from our conversation that Cardinal Ratzinger is a man of refined intellect, who is deeply sensitive to the trends of contemporary thought. He sees clearly the dangers of a brutal secularism with its accompanying moral relativism, which would strip human life of its true meaning and dignity. I found myself impressed not only by the clarity of his thought, but also by his gentleness and kindness, which was quite contrary to the unfair portrayal given to him in by some the media at that time.

Benedict XVI was a university professor who understands the workings of academia. How do you think this will impact his pontificate?

O'Donnell: I believe Pope Benedict XVI's experience as a university professor will have a great impact on his pontificate, perhaps very similar to the impact that John Paul II's university experience had on his pontificate. I think our current Holy Father will continue the good work initiated by Pope John Paul II in his apostolic constitutions "Sapientia

Christiana" and "Ex Corde Ecclesiae." I think he will find it particularly important to continue to speak to the vital role that must be played by Catholic institutions of higher learning in an effort to once again re-engage the culture and communicate effectively to the world the great synthesis of the Catholic intellectual tradition, which unites both faith and reason and recognizes in both of them a common source in Almighty God. This can only be achieved if the university maintains a strong Catholic identity with a special commitment to the Gospel as it is communicated through the magisterium.

How do you expect the new pope to deal with implementation of "Ex Corde Ecclesiae," the document that required verification of a theologian's fidelity to the magisterium?

O'Donnell: I believe that "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" will be very important to Pope Benedict. Evidence of this can be seen in a beautiful document that his Congregation put out entitled, "On the Ecclesial Vocation of the Theologian." This lucid document should go a long way to helping theologians who are seeking the truth with sincerity to recognize that there is a special ecclesial dimension to their mission within Catholic education that does require fidelity to the deposit of faith as it is communicated by the Church, without which they are not really doing Catholic theology at all. They may be performing an important task in the field of religious studies but that, however, deals primarily with what man believes about God rather than the proper subject of theological study that has for its object God and his loving revelation to man. "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" insists upon the special bond that should exist between the Catholic theologian and the Church in the service of truth. This beautiful and vital ecclesial dimension of the work of the Catholic theologian needs to be embraced joyfully in service to the Church and all humanity. The apostolic constitution speaks of the Catholic university as being "consecrated" in a special way to the search for and acquisition of truth. It must therefore be open to everything relating to God, man and the created order. The Catholic theologian has a crucial role to play in this essential mission. As the Second Vatican Council taught in "Dei Verbum," sacred

Scripture, sacred Tradition and the magisterium are like three pillars that are so interconnected "that one can't really stand without the others." They should be used and joyfully accepted by the theologian in his effort to help explicate the Faith in service to the Church and a world that hungers for the saving truth of Christ.

A corollary: Do scholars have anything to fear under Benedict XVI's papacy?

O'Donnell: The fact that Pope Benedict XVI is a man of great intellect and scholarly ability should reassure scholars everywhere that they have nothing to fear. Sadly, often times this fear stems from a belief that they will lose their "freedom." As the Pope beautifully stated in his opening homily, "this yoke of Christ... does not weigh down on us, oppressing us and taking away our freedom." Pope Benedict, like all true academicians, is totally committed to the search for and acquisition of truth. It must be remembered that truth is the object of the intellect. Once truth has been discovered there is a special obligation to submit to the truth when it is recognized. This is what the human heart and mind were made for by the God who loves us. We must remember that, contrary to popular opinion, an open mind is not in itself a perfection. The mind is made for truth. The purpose of scholarly endeavour is the acquisition and comprehension of truth. To that end, scholars, who share this love for the pursuit and acquisition of truth, should rejoice that a man of such intellect, learning and deep faith has been elevated to the papal throne. I believe his pontificate will be a grace for our broken, suffering world. The election of Pope Benedict should be a source of joy and hope for all those who love the Church, love the Faith and are committed to "communicating the whole truth about man," which is revealed most fully in Jesus Christ. (*Source: www.zenit.org*)



Funding opportunities

TOPIC	SPONSOR	FUNDING	SYNOPSIS	DUE	CONTACT URL	
Australian	Australian Academy of the Humanities	Publication Subsidy Scheme (certain costs not subsidised under the scheme)	Publication assistance for high quality scholarly works in the various fields of study in the humanities (restricted to scholars normally resident in Australia)	6/02/06	http://www.humanities.org.au/grants/pubs.htm	
	University of Western Australia	Re-Entry Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (Salary range of \$54,163 to \$58,140 per annum full-time)	Three-year fellowship awarded, full-time or part-time, to support research undertaken independently, or in collaboration with a research team in the University, by a person who holds a Ph.D. or equivalent, whose career has been interrupted for family responsibilities. Aim of the fellowship is to facilitate a return to an academic or research career	04/11/05	http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/welcome/research_services/research_grants/funding_funding_opportunities/re_entry?p=77473	
	CSIRO Australia	Flagship Projects and Flagship Postgraduate Scholarships – grants for PhD students and Flagship projects with multiple funding levels	Applications from high quality students eligible to enrol in a PhD at an Australian university, and who will be working on a project which is directly relevant to a Flagship Program. Top-up scholarships will be the norm. Flagship Projects will fund a specific research project which has outcomes and deliverables relevant to a Flagship objective	06/11/05 – postgrad Any time – projects	http://www.csiro.au/Flagships/CollaborationFund	
	Grains Research and Development Corporation	Grains Industry Senior Fellowships – Maximum of \$50,000 for 12 months	Senior fellowships are awarded to experienced R&D personnel who seek to enhance their experience and their potential to contribute to the work of the Corporation by working at an institution in Australia or overseas	28/10/05	http://www.grdc.com.au/researchers/docs/trainingres.doc	
	Nurses Registration Board (NSW)	Category 6 Scholarships: Completion of Doctoral Thesis relevant to Nursing	For registered and enrolled nurses who have completed the equivalent of two years full time employment as a nurse in NSW. Four scholarships are available each year to provide a contribution towards subsistence	31/10/05	http://www.nmb.nsw.gov.au/scholguide_04.pdf	
	British Chevening Scholarships	Various Scholarships - amount awarded will be dependent on the country of origin	The sponsor aims to bring to the UK present and future leaders, decision maker students from countries with whom the UK's economic relations are expected to develop. Preference is given to candidates already established in a career	4/12/05	http://www.chevening.com/cgi-bin/item.cgi?id=461	
	Rotary Foundation	Academic Year and Multi-Year Ambassadorial Scholarships	Scholarships to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries	See local Rotary Club	http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb_scho/index.html	
	Dairy Australia	Postdoctoral & Visiting Scientist Fellowships	Fellowships to applicants whose research interests are in the area of dairy research. Postdoctoral fellowships would normally be for up to three years, and should provide relevant scientific skills that are not available in Australian research organisations. Visiting scientists are expected to have a strong role in training Australian researchers	Any time	http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/template_default.asp?Page=Content/For_Researchers/Funding_Applications/Research_Education/Postdoctoral_and_scientist_fellowships/Index.htm	
	Overseas	Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources	AusIndustry -- Commercialising Emerging Technologies (COMET) - grants to individuals limited to \$5000 for up to 2 years	Program focuses on innovation and its commercialization by providing support to early-growth stage companies, spin-off companies and individuals. \$250 application fee must accompany applications.	3/12/05	http://www.ausindustry.gov.au/
		Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Australia-India Council Grants	The AIC supports activities designed to promote a greater awareness of Australia in India and of India in Australia, including visits and exchanges between the two countries, and development of institutional links. Any party whose project meets the sponsor's objectives may apply	Contact secretariat staff for details	http://www.dfat.gov.au/aic/
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade		Australia-Indonesia Institute General Grants	General grants intended to provide seeding funds for innovative proposals relevant to the functions and objectives of the Australia-Indonesia Institute (AII). The project should be a substantial new initiative of relevance to the Institute's objective of promoting a growing and deepening relationship between Australia and Indonesia. Both individuals and organisations may apply for grants	6 months in advance of project starting date	http://www.dfat.gov.au/aii/scholarship_program/applications_for_project_funding.html	
Wilson (Woodrow) National Fellowship Foundation		Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships	Support for fellowships designed to encourage original and significant study of ethical or religious values in all fields of the humanities and social sciences	7/11/05	http://www.woodrow.org/newcombe/newcombe_purpose.html	
University of British Columbia		Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships – 6 to 12 fellowships awarded per year	Provided annually from the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Fund for Advanced Studies and are available for most fields of research	15/11/05	http://www.grad.ubc.ca/awards/index.asp?menu=015,000,000,000	
Lady Davis Fellowship Trust		Fellowships for Visiting Professors – stipend of \$2,000 - \$2,400, cost of travel and housing allowance	Support for full or associate professors to teach or conduct research for 2-4 months at the Hebrew University of Israel or 3-9 months at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology	30/11/05	http://ldft.huji.ac.il/upload/info/infoHUa.html	
University of Ottawa		Bank of Montreal Visiting Scholar in Women's Studies	Duration should be from 3-6 between September to April. Purpose to attract highly qualified researchers working on women's issues	31/12/05	http://www.socialsciences.uottawa.ca/womenst/eng/visiting_app.asp	

Member Updates

Dr Henry Burley

Dr Henry Burley has recently been appointed an honorary fellow at La Trobe University. He has been a member of the FCS for over 16 years, because, he observes that, one also needs spiritual intelligence of our environment.

Dr Burley, is an MA and PhD of Cambridge University, and fellow of the Royal Statistical Society. He applies 'that other queen of the sciences' - Mathematics.

He has recently published detailed quantitative analyses in fields of wine pricing (allowing for viticulture climate, variety and vintage), a multi-factor analysis of hospital efficiency, and methodology of supply-chain modelling.

Dr Burley is currently a reviewer for international journals, an assessor of research grants and researching data envelopment analysis methodology.

Dr Catherine Althaus

Dr Catherine Althaus is currently a Research Fellow with the Centre for Governance and Public Policy, Griffith University and is preparing a book for publication on the topic of political risk calculation.

Her recent publications include:

Althaus, Catherine E. (2005) 'A Disciplinary Perspective on the Epistemological Status of Risk', *Risk Analysis*, Volume 25, Issue 3, pp567-588; and

Althaus, Catherine E. (2005) 'Can One "Rescue" a Frozen Embryo?', *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*, Volume 5, Number 1, pp113-141.

Catherine provided the book recommendation for this issue.



Eamonn Keane

Over the last two years Eamonn's time has been mostly occupied with family life and teaching at Redfield College. He taught a course on Catholic Social Teaching at the Catholic Adult Education Centre in Sydney and gave talks at various conferences in Australia and New Zealand on Catholic Social Teaching, Catholic Education, Marian Dogmas, and on the relationship between Catholic doctrine on the Eucharist and Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*.

Book Recommendation

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church

Ever since Pope Leo XIII in 1891 shocked the wealthy with his call for a just wage and the right of workers to unionise, the Catholic Church has taught that the way societies organise are also moral matters. Through landmark encyclicals issued by popes since *Rerum Novarum*, the Church has built up a wide-ranging body of teaching on justice, equality and human rights.

The Church's social doctrine starts from the God-given dignity of each person, an insight which lies at the heart of its systematic doctrine embracing fundamental principles which the Church believes should underpin a healthy society, politics and the economy. The Church's social doctrine is directed not just at believers, but at all people of goodwill. Its principles are expressed in terms of natural law and are therefore accessible to all in the light of human reason.

Now, for the first time, that doctrine has been distilled in a single compendium compiled by the Vatican's Council for Justice and Peace. It is designed to stand alongside the Catechism of the Catholic church as an authoritative summary of the church's teaching on what makes for human flourishing.

...It is no accident that, when the sacred author comes to describe the wise man, he portrays him as one who loves and seeks the truth:

"Happy the man who meditates on **wisdom** and reasons intelligently, who reflects in his heart on her ways and ponders her secrets. He pursues her like a hunter and lies in wait on her paths. He peers through her windows and listens at her doors. He camps near her house and fastens his tent-peg to her walls; he pitches his tent near her and so finds an excellent resting-place; he places his children under her protection and lodges under her boughs; by her he is sheltered from the heat and he dwells in the shade of her glory" (*Sir* 14:20-27). For the inspired writer, as we see, the desire for knowledge is characteristic of all people. Intelligence enables everyone, believer and non-believer, to reach "the deep waters" of **knowledge** (cf. *Prov* 20:5)...

On the basis of this deeper form of knowledge, the Chosen People understood that, if reason were to be fully true to itself, then it must respect certain basic rules. The first of these is that reason must realize that human knowledge is a journey which allows no rest; the second stems from the awareness that such a path is not for the proud who think that everything is the fruit of personal conquest; a third rule is grounded in the "fear of God" whose transcendent sovereignty and provident love in the governance of the world reason must recognize. In abandoning these rules, the human being runs the risk of failure and ends up in the condition of "the fool".

Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Fides et Ratio*, 1998, #16,18.

From the Editor

The *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* is a treasure trove of radical wisdom offered to the whole of humanity in the interests of the common good.

Source: Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (2004), *The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, London: Burns and Oates(endcover)

Campion College Australia

Update

Since the last report on Campion College in the FCS newsletter, a great deal of progress has occurred towards the opening in 2006 of Australia's first Catholic Liberal Arts college, which is situated near Parramatta in the Sydney suburb of Old Toongabbie:

- **The initial appointments of academic staff have taken place, in the core disciplines being offered by the College:**

History – Dr Luciano Boschiero

Literature – Dr Brian Ridge and Dr Stephen McInerney

Philosophy – Dr Sandra Lynch

Theology – Rev Dr Luke Holohan

In addition, Dr Ridge has been appointed as Dean of Studies. He and the other staff will be striving, under the leadership of the President, Rev. Dr. John Fleming, to develop a campus community marked by intellectual quality, a robust Catholic faith, and a spirit of social communion.

- **The buildings on the College campus at Old Toongabbie near Parramatta have been extensively refurbished**, so as to ensure that they are suitable for teaching, religious and residential needs.
- **The library is being assembled and organised**, building on the major collections which the College acquired from a number of Catholic institutions – notably, the Dominican Priory in Canberra and the MSC Seminary in Sydney.
- **The College's services for students are being carefully prepared** – including scholarship opportunities as well as the various ways in which Campion will strive to cultivate an intellectual and spiritual culture on campus.

Campion is attracting growing attention as an educational venture of far-reaching significance for the future direction of the Church and the Australian nation - especially for young people.

Scheduled to open next February, the College will offer to young Australians a type of opportunity that has long been available overseas. It will blend a university-level education in the classical sources of knowledge – covering the humanities and sciences studied as the *Liberal Arts* – with a vital grounding in Christian wisdom.

Strongly endorsed by such leaders as General Peter Cosgrove and Cardinal George Pell, Campion stands in the full historical tradition of Catholic higher learning, drawing its inspiration from the great universities of Europe, such as Oxford and Paris, as well as the more recent models of Liberal Arts education in North America.

Fellowship members are warmly invited to visit Campion College at any time. The campus is located at 8-14 Austin Woodbury Place, Old Toongabbie NSW 2146. Further information is available on the website www.campion.edu.au or by contacting the College on (02) 9896 9300.

Karl Schmude
Executive Director
Campion Foundation

FCS Irish Chapter

Dr Gerard Casey, former President of the Irish Chapter of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars has recently published a volume entitled: *Born Alive: The Legal Status of the Unborn Child in England and the USA* (2005), Chichester England: Barry Rose.

The 'Born Alive' rule-which holds that a person cannot be held responsible for injuries inflicted on a foetus in utero unless and until it is born alive-was established at a relatively early stage in the history of the Common Law and has since become entrenched, particularly in English Law. In America the rule has been abrogated in a number of circumstances, first in civil law and, more recently, criminal law. This book is concerned primarily with the application of the rule in England and the USA, although reference is made to the case law of some Commonwealth countries. Despite the plethora of case references, the book reads easily and Dr Casey has produced a book that, bearing in mind its emotional subject matter, is written dispassionately and comprehensively. He ends his introduction thus: 'The born alive rule is a classic example of a rule whose *raison d'être* has long since disappeared; it is time to give its corpse a decent burial.'

Source: <http://www.barry-rose-law.co.uk/>

Gerard is currently Head, Department of Philosophy, University College Dublin and can be contacted on e-mail: gerard.casey@ucd.ie

Sedes Sapientiae



This monstrance of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom is located in the Adoration Chapel of Calvert House, the Catholic Student Centre of the University of Chicago, USA. It acts as a powerful reminder of one of the patronesses of scholars who is Sedes Sapientiae. The Chapel, in memory of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, Servant of God, was dedicated and blessed on May 9, 2004 by Bishop Joseph Perry.

Women's Forum Australia Pro-Woman and Pro-Life

Friday, 25th November 2005

Brisbane Convention &
Exhibition Centre, South Bank,
7.30pm

www.womensforumaustralia.org

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.

The Lecture in History

The lecture was in the strict sense a *praelectio* (whence the German *Vorlesung*); the professor had to read the text; in the ordinary lectures, he was not allowed to dictate anything beyond the divisions and conclusions and such corrections of the text as he deemed necessary. Scholars were supposed to have their own copies of the text; if they were too poor to procure the books, the professor might dictate the text to them, not in the regular lecture but at special classes or exercises (repetitions).

The plan of the lecture was analytic: careful explanation and definition of terms (*ponere et determinare*); division of the matter and discussion of the several points followed by a summary of the essential (*scindere et summare*); presentation of problems suggested by the text (*quaestiones*), and solution of objections.

In lectures on law the reading of the glosses was an important feature, and cases were frequently proposed to illustrate principles. At the ordinary lectures, the scholars were not supposed to ask questions; at the extraordinary, greater freedom was permitted, the scholars being encouraged to express their doubts as to the meaning of the texts and to request further information on obscure matters. More thorough training, however, was given in the resumption and repetitions which the masters held at stated times for the treatment of special problems.

The exercises, conducted in dialectical form, afforded full opportunity for discussion between scholar and master; and they served as examinations by which the progress of the scholar was tested.

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

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.