



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

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Newsletter contributions

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Dear FCS Australia Members - Some members have emailed me about receiving membership renewals from the Fellowship in the USA. As you are aware, we completed renewals for the Australian Chapter of the FCS in July-August 2005. The updated list of members was sent to the Fellowship in the US, and receipt of this list has been acknowledged. Despite this many of us are yet to receive the FCS quarterly and the other publications that come with membership of the Fellowship.

Some time ago, Patrick Quirk negotiated an arrangement with the Fellowship allowing Australian members to renew in Australian dollars through the local Convenor. The Fellowship then billed the Convenor a proportion of the dues collected to cover the costs of publications and a contribution to the work of the Fellowship worldwide. With a change of executive in the US it has been difficult to have this arrangement reconfirmed, despite email enquiries stretching over almost 12 months now. I have had no indication that the arrangement has been repudiated, but on the other hand I have had no advice on the remittance that is due from the July-August renewals to cover membership and publications. In short, we seem to be in limbo.

When I was in Washington at the end of January I met with a member of the FCS executive and briefed him on this situation. He undertook to see if the situation could be clarified as soon as possible. Given this background and my discussions with the executive member recently, **my recommendation to members is to do nothing on the renewal notices they are receiving for the moment.**

If clarification and reconfirmation of the existing arrangement is not forthcoming from the Fellowship by the beginning of March, I will email you advising that the dues members paid in July-August will be refunded immediately, and recommending that you renew your membership directly with the Fellowship in the US. **There is no need to do anything until you receive this email from me.** But if you prefer not to wait and wish to renew directly with the Fellowship now, please let me know and I will have the dues you paid last July-August refunded to you.

"Deus Caritas Est"

Benedict XVI

Love Excelling A moving papal exploration of passion, human and divine

The Times, 26 January 2006
(Leading article)

Benedict XVI could have chosen, in his first papal encyclical, to engage with such modern dilemmas as bio-ethics. He has, instead, broadened out and thus transformed a consideration of the Church's charitable mission — work that was in progress under Pope John Paul II — to write a lyrical and impassioned meditation on the multiple dimensions of love, erotic as well as divine, and on love's powers to heal and to inspire. In style and in content, this encyclical is mystical, almost pointedly other-worldly; yet it is also, and explicitly, a text for our times.

In "a world where the name of God is sometimes associated with vengeance or even a duty of hatred and violence", it begins, the Pope's purpose is "to call forth in the world renewed energy and commitment in the human response to God's love". But it is in his recognition of the claims of *eros* that this encyclical is boldest.

The Church must not, he says, "be detached from the vital relations fundamental to human existence"; and must move to address the "widely held perception" that the Church is hostile to the body, that its strictures on sexual love "turn to bitterness that most precious thing in life", a "happiness which is itself a certain foretaste of the Divine" (*continued p3....*)

Please accept my sincerely apologies for the confusion and inconvenience this situation has caused.

M. A. Casey

CO-CONVENOR

From the Co-Convenor

Member Interview



The Journalist and the Controversial Cardinal: An Interview with FCS Member, Tess Livingstone

How did you come to write the book on Cardinal Pell, George Pell: Defender of the Faith Down Under?

I have been a journalist for twenty-four years now, mainly covering politics and education in the secular media, where I have also edited various sections and been Chief-of-staff/News Editor.

With this background I wrote the book for the best of reasons - because I recognized that the life and achievements of Cardinal Pell were a very good story.

I have never worked in the religious media, but as a practicing Catholic I have been well aware of the battle taking place within the Church. This is particularly visible in Australia at present where several cities (Sydney, Melbourne and Perth for example) are doing reasonably well at attracting vocations to the priesthood while other dioceses and archdioceses are hurling down the path of lay-led Sunday liturgies as fast as they can.

Religious education did absolutely nothing for me at school, nor for my classmates. It was the crazy Seventies after all, when "anything went" especially in religious education. I remember lounging on the library floor while the nuns droned on about social justice

which it sounded to me, as a keen history student, that they had it all mixed up with some kind of utopian version of socialism. The more they pushed left-wing politics at us the less impression they made on me.

Some days we'd listen to Neil Diamond or John Denver, but Kahlil Gibran was the teachers' ultimate hero and they made sure we knew this "great visionary" had been excommunicated by what they termed the "patriarchal church". It was really all water off a duck's back - none of it stuck with any of us. It was just a weekly doze.

What did stick with me, however, were the Sunday sermons of my parish priest. It was amazing, when I first got to Europe as a university student and then later, I found the words of Father Tim Norris (to whom the book is dedicated, along with my daughter Jacinta Kate, 13), coming back to me time and again as I looked at St Peter's and saw the place of the Church in European history and looked at some of the religious artworks.

Father Tim had told me to make sure I went to see some of the places that inspired John Henry Newman. I did, and from then my interest in matters ecclesial gradually increased.

Also, I was half way through University when Pope John Paul II was elected and it was impossible not to take notice of this extraordinary man and see the Church through new eyes.

From there I gradually learned and read more and that led, eventually, to an understanding of the battle taking place and an interest in the work of then-Bishop George Pell, whose articles I read long ago in a magazine called AD2000.

When as Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr. Pell became controversial, I found that most of my media colleagues were strongly opposed to him.

But I could understand that the arguments he was advancing were in total accord with Church teaching and were drawn from a consistent and enduring set of values. To my surprise, I found myself agreeing with him often, especially in regard to issues like respect for life, including the unborn.

It was also intriguing as to why somebody obviously so well educated and talented had given up so much in worldly terms to be a priest.

When he was promoted from Melbourne to Sydney (an unprecedented move in Australia) I knew I wanted to do the book. Also, his life covers so much of the Church - country boy, student in Rome and Oxford, university head, seminary rector at a time of upheaval, Caritas leader, Archbishop, and Cardinal.

What is the most important thing the book conveys to the reader, the one piece you hope your readers will walk away from the book remembering?

I hope it conveys a sense that faith and reason are compatible and that the Church has a great deal to say about our world that is worth listening to and believing.

How did the research and writing of the book affect you, the writer?

It was very, very enjoyable and interesting. It meant delving into a little bit of Church history (such as the creation of various congregations in Rome).

I loved going to Oxford where Dr Pell studied, and it was really interesting to read up on subjects he covered in his early studies like the early Church fathers, about which I previously knew very little. That then led to other reading and I was amazed to learn how like the New Age adherents the Gnostics were in the early Church, for example. I'm still reading theology books because I find them so interesting and I think I'll be doing that forever.

Do you feel more or less optimistic about the state of the world after writing this book?

Optimistic, because I've seen how much Grace Our Lord provides if we turn to Him in times of challenge and trouble.

What is your own background?

My mother, who died a week before the book was published, had an Irish Catholic background and my father, like George Pell, was an Anglican and pretty indifferent to issues religious.

I was educated by trendy left-wing nuns and lay teachers in the 70s, then studied History, Literature, Politics and Journalism at University.

I have worked as a newspaper journalist in Australia and the United Kingdom and in book publishing, which I love.

I am bringing up my daughter on my own, which is a challenge but also a great privilege.

My heroes, past and present, include the Brontes, Jane Austen, Dickens (for evoking Victorian London in a way few others could), Muriel Spark (whose books I love), Churchill (and his wonderful home down in Kent which is open to the public),

Oscar Wilde (a tragic genius), Anne Frank (did one book ever leave such a lasting legacy?) and many, many poets. I also admire Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan (for daring to dream dreams that others thought were impossible then having the foresight to make them come true), and in the Church the present Holy Father, St. John (whose Gospel is what I turn to in moments of trouble), Edith Stein. On the home front, the late Irish/Australian Archbishops Duhig (Brisbane) and Mannix (Melbourne) and in more recent times Cardinal Pell for being such a pillar of strength to so many Australians and my Parish Priest Father Tim Norris who celebrates fifty years as a priest in 2005 and who is still working hard in his parish. I also have clear cut views about Australian politics but I'll keep them to myself as I'm a working journalist.

I love travelling (especially in London and England and Europe) but it's also nice to be at home around the fireplace in winter with a book or around the pool in summer. Australians are lucky to have so much peace and security.

(Source: http://www.ignatiusinsight.com/features2005/tlivingstone_intrvw_mar05.asp)

NB: Tess Livingston provided the book recommendation for this issue.



Love is the light—and in the end, the only light—that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working. Love is possible, and we are able to practise it because we are created in the image of God. To experience love and in this way to cause the light of God to enter into the world—this is the invitation I would like to extend with the present Encyclical (#39 Deus Caritas Est).

Love Excelling

A moving papal exploration of passion, human and divine

Continued from page 1...

The papal response, socially conservative but refreshingly modern in its readiness to celebrate the joys of sexual love, is that “Man is truly himself when his body and soul are intimately united” and if he denies either, “both lose their dignity”. Thus, “self-seeking” sexual enjoyment is “hardly Man’s great ‘yes’ to the body”, rather its exploitation. Eros leads us towards the Divine only through “a love which becomes a real discovery of the other”, uniting body with spirit, and seeking to be definitive, in two ways: by attaching to one particular person, for life. Then, “Love embraces the whole of existence in each of its dimensions, including the dimension of time”.

Benedict XVI makes no claims to the charisma of his predecessor, but a message that could be paraphrased as “love is too good to waste: go for the real thing, not the caricature” has evident charismatic potential, not least among the young. It is further developed by the encyclical’s meditation on God as “a lover with all the passion of true love”, love of Whom can be “commanded because it has first been given” — and also in the second part of the encyclical which reviews Christianity’s charitable vocation.

The Pope describes these charitable activities as “the practice of love”. This encyclical has no time either for political activism or for Marxist critiques of charity as a diversion from the issue of social justice. “One does not make the world more human by refusing to act humanely here and now”; and no State is so perfectly ordered as to eliminate loneliness, suffering and want. The State cannot, indeed should not, reach into every corner of life. Equally, the Church must never be “just another form of social assistance”. What it has to add is, yet again, the love “that can always illuminate a world grown dim”. It is a warm, even optimistic, yet ultimately an uncompromisingly orthodox theological message.

Funding opportunities

TOPIC	SPONSOR	FUNDING	SYNOPSIS	DUE	CONTACT URL
Australian	Australian Federation of University Women	Various	Various schemes and scholarships available to assist women undertake higher degree education	01/03/06	http://www.afuw.org.au
	Australian Museum	Visiting Fellowships - available to assist with living costs (up to \$700 per week) and research expenses	Small number of Visiting Research and Visiting Collection Fellowships each year for a maximum period of 12 months. Intended to supplement support from applicant's own institution or other sources	24/03/06	http://www.aronline.net.au/awards/awards.htm
	National Heart Foundation	Grants-in Aid	Supports research in the cardiovascular field at institutions in Australia with the requisite facilities. Research projects may be pursued as an investigation in biomedical, clinical or public health (including education/health promotion, epidemiology, behavioural/social sciences) research – only if relevant to cardiovascular disease	17/02/06	http://www.heartfoundation.com.au/index.cfm?page=150
	Society for the History of Discoveries	Prize Essay Contest	Sponsor seeks essays on the topics embraced by the Society's name: the history of discoveries. Essays may deal with voyages, travels, biography, history, cartography, techniques and technology, or other aspects of discovery. The primary purpose is to enlighten the reader on some aspect of mankind's exploration of the world	15/06/06	http://www.sochistdisc.org/essay-contest.htm
	Victorian Health Promotion Foundation	Public Health Research Fellowships - up to three five-year Public Health Research Fellowships available, in the range of \$85,000 to \$105,000 per annum	Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) invites applications for Research Fellowships commencing 2007. Investigators who have experience in a health promotion or public health related field of research are eligible to apply. Fellowships are tenable in Victoria only	17/03/06	http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/default.asp?artid=730&tid=436&level=2
	American Australian Association	Australia to USA Fellowships – valued at US\$25,000	Sponsor is seeking applications from graduate students in the fields of business, science, technology, medicine and engineering for a one year, full time Fellowship in the United States. Applicants must show proof of arrangements with a university or institution within the United States where the research/study is to be conducted	15/03/06	http://www.americanaustralia.org/Educational/australia-usa.php
	University of Western Australia	Postdoctoral Research Fellowships - appointment for three years (full-time) or four years (75 percent research/25 percent teaching)	Departments of the University of Western Australia may apply for a University Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. The fellowship scheme is open to all, irrespective of nationality or residence at the time of application. Fellowships are normally awarded to accomplished researchers who have held a Ph.D. for no more than five years. This year up to three new fellowships will be available	31/03/06	http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/welcome/research_services/research_grants/funding_funding_opportunities/uwapd_applications
	Australian Orthopaedic Association	Research Grants 2005 – up to two years for salaries, some equipment and consumables	Support for short-term studies and initiation of long-term studies carried out by members of the Australian Orthopaedic Association. Research projects may cover broad range of clinical and laboratory investigations relevant to the field of orthopaedics		http://www.aoa.org.au/research.asp
	Hobart City Council	City of Hobart Art Prize 2004 - acquisitive, awarding winner \$7,500 in each of the two categories: (a) Jewellery and (b) Printmaking. In addition the Prize will award a People's Choice Prize of \$1,000 and the \$5,000 Moorilla Winter Collection - Tasmania Prize	Award is open to artists, designers and craftspeople nation-wide. Entrants must have been residents of Australia for 12 months prior to 27 July 2006. Exhibition dates are Saturday 19 August - Sunday 1 October 2006	14/03/06	http://www.hobartcity.com.au/HCC.590292:STANDAR:929467449:pc=PC_211
Overseas	Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty	Calihan Academic Fellowship Program – up to \$5000	Provides academic fellowships to students who show outstanding promise in integrating religious ideas with core principles of the classical liberal tradition (such principles include the recognition of human rights and dignity, the protection of rights through the rule of law, and freedom in economic and political life)	31/03/2006	http://www.acton.org/programs/students/calihan/r_and_l.html
	Endowment for Biblical Research	-	Support is provided for scholarly research on the Bible. Types of research sponsored has included translation projects, publication of periodicals and books, preservation of documents, and public lectures by scholars on biblical topics	01/03/06 01/09/06	-
	British School at Athens 2006-7	Macmillan-Rodewald Studentship	Sponsor offers studentships for advanced doctoral or postdoctoral research in any aspect of the anthropology, archaeology, archaeometry, architecture, art, environment, geography, history, language, literature, religion and topography of Greece in all periods to modern times. Application open to British, Irish or Commonwealth students	01/04/06	http://www.bsa.gla.ac.uk/index.html?awards/main
	Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies	Postdoctoral Mellon Fellowships – up to four Fellowships each year to be used for research at the Institute in the medieval field of the holder's choice	Mellon Fellowships are intended for young medievalists of exceptional promise who have completed their doctoral work, ordinarily within the previous five years, including those who are starting on their professional academic careers at approximately the Assistant Professorial level	01/03/06	http://www.pims.ca/academics/mellons.html

Dr Catherine MacKenzie

Catherine MacKenzie completed a PhD in International Law at the Australian National University in 2004, together with a Master of Education (Higher Education) at the University of Sydney.

In January 2005 she was appointed to Oxford University, at which she is a member of the Faculty of Law, a Fellow of the Environmental Change Institute and a Research Fellow of Green College. She coordinates International Environmental Law and International Conservation Law on Oxford's MSc courses, and teaches Public International Law on the BCL. She was recently commissioned as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy.

Brother Christian Moe FSC

Brother Christian Moe FSC (De La Salle Brothers) continues to work at Corpus Christi College, Carlton, Melbourne as Senior Tutor. His work includes teaching the Catechism of the Catholic Church to First Year (entering) students. He also assists students undertaking Introductory Latin or Greek, is available to students at all levels for consultation concerning philosophy or theology studies, and gives general assistance to students for whom English is a second or third language, especially with their written assignments.

Brother Moe contributed several reviews to the *Catholic Weekly*, Sydney, in 2005 including: *Faith and Reason: Friends or Foes?* Papers of ACU Melbourne Symposium 2000 edited by Anthony Fisher OP and Dr Hayden Ramsay; *Newman to Converts – An Existential Ecclesiology* by Stanley Jaki OSB; and *Life and Times of Bishop Torreggiani Armidale* by Patrick Colbourne OFM Cap.

Book Recommendation

GOLDEN PRIEST, WOODEN CHALICE Father Tim Norris (Edited Tess Livingstone)

Golden Priest, Wooden Chalice is about the grass roots of the Catholic Church in Australia and Ireland...today, yesterday and tomorrow. Celebrating 50 years of ordination, Father Tim Norris, Parish Priest of St Kevin's Geebung in Brisbane reflects on Christ, His Gospels and how they apply to the dilemmas of today. In matters of faith and morals, he cuts to the chase. With warmth, wit and shrewdness aplenty, Father Tim's observations are as solid as the Mass Rock he knew in his childhood home in County Limerick, Ireland. His own story, from Ireland to Rome to creating a thriving Parish on what was once a run-down pineapple farm is colourful and inspiring. If butcher's paper, committees and "new ways of being Church" leave you cold, this gem will warm your heart and enliven your spirit.

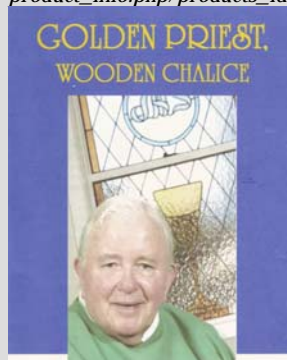
Father Tim Norris was born in the same Irish village as the late Archbishop James Duhig. Ordained in Rome in 1955, he has built and worked in the Brisbane Parish of St Kevin's Geebung since 1959.

Praise for Gold Priest, Wooden Chalice:
"Having met him, I can well understand the great affection in which he is held in his community. Religious leaders, like Father Tim Norris, make an important contribution to the community."
Prime Minister John Howard

"This is great stuff. Father Tim Norris's story reminds us that the Christian lives with zest, that the faith is strength, combative and charitable. Like this book, it is never dull." Father Tom Boland, author of James Duhig

"What a character Father Norris is! His book is an entertaining journey from Ireland to his parish in Geebung - 'that place with the queer name you should change'. A great read."
Shadow Treasurer and Member for Lilley, Wayne Swan

Source: http://connorcourt.com.au/catalog/product_info.php/products_id/58



Proverbs 8 (Douay)...The preaching of wisdom. Her excellence:

Doth not **wisdom** cry aloud, and prudence put forth her voice? Standing in the top of the highest places by the way, in the midst of the paths. Beside the gates of the city, in the very doors she speaketh, saying: O ye men, to you I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. O little ones, understand subtlety, and ye unwise, take notice.

Hear, for I will speak of great things: and my lips shall be opened to preach right things. My mouth shall meditate **truth**, and my lips shall hate wickedness. All my words are just, there is nothing wicked nor perverse in them. They are right to them that understand, and just to them that find knowledge. Receive my instruction, and not money: choose knowledge rather than gold.

For wisdom is better than all the most **precious** things: and whatsoever may be desired cannot be compared to it. I wisdom dwell in **counsel**, and am present in learned thoughts. The fear of the Lord hateth evil: I hate arrogance, and pride, and every wicked way, and a mouth with a double tongue. Counsel and equity is mine, prudence is mine, strength is mine. By me kings reign, and lawgivers decree just things.

By me princes rule, and the mighty decree **justice**. I love them that love me: and they that in the morning early watch for me, shall find me. With me are riches and glory, glorious riches and justice. For my fruit is better than gold and the precious stone, and my blossoms than choice silver. I walk in the way of justice, in the midst of the paths of judgment, that I may enrich them that **love** me, and may fill their treasures. The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his ways, before he made any thing from the beginning. I was set up from **eternity**, and of old before the earth was made. The depths were not as yet, and I was already conceived. Neither had the fountains of waters as yet sprung out: The mountains with their huge bulk had not as yet been established: before the hills I was brought forth...

From the Editor

Notre Dame Sydney ready to open

Damian Gleeson

The Sydney Campus of the University of Notre Dame Australia is well on schedule to open its doors on 27 February 2006. The Campus will be officially opened on Friday, 3 March, and His Eminence, Cardinal Pell, will bless the facilities.

Based at the historic St Benedict's Parish at Broadway, the University has transformed a mainly derelict inner-city parish to its rightful position, historically, culturally and as a significant Sydney landmark. The former school and presbytery has been sensitively and beautifully restored and form the main buildings of an impressive Campus.

A core part of the redevelopment has been the major facelift to St Benedict's Church, built in 1838. This historic church – home to several generations of the family of the late Cardinal Gilroy - is expected to re-open for weekday and weekend services by the beginning of March. The University appreciates the support and patience of the Parish Priest, Fr John Neill and his parishioners during the restoration period. The spirit of excellent co-operation at what is the state's first University Parish, abodes well for Notre Dame's second proposed Campus at Darlinghurst.

At the end of January 2006 the Broadway Campus held the first of several enrolment sessions for foundation students. Some 300 students enrolled for courses in Arts Business, Education, Law and Nursing – moreover they experienced first hand Notre Dame's culture of friendship and personal attention. Students and staff alike are looking forward to an important year of fellowship and scholarship.

Reflecting the flexible nature of courses, many students have elected for double degrees, such as Arts/Business, Arts/Education and Business/Law. There has been strong demand for communication studies, not only as an elective unit, but via the integrated Marketing and Public Relations Degree, the only one of its kind in NSW.

Notre Dame has signalled plans for its second Sydney Campus and submitted plans for the \$17M rejuvenation of the historic Sacred Heart Darlinghurst parish site. It is intended to establish a Medical School on this site, which is adjacent to St Vincent's & Mater Health.

If the Sacred Heart Church is to survive it is in need of urgent restoration and significant capital expenditure. The Parish does not have the funds to do so and has acknowledged that to the University. Without urgent restoration, the current church is a safety risk to parishioners and the community.

In summary, the University proposes:

- A significant financial commitment to the restoration of the Sacred Heart Parish site, including the church, the old school, the presbytery and the grounds, at a cost of approximately \$6M.
- The construction of a new seven level academic building at a cost of approximately \$11M.
- A restored Sacred Heart Church, which will seat 240 persons.
- The Parish will have its own facilities, including offices for the Parish Priest and his secretary.
- The parish will be able to utilise University facilities (by prior arrangement) and will be encouraged so to do. Many of the University facilities will be available to the parish and other community users on evenings and weekends, as in the case for our Broadway facilities.

The Parish Priest will have control over the church and parish offices. The University anticipates that the Parish Priest and the Dean of Medicine will work closely together to make this historic site a thriving centre for the church's mission.

Dappled Things...

Dappled Things is a new literary magazine dedicated to providing a space for young writers to engage the literary world from a Catholic perspective. The magazine is committed to quality writing that takes advantage of the religious, theological, philosophical, artistic, cultural, and literary heritage of the Catholic Church in order to inform and enrich contemporary literary culture. *Dappled Things* pledges complete faithfulness to the teachings of the Catholic Church as expressed by the Bishop of Rome and the Church's Magisterium.

..."Glory be to God for dappled things," writes the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins in the poem "Pied Beauty," first naming things literally colored with contrasting speckles and patches: streaked skies, spotted trout, great fields sectioned and ploughed and planted. He then extends his definition of "dappled" to mean

"...[a]ll things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim..."

According to Hopkins, dappled things are those things we find irregular and surprising that are in fact lovelier and more lovable for their being irregular and surprising.... We at *Dappled Things* delight, too: in that mystery, and in the genius of Gerard Manley Hopkins, that he can muse in a poem on "skies of couple-color as a brindled cow" and yet through that poem hint at the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For surely that is the most dappled thing in all human history, the strangest and the most beautiful, at once "swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim."

Mary Angelita Ruiz

Editor-in-Chief

Source: www.dappledthings.org/about.html

St Thomas Aquinas



Doctor Angelicus; Doctor Communis; Great Synthesizer; The Dumb Ox; The Universal Teacher

Memorial: 28 January

Patron of scholars, academics, students, learning, Catholic academies, schools, colleges and universities, colleges, theologians, publishers and philosophers

The Academic Year in History

In the earlier period lectures were given throughout the year, with short recesses at Christmas, Easter and Pentecost and a longer vacation in summer. At Paris this vacation was limited by order of Gregory IX (1261) to one month, but by the end of the fourteenth century it had been extended for the arts faculty from 25 June to 25 August, for theology and canon law from 28 June to 15 Sept. The year really began on 1 October, and was divided into two periods; the grand ordinary, from 1 October to Easter, and the little ordinary, from Easter to the end of June. At Bologna the vacation began 7 September, and the scholastic year opened again on 19 October; this, however, was interrupted for ten days at Christmas, two weeks at Easter, and three weeks at carnival. In Germany, there was considerable difference between the calendars of the various universities and even between those of the faculties at the same university. In general, the year began about the middle of October and closed about the middle of June. But at Cologne, Heidelberg, and Vienna there was a little ordinary from 25 August, to 9 October.

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

Forbes Assessment....

Benedict XVI is above all defined by the extraordinary ambition, intellect and discipline he has demonstrated throughout his career to date. He became a university professor by the age of 30, held a series of prestigious academic chairs, wrote numerous books, mastered ten languages and rose rapidly through the ranks of both the German Catholic Church and the Vatican.

Ratzinger's loyalty to John Paul II and close involvement with his administration mean that he will strive to maintain the spirit of his predecessor's papacy. However, his deep personal ambition and inevitable concern about his own legacy will motivate him to give his papacy its own character. His choice of the name Benedict suggests that he wishes to be a mediator, communicator and an advocate of peace.

In this context, his respect for intellectual achievement and his willingness to listen may foster interreligious dialogue and a new critical engagement with science.

http://www.forbes.com/business/2005/04/25/cz_0425oxan_pope.html

The vacation, however, was not a complete suspension of academic work; the extraordinary lectures, given for the most part by bachelors, were continued, and credit was given to students who attended them. About the middle of the fifteenth century, the division of the year into two semesters, summer and winter, was introduced at Leipzig, and eventually was adopted by the other German universities.

FCS Australia

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.

