



The Center for Dominican Studies

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011

In this issue:

- ❖ *Aquinas Convocation*
by Mary Catherine Hilker, OP, Ph.D.
- ❖ *Perspectives on Truth in the Dominican Tradition* by Ruth Caspar, OP, Ph.D.
- ❖ *Parables for Preachers from Matthew's Gospel*
by Barbara Reid, OP, Ph.D.
- ❖ *Caritas in Veritate: Pope Benedict's Vision for the Global* by Economy J. Bryan Hehir, Th.D.
- ❖ *A discussion evening on Pope Benedict XVI's new second volume of "Jesus of Nazareth"*
- ❖ *Dominican Team Retreat with Student Development*
- ❖ *Advisory Board*
- ❖ *Looking Ahead to the Centennial and our 2011-12 Programs*

Aquinas Convocation—January 27, 2011



Does God Will Human Suffering? Contemporary Dialogue with Thomas Aquinas

The annual Aquinas Convocation was held on Thursday, January 27, 2011. An enthusiastic audience of students, administrators, faculty, staff and friends of Ohio Dominican attended the lecture presented by Dominican Sister of Peace, Mary Catherine Hilker, Ph.D. Previous to the lecture, the community gathered for a light brunch in the Catherine of Siena room and had an opportunity to meet with the speaker. Mary Catherine currently serves as Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. She earned her master's and doctoral degrees from Catholic University of America. She specializes in contemporary systematic theology with particular interest in theological anthropology, feminist theology and theologies of preaching. She is the author of *Naming Grace: Preaching and the Sacramental Imagination* (1997); *Speaking with Authority: Catherine of Siena and the Voices of Women Today* (2001); and *The Praxis of the Reign of God: An Introduction to the Theology of Edward Schillebeeckx* (co-editor, 2002).

In her address, Mary Catherine noted, "The question of whether and how God is related to human suffering is at the very heart of theology today because the extent of innocent suffering is a primary cause of atheism. For us as Christians, it remains the primary cause of the incredibility of our central faith claim – our proclamation that God has defeated death and evil in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus." The entire scholarly presentation was informative, inspiring and challenging.

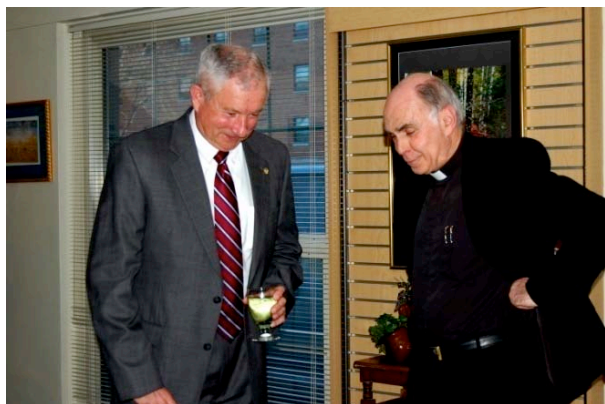


**Truth Seekers Luncheon:
Perspective on Truth in the Dominican Tradition
February 10, 2011**

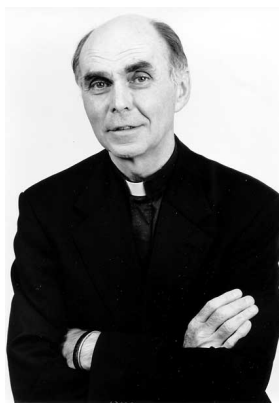
Dominican Sister of Peace Ruth Caspar earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Notre Dame in 1968. She then joined the faculty of Ohio Dominican University where she served in the Department of Philosophy until her retirement in 2003. Sr. Ruth chaired the department from 1973 through 1992 and was named Professor Emeritus of Philosophy in 2003. In addition to her undergraduate teaching and expertise in bioethics, Sr. Ruth also is known for her promotion of Dominican charism and spirituality.

“Truth is like a baobab tree:
one person’s arms cannot embrace it.”
(African Proverb)

Ruth’s presentation focused on unique perspectives on Truth from contemporary representatives of Dominican Friars, Nuns, Sisters and Laity that included Gustavo Gutierrez, OP, Helen Alford, OP, Kevin O’Rourke, OP, Barbara Beaumont, OP, and Duncan Mac Lauren, OP, Laity.



President Cimbalic talks with J. Bryan Hehir



J. Bryan Hehir



Special guests join the speaker for supper

Caritas in Veritate: Understanding Pope Benedict’s Vision for the Global Economy



J. Bryan Hehir, the Parker Gilbert Montgomery Professor of the Practice of Religion and Public Life at Harvard Kennedy School delivered a wonderful address to a large audience of participants on March 17, 2011, focusing on Pope Benedict’s Vision for the Global Economy as reflected in the document *Caritas in Veritate*. He is also the Secretary for Health Care and Social Services in the Archdiocese of Boston. His research and writing focus on ethics and foreign policy and the role of religion in world politics and in American society. He served on the faculty of Georgetown University (1984 to 1992) and the Harvard Divinity School (1993 to 2001). His writings include: “*The Moral Measurement of War: A Tradition of Continuity and Change; Military Intervention and National Sovereignty; Catholicism and Democracy;*” and “*Social Values and Public Policy: A Contribution from a Religious Tradition.*”

The Center for Dominican Studies

HOLD THE DATES

2011-2012 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

THEME: *Transforming Lives through Faith, Ethics and Social Concerns*

- October 5** Founders Day 100th Anniversary
8:30-10:30 AM Brunch in The Catherine of Siena Room
11:00 Mass Christ the King Chapel
7:00 PM Concert: Transforming Lives through Scripture and Song
Featuring **Fr. Jim Marchionda, OP** and members of the ODU Family
- November 3** **Brian Pierce, OP**, *Contemplative Prayer: Source of Transformation*, 7:00 PM
- November 15** Albert the Great Lecture: *Celebrating Science*
Lisa Zuccarelli, OP, PhD. 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM Matesich Theatre followed by a reception and an honorary luncheon in the Catherine of Siena Room
- November 29** **John Allen**, *The Future Church*, 7:00 PM
- December 1** Panel Discussion on "The Good Society," culmination of a student paper contest about what makes for a good society from different perspectives
3:30-5:00 PM Colonial Room
- January 26** Aquinas Convocation
Sr. Patricia Connick, OP, Ph. D., *Converging Theology and Science to Transform the Modern World*
- February 16** **Margaret Mayce, OP**, *Eradicating Poverty: What is Our Role?*
- March 21** **Zeni Fox, Ph.D.**, (Professor of Pastoral Theology) Seaton Hall University
Emerging Lay Leadership in the Church
- April 26** Catherine of Siena Celebration
Patricia Walter, OP, Ph.D., *Catherine of Siena: Transformed for Service to Humanity*
6PM Solemn Vespers, 7PM Lecture



FALL 2011

Seminar: **Interreligious Dialogue**: Certificate and/or CEU's Possible Fr. Scott Steinkerchner, OP. 6 weeks on a Tuesday for Adult Education (every week beginning in September), Fee \$100. Includes the book

Tuesdays: September 6,13,20,27, October 11,18, 6:00-8:00 PM

TEXT: ***Beyond Agreement: Interreligious Dialogue Amid Persistent Differences*** by Scott Steinkerchner, OP
Associate Director of The Center for Dominican Studies at Ohio Dominican University

FALL 2011

•**Technology and Transformation Series : How we use and are used by technology**

Scott Steinkerchner, OP, Ph.D., Tim Walker, Ph.D. and Herb Peterson, M.F.A.

Thursday, September 8

Thursday, October 6

Thursday, November 10

3:30 – 5:00 pm Venue: TBA



Sr. Mary Ann Fatula, OP, Ph.D.

Catherine of Siena on Heaven

April 28, 2011



Over 130 participants celebrated the feast of St. Catherine of Siena by attending the annual Catherine of Siena lecture that was held in the Colonial Room of Sansbury Hall. Sr. Mary Ann Fatula, OP, Ph.D. gave an inspiring presentation on the topic of *Catherine of Siena on Heaven*. A Dominican Sister of Peace, she is currently a professor of Theology at Ohio Dominican. Sr. Fatula is a Member of the American Academy of Religion, the Catholic Theological Society of America, the College Theology Society, and the North American Academy of Ecumenists. She is the author of four books: *Catherine of Siena's Way*; *The Triune God of Christian Faith*; *Thomas Aquinas: Preacher and Friend*; and *Holy Spirit, Giver of Life*. Sr. Fatula was selected as the 1998 recipient of the Conley Award, in recognition of her outstanding teaching abilities and dedication to her students. Two of the many quotes heard from Catherine on the topic included:

"I call the soul 'heaven' because I make heaven wherever I dwell by grace" (D33; p. 75).

"We have the most mighty lordship there is – lordship over the city of our own soul,. Oh, is there anything more magnificent than to possess a city in which the all-good God dwells, where peace and tranquility and all consolation are found!" (Let 17; 1:68).

The Center for Dominican Studies Program Projection for 2011-12 (Continued)

COLLABORATIVE INTERNET PROJECT

Project: <http://www.dominicanstudies.org>, A web site to connect all the Dominican Colleges and Universities with a resource for study, dialogue and sharing. Technical support provided by The Center for Dominican Studies at Ohio Dominican.

Includes:

- ✓ Programs and Events
- ✓ Videos of Programs/Lectures
- ✓ Journals and Writings
- ✓ Listing of Available Resources
- ✓ Online employee courses and orientation
- ✓ Networking Venue with dialogue



SPRING 2012

Seminar: *Contemporary Dominican Spirituality*. Sr. Catherine Colby, OP, Ed.D., and Other Special Guests TBA. Certificate and/or CEU's Possible 3 weeks on a Tuesday from 6:00 – 8:00 PM Fee \$50. Includes the book and Handouts.

TOPICS:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| January 31: | Conversion and Transformation |
| February 7: | Integrity and Dominican Spirituality |
| February 21: | Peace and Non-Violence |
| February 28: | Building Community through Imagination and Communication in the Global Society |



A Day of Retreat for Student Development Staff and The Dominican Team

On **Friday, March 25, 2011**, the Dominican Team (Fr. John Boll, Sr. Catherine Colby, OP, Sr. Louis Mary Passeri, OP and Fr. Scott Steinkerchner, OP) conducted a day of retreat for the Student Development staff that took place at the Martin de Porres Center on the campus of St. Mary of the Springs. The reflective morning began with prayer and song followed by two input sessions on God's creation and presence in the universe led by Fr. Scott. The group shared round table discussions on questions such as: Who are we? Why are we here? How might we be God's ongoing Presence in the Universe. After lunch the group considered how they might engage the best practices in student development as outlined by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.



Sr. Barbara Reid, OP Teaches Parables for Preachers

On **March 3, 2011**, **Barbara Reid, OP**, presented an inspiring reflection entitled *Parables for Preachers* from Matthew's Gospel at the Dominican Conversation Circles dinner held in the Colonial Room of Sansbury Hall. A Dominican Sister of Grand Rapids, Barbara Reid, OP was selected as Vice President and Academic Dean of Catholic Theological Union on April 27, 2009. She is a Professor of New Testament Studies at CTU and has been a member of the Faculty since 1988. She received her Doctorate in Biblical Studies from the Catholic University of America and has published widely, earning a reputation as a leading New Testament scholar. Barbara is a sought-after biblical scholar known for her expertise in the New Testament and her ability to make the Bible come alive. Barbara skillfully relates contemporary issues to the biblical tradition.



Sr. Catherine and Fr. Scott present a preview of the CDS programs and activities for the 2011-2012 Centennial Year.



Members of the Advisory Board spend time sharing their reflections on the article *A New Generation Imagines the Future: Tomorrow's Theologians*. They also offered suggestions of future speakers, programs and topics for the upcoming academic year.



Advisory Board Meeting April 8, 2011 PLACE: Catherine of Siena Room

Group Reflection / Responses to Article: *A New Generation Imagines the Future: Tomorrow's Theologians*

Real question: Is this a valid description of ODU students?

Yes—in a large part, but of course not completely. Our students tend to be “spiritual but not religious” and tend more towards social justice concerns (and Catholic Social Thinking) rather than dogmatic concerns. There is a good deal of energy around discussions of “ultimate meaning.” They tend to be expert in some things, but not in theology. This provides a good way to reach them.

No—The majority are not theology students. This probably shifts our demographics. We do have a vocal minority of students that want a creeping infallibility. These “dogmatists”, if too rigid and judgmental, may drive others away if they become leaders. Students come fairly un-catechized. Local high schools now mandate (2 years running) a standard catechesis program. It will be interesting to track and see if incoming college students are better informed.

What we might do:

Use service projects not just as ministry occasions, but come back together and reflect on service
Focus more on Catholic Social Teaching
We need to do a better job in the freshman year introducing students to the liberal arts and theology/philosophy (Create one course all take)

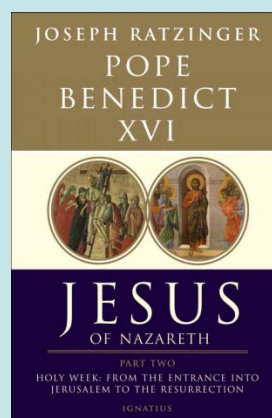
CARA- research groups agree with most of the article based on survey

NRVC http://www.nrv.net/home_page scroll down and look for CARA study on web

CDS--Suggestions for Future Speakers/Programs/Topics

- Get more lay speakers, for instance: Robert Mickens, the Rome correspondent of *The Tablet*, a British Catholic journal.
- CDS & BUSINESS Division & Alumni Relations:
 - Sponsor a Catholic Business Persons Luncheon open to any business man/woman Get speakers on interesting ethical and theological topics.
 - Participants pay to attend
 - Present award(s)

Article study groups rather than book study groups



On Tuesday, **April 12, 2011** from 7-8:30pm in the Colonial Room of Sansbury Hall a diverse group of students, faculty and staff joined Drs. Kelle Lynch-Baldwin and Scott Steinkerchner, OP, who presented the pope's argument on why Christians should not seek to convert Jews. This position was presented in Benedict XVI's latest book *Jesus of Nazareth*, Vol. 2. A lively discussion followed the scholarly presentations.