

COLLOQUIA

Saturday, November 9 | 10:15 a.m.-12 p.m.

What Literature Teaches Us about Friendship
AUDITORIUM | Moderator: Jennifer Newsome Martin

“The Marchmain Effect: Charles Ryder’s Transformative Friendship with the Flyte Family in Evelyn Waugh’s *Brideshead Revisited*”

Alvino-Mario Fantini (Leiden University)

Over the years, scholars who have turned their attention to Evelyn Waugh’s 1945 classic *Brideshead Revisited: The Sacred & Profane Memories of Captain Charles Ryder* have tended to focus on the role of the Catholic faith in the novel. However, too few of these studies have explored the role and significance of the various friendships that the narrator, Charles Ryder, develops over the years – particularly with members of the Marchmain family. The proposed paper will explore some of these friendships and consider the transformative role that they have on the spiritual development, growth, and eventual “conversion” of Charles Ryder.

Bio

Alvino-Mario Fantini studied English literature, philosophy, and religion as an undergraduate at Dartmouth College. He has graduate degrees in international development, public policy, and financial journalism, and has worked as an editor and speechwriter for various international and multilateral organizations. Currently, he is Editor-in-Chief of *The European Conservative* and a member of the board of the Center for European Renewal. His interests include Ockhamist nominalism; counter-Enlightenment thought; Augustan poetry and literature; and conservative political theory. He is currently working on a doctoral dissertation at the University of Leiden in The Netherlands.

“Strong As Death Is Love: Friendship in the Life and Writings of Walker Percy”

Raymond Hain (Providence College)

Walker Percy gave us a compelling portrait of friendship as healing. Our friend, rather than “another self,” saves us from ourselves. His novels and other writings consistently show us as broken, searching for those who would not quite make us whole, but who would help us find Him who can. This means, at least, that we should be much more forgiving of our friends, and at

the same time eternally grateful to them for accompanying us on the way to true wholeness in the Body of Christ.

Bio

Professor Raymond Hain is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Associate Director of the Humanities Program at Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island. His research interests include ethics, applied ethics, philosophy and literature, and the work of Alexis de Tocqueville. He is the editor, most recently, of *Beyond the Self: Essays in Honor of W. David Solomon*.

“Yours Truly: Epistolary Friendships and the Habit of Being”

Michael Murphy (Loyola University Chicago)

By engaging in close readings of Flannery O’Connor’s letters, this presentation develops and illuminates theories and experiences of Christian friendship. Reference will also be made to other famous epistolary friendships: Hopkins and Bridges, Tolkien and Lewis, Levertov and Duncan. By considering the epistolary life of writers possessed of serious faith commitments, we not only behold the many ways that the *writing* of friendship distills, performs, and complicates “friendship” largely writ, but also how such conversations draw us deeper into the mystery and drama of our lives in God. The presentation will conclude with reflections on how the digital revolution has both supplanted and expanded conceptions of friendship—and what this media convulsion might entail for discourses in faith and culture.

Bio

Michael P. Murphy directs the Catholic Studies program and the Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage at Loyola University Chicago. His research interests are in theology and literature, critical theory, and Christian spirituality, but he also writes and engages public media on issues in eco-theology, ethics, and the literary/political cultures of Catholicism. Mike is a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow and his first book, *A Theology of Criticism* (Oxford), was named a "Distinguished Publication" in 2008 by the American Academy of Religion. His most recent scholarly work is an edited volume, *this need to dance/this need to kneel: Denise Levertov and the Poetics of Faith* (from Wipf and Stock-- and released just last month). He is currently at work on a monograph entitled *The Dirty Realists: Catholic Fiction, Poetry, and Film 1965-2015*.

Friends and Enemies in the Polis
ROOM 158 | Moderator: Guillaume de Thieulloy

“Friend-Enemy: The Dilemmas of the Political Condition”

Rev. Bernard Bourdin, O.P. (Institut Catholique de Paris)

In classical political philosophy, friendship is a key concept for thinking about the political condition. This is not the case with the foundations of modern Hobbes policy at Schmitt. In the light of this rupture, friendship-enmity would not therefore be two necessary concepts one to the other. This is the dilemma we propose to solve.

Bio

Father Bernard Bourdin is professor of political philosophy and history of ideas at the Institut Catholique de Paris, in the Faculté des sciences sociales et économiques. He serves as director of doctorates and the director of Chaire “Common Good.” He is the author of *The Theological-Political Origins of the Modern State: The controversy between James I of England and Cardinal Bellarmine*, and *Le christianisme et la question du théologico-politique*.

“Oaths, Loyalty, and Friendship in Early American Catholicism”

Michael Breidenbach (Ave Maria University)

In colonial America, Catholics were presumed dangerous until proven loyal. Yet in the American founding era, Catholics signed the Declaration of Independence and finalized the First Amendment. What explains this remarkable transformation? How did Catholics become American founders and framers, and what does this say about liberties, loyalties, and friendship in America? This paper shows how friendships and trust networks were critical for Catholics to assuage suspicions of disloyalty. It focuses on George Calvert, the Catholic convert and founder of Maryland, whose friendships with kings and courtiers presented an example of Catholic loyalty that later American Catholics would model.

Bio

Michael Breidenbach is Professor of History at Ave Maria University. He received his BA from Northwestern University, his MPhil from University of Cambridge and his PhD from University of Cambridge.

“Politics and the ‘Unfriending’ Passion: Envy and Political Friendship”

Robert Wyllie (University of Notre Dame)

“Envy is the plague of friendship,” writes Basil of Caesarea, drawing together ancient Greek concerns with envy and Christian theodicy. Envy plagues intimate relationships—Lucifer to

God, Cain to Abel—but can it disrupt the political friendship of entire communities? For Aristotle, envy threatens the stability of the polis. But a subtle and overlooked argument in the *Nicomachean Ethics* transforms popular envy into a motivation to serve justice, and the basis of political friendship. However, I argue, an emphatic Christian rejection over centuries relegates this envy-based political friendship in Aristotle to an obscure place in the history of political thought.

Bio

Robert Wyllie is a PhD student in political theory at the University of Notre Dame. He earned his MA in government and BA in politics from the University of Virginia. His research interests include politics and religion, political obligation, and the modern reception of ancient political philosophy. He has published a number of articles in peer-reviewed journals, and is a graduate student Sorin Fellow at the Center for Ethics and Culture.

The Obligations of Friendship **ROOM 159 | Moderator: Michéal Ganley**

“Does Neighbor-Love Provide Constraints on Friendship?”

Bharat Ranganathan (Case Western Reserve University)

Christians are commanded to love everyone—whether ourselves, our near and dear, and those we will never know—as neighbors. In a world like ours, where an overwhelming portion of the world’s population lives under conditions of severe poverty, how do we adjudicate the competing demands to (i) ourselves and our special relations and (ii) those whom will never know? I argue that neighbor-love provides normative constraints on the projects we may pursue and the ways we relate to our special relations. Given our obligations to the severely poor, I aim to articulate a morally defensible account of interrelated obligations.

Bio

Bharat Ranganathan is the Beamer-Schneider SAGES Fellow in Ethics in the Department of Philosophy at Case Western Reserve University. His research and teaching interests are at the intersection of Christian ethics and moral and political philosophy, with a particular focus on issues in bioethics, human rights, and religion and democratic theory. Along with Derek Woodard-Lehman (University of Otago), he recently published his first book, *Scripture, Tradition, and Reason in Christian Ethics: Normative Dimensions* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019).

“Sacramental Friendship and Sanctity in the Irish Catholic Tradition: Lessons from Seán Ó Súilleabháin’s *Scéalta Cráibhtheacha*”

Laura T. Steiner (University of Notre Dame)

A vibrant attachment to the cult of the saints can transform liturgies from mere commemorations into authentic celebrations, effectively enabling local constructions of sacred time that enrich both the living of the whole liturgical year and participation in the sacramental life of the Church. The Irish Catholic tradition, which blends doctrine, folklore, and popular devotion, can deepen our relationship with the saints—transfiguring them from heroic models of faith and discipleship into friends. Incorporating hagiographical material and folk narratives from Seán Ó Súilleabháin’s 1952 collection of religious tales, as well as insights from Thomas Aquinas and Aelred of Rievaulx on friendship, I will analyze the unique relationship Irish men and women have had with the saints, and suggest ways to deepen our relationship with the saints from distant veneration into intimate friendship throughout the liturgical year.

Bio

Laura Steiner is a Ph.D. Candidate in Theology (Liturgical Studies) at the University of Notre Dame. She earned her BA and MTS also from the University of Notre Dame, and lived in the southeast of Ireland for two years, where she served the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ferns as a lay ecclesial minister before commencing her doctoral studies. Laura’s major research interests include the feasts and seasons of the liturgical year, sacramental and liturgical theology, ritual theory, and the history of Christianity in Ireland. Her dissertation focuses on the interconnection of religious folklore and popular devotion on feast days in the Irish sanctoral cycle. Recently married, Laura and her husband (a U.S. Army Captain and Judge Advocate) are stationed at Fort Shafter in Honolulu, Hawaii.

“Friendship Thrives on Common Ground: A Survey of the Notion of Membership in Wendell Berry’s Fiction”

Michael Stevens (Cornerstone University)

This paper will investigate the notion of friendship that Wendell Berry lays out in his 50+ year project of writing about the fictional village of Port William. The difficult and complex relationships across generational and racial boundaries, and even within the gray area of tension and antagonism, will be explored as root-stock for his rich vision of friendship tied not just to individuals but also to place and history and potentiality of community. The vision of what Berry calls a “membership” will be fully unpacked, as the thick and elaborate web of meaning in which friendship flourishes.

Bio

A native of the Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York, Michael Stevens has taught literature at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, MI since 1997. He has written extensively on the works of the Kentucky farmer and writer Wendell Berry, including co-authoring *Wendell Berry and the Cultivation of Life* with his colleague Matt Bonzo for Brazos Press, and most recently contributing a chapter on Berry's brilliant minor characters to the Front Porch Republic volume *Telling the Stories Right: Wendell Berry's Imagination of Port William*. He holds a Ph.D. in literature from the University of Dallas, and he and his wife Linda have three children, two of whom Michael has in class this semester.

Friendship and the Common Good ROOM 160 | Moderator: Ricardo Calleja

“*Amor et Amicitia*: Charity and Catholic Conscience”

Marion Boteju (Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York)

My paper will attempt to address the theological underpinnings of the work of Catholic charities and provide a critique on the temporal iteration of the project. The theological argument will rest on St Thomas Aquinas' presentation of Charity as a theological virtue, explore the role of conscience and personalism, as understood by St John Henry Newman. A critique on the institutionalized work Catholic charities will include a historic review and analysis on existing frameworks, particularly as they have come to define Catholic social teaching. The paper will attempt to identify opportunities and challenges for discussion/critique, and forward possibilities for new methodologies/partnerships.

Bio

Marion Boteju serves as Chief of Staff and Corporate Secretary for The Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, a Federation of more than ninety human service agencies that provide help and create hope for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers in need—non-Catholic and Catholic alike—throughout the ten counties of the New York metropolitan area. She has twenty years of experience in management in the nonprofit and private sectors. Marion holds a BA in International Relations and Economics from Hunter College New York and Masters in Public Health and Public Administration from Harvard University and New York University's Robert F. Wagner School for Public Service. Born in England, Marion grew up in Sri Lanka, and resides in Manhattan, New York.

“The Common Good as the Principle of Human Communion”

Fr. Aquinas Guilbeau, O.P. (Dominican House of Studies)

I propose to develop Charles De Koninck’s identification of the common good as a "principle of communication" among persons. I shall gather support for this identification from Aquinas's moral doctrine, especially from his teaching on friendship. From a Thomistic perspective, I shall also discuss the importance of locating the principle of human communion outside of persons, in the common good, as opposed to locating it within persons, as popular personalist teaching tends to do.

Bio

A native of Louisiana, Fr. Aquinas Guilbeau, O.P., entered the Dominican Province of St. Joseph in 2005. After several years of pastoral work in New York City, Fr. Guilbeau began doctoral studies in moral theology at the University of Fribourg, where he completed a dissertation on St. Thomas Aquinas’s doctrine of the common good. In addition to his teaching, Fr. Guilbeau serves as senior editor of *Aleteia.org* (English edition). He is also the current prior of the Dominican House of Studies.

“Account and Accountability: A Tale of Friendship and Virtue Among Auditors”

Marc Neri (Texas Christian University)

Behavioral research suggesting that auditor’s independence may be eroded by close friendships, certainly with clients. Auditors should remain independent so that their opinion remains objective. Therefore, whether auditors can have friends or not is an interesting question. I shall look at auditor objectivity as an aspect of prudence (*prudentia* / *phronesis*) and use Aristotelian ideas about friendship to explore the kinds of relationships auditors should foster. I shall also distinguish between clients, mentors, teachers, and peers as potential friends. I suggest that friendship, properly understood, should support auditor objectivity.

Bio

Marc Neri began his career as an auditor with PWC in London before becoming a Chartered Management Accountant in 2001. He has worked as a Financial Analyst, Controller, and CFO for various organizations in the UK and the US. Marc also served in the British Army for three years.

Marc has a BS degree in physics from Durham University, a master’s degree in Humanities from the University of Dallas, and a PhD in business from North Texas. While at the University of Dallas, Marc became more interested in ethics. This led to a sabbatical studying business ethics at the Angelicum in Rome and, a few years later, a PhD dissertation on the morals of auditors.

Marc and his wife, Lara, have four children. While the family has prevented Marc from pursuing an international rugby career, they have afforded him the opportunity to develop other virtues (and do a bit of coaching).

The School of Friendship
ROOM 161 | Moderator: Thomas Donnelly

“Conflict: Fatal Fire or Fertilizer for the Flourishing of Friendship?”

William White, Jr. and Peg White

Conflict is often viewed as a sign of dysfunction among friends, co-workers or families. This talk will present a paradigm for leveraging the inevitable conflicts generated in any close relationship into relational assets rather than losses. Conflict generated by differing viewpoints, desires and expectations can be viewed as opportunities for growth for the friends themselves but also for their broader communities. When a community adopts such a perspective, all of its members receive an enhanced environment for personal and relational flourishing.

Bio

Bill & Peg White, from Pensacola, FL, are Certified Christian Conciliators and Certified Relational Wisdom Instructors (RW360.org). Bill, ND '63, J.D. (U. of Florida), LL.M., Ocean & Coastal Law, (U. of Miami, FL), practiced environmental, criminal and consumer law before serving as a trial judge for 15 years. He is currently a Senior Judge. Peg, a retired M.S.W. (Florida State University) social worker, created a family shelter, parent-child center, transitional housing program and jail ministry during 20 years with a Christian soup kitchen ministry. She still teaches at the local jail on a regular basis and more recently created a ministry of mentorship by older to younger married women called “A wise woman builds her house.”

Peg & Bill, members of the Peacemaking Team in their parish, have given workshops in different Catholic and denominational settings and are deeply committed to spreading peacemaking and emotional intelligence from a Christian perspective. They have been engaged in marriage preparation and support, including Worldwide Marriage Encounter, and marital mediation for over 35 years. They have 5 children and 20 of the top 25 grandchildren in the world!

“Wounds in our Friendship with God”—A Psychological Perspective”

Jennifer Muñoz

Each of us has habitual ways of interacting with others that affect the nature of our close personal relationships. These relationship patterns (or “attachment styles”) arise from deep beliefs about ourselves and others, and stem from early experiences and personal wounds. This talk discusses the ways in which our individual attachment style colors our perception of our relationship with God, especially in times of difficulty, pain, or spiritual dryness. (This research was originally developed in connection with the deep pain and conflict that leaving a religious community can cause in a person’s spiritual life, but is applicable to any experience of spiritual struggle.)

Bio

Jennifer Muñoz, Psy.D. earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from the Institute for the Psychological Sciences, a program that aims to integrate the science of psychology with the Catholic Church’s vision of the human person. Her doctoral dissertation considered the psychological factors that can affect a woman’s experience of a rupture in her relationship with Christ, akin to divorce, after leaving the religious life. She is also a homeschooling mother of three in South Bend, Indiana.

“Life-Giving Love in Open Adoption: A Foundation of Friendship”

Teresa Hess & Suzy Younger

Adoption is widely discussed in pro-life circles and open adoption is recommended to birth families as a way to remain a part of the child’s life. But few understand the details of what that “openness” means or the reality of what the on-going relationship looks like for the children or adults involved. This talk will feature a birth mother and an adoptive mother, sharing their story of courageous commitment to the same child. They will candidly discuss the joys and struggles each has faced and how commitment to making the good of another their own has allowed authentic friendship to flourish. Insights shared in this talk will be helpful in cultivating a more comprehensive understanding of open adoption in the context of the pro-life movement and will be an encouraging witness to the power of sacrificial love as a foundation of friendship.

Bio

Teresa Hess is a former English teacher for the Language and Catechetical Institute in Gaming, Austria. She is currently pursuing a degree in Nursing from Edison State College and works at Upper Valley Medical Center as a patient care technician. When not studying or working, she is chasing after her two-year-old daughter, Zelig, and planning her upcoming wedding. Teresa resides in Troy, OH.

Suzy Younger is a Certified FertilityCare™ Practitioner in a hospital-based program where she assists couples in learning the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System. Professionally, she

supports couples in practicing Natural Family Planning, assists those trying to conceive, offers medical alternatives to contraception, and teaches women of all ages how to be active participants in monitoring, preserving and/or restoring their own gynecologic and procreative health. She serves at the University of Notre Dame as coordinator of marriage preparation and is active within the deNicola Center for Ethics and Culture both as faculty for the Vita Institute and in leading Vocation to Love, a weekly women's discussion group exploring questions of identity in light of our Christian faith and contemporary pro-life feminism. She is a frequent lecturer on campus, preparing Master of Divinity students, seminarians, future physicians and the general student population to better understand the theology and biology behind the Church's teaching on marriage and family planning. At home, she strives to keep her sanity and sense of humor amidst the many demands of marriage, motherhood, and homeschooling and looks for ways to sanctify the daily grind so that she and her family may live each day with greater faith, joy, and holiness. She and her husband, Dave are blessed to be the parents of three beautiful children gifted to them by God through adoption. www.suzyyounger.com

**‘Wing to Wing, Oar to Oar’
ROOM 162 | Moderator: Mary FioRito**

“Friendship, Courtship, and Marriage in Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*”

Catherine Deavel (University of St. Thomas)

How important is friendship to marriage, in particular, a thriving Christian marriage, and why? What might Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* teach us about the role of friendship in proper understandings of romance, courtship, and marriage? I will follow the characters of Austen’s novel as they attempt to describe and to pursue (whether well, clumsily, or disastrously) happy married life. I will primarily focus on the emphasis given to friendship by Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy and the competing criteria for marriage defended by Elizabeth and her dear friend Charlotte Lucas.

Bio

Catherine Jack Deavel is an associate professor of philosophy at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. She received her doctorate from Fordham University and specializes in ancient Greek philosophy. She has published or presented on topics including Plato's Republic, Thomas Aquinas on friendship, and the Harry Potter series.

“The Virtue of Husband and Wife: Understanding Marital Friendship in Aquinas (with a Little Help from Homer)”

Scott Hefelfinger (Augustine Institute)

Aquinas calls marriage the greatest friendship; within this friendship, there is “a virtue proper to both husband and wife that renders their friendship delightful to each other” (*In VIII Ethic.*, l. 12). But what exactly does this virtue entail? Aquinas does not say. Living in a world of broken homes and “sexless marriages,” whatever this specific virtue is, we seem to need it. Looking at Aquinas’s broader teaching on friendship, and taking a hint from Homer, this paper unfolds the nature and activity of this domestic virtue and how it renders the friendship between husband and wife delightful.

Bio

Scott G. Hefelfinger is Assistant Professor of Theology at the Augustine Institute in Denver, CO. He holds a PhD in Moral Theology from the University of Notre Dame and an STL in Systematic Theology from the International Theological Institute (Austria). His interests include the thought of Thomas Aquinas, Catholic social teaching, spiritual theology, and the place of human beings in the natural world and within the web of technology that surrounds us. He and his wife, along with their three children, live in Centennial, CO, and love how the Rockies remind them of the Austrian Alps.

“Equality of Difference: Leading to a Most Profound Intimacy and Friendship”

Pia de Solenni (Diotima Consulting)

Relationships between women and men have long been the source of countless jokes and works of satire. Many are quick to make some equivalent of the “ball and chain” or “Mars and Venus” jokes. Yet, both Aristotle and Aquinas teach that a husband and wife may enjoy together the highest level of friendship, namely that of virtue. Notwithstanding the challenges of marriage, this paper seeks to look at the Catholic tradition, specifically that rooted in the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, to examine the complementarity between woman and man that can lead to a most profound type of friendship.

Bio

Dr. Pia de Solenni is a theologian, ethicist, and cultural analyst. Most recently she served as Chancellor of the Diocese of Orange and Theological Advisor to the Bishop. Her work has appeared in various publications including *The Wall Street Journal Europe*, *The Washington Post*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Our Sunday Visitor*, and *National Review Online*. She has also done extensive media.

Dr. de Solenni received her doctorate in sacred theology *summa cum laude* from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome. Her dissertation was published in the university series *Dissertationes*. On November 8, 2001, she received the 2001 Award of the Pontifical Academies for her doctoral work. The award was presented by John Paul II. Dr. de Solenni resides in San Diego, California.