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# ST ANSELM INSTITUTE

for Catholic Thought

Serving UVA Faculty, Students, Alumni  
and the Local Community Since 2000

## Our Mission

The St. Anselm Institute for Catholic Thought seeks to promote a Catholic intellectual presence and community at the University of Virginia, to make the richness and depth of the Catholic tradition of thought and action available for public consideration, and to contribute to Catholic intellectual and cultural life in Virginia and the United States.

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Thanks to generous supporters like you, the St. Anselm Institute had a very busy fall 2011 semester.

On **September 9**, we welcomed back faculty and students at our 6th Annual Faculty/Student Dinner, which we cosponsored with UVA-Catholic Student Ministry. We hosted all that we could: over 90 faculty, spouses and students from the College, the Engineering, Law, Medical and Nursing Schools, Darden, the Library, and the Curry School. This elegant and festive evening began with Evening Prayer led by Fr. Stephen Alcott, O.P. and included a fascinating talk by Prof. John Dobbins on the famous Transfiguration of Christ icon of St. Catherine Monastery at Mount Sinai.

On **September 16**, we welcomed Duke University Divinity School Professor Reinhard Huetter, a well-known theologian with an international scholarly reputation. Professor Huetter led one of our popular Doctores Ecclesiae Faculty/Student Lunch Seminars, selecting parts of Blessed John Henry Newman's classic *The Idea of the University* as our common text for discussion. He also opened our 11th Annual Distinguished Public Lecture Series at the University of Virginia. His well attended and lively Minor Hall Auditorium lecture provided a powerful and compelling Catholic philosophical critique of the fragmenting tendencies and instrumental mentalities deep at work in the modern research university.

On **September 26**, we convened a faculty/student lunch seminar on St. John of Avila (1499-1569), who only in August at the 2011 World Youth Day was declared the newest and 34th Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XVI.

On **October 21**, the Institute launched a new Friday Night at the Movies series. We screened the 2011 Cannes Film Festival Palme D'or Award winner: *The Tree of Life* (2011), starring Brad Pitt, Jessica Chastain, and Sean Penn. Written and directed by Terrence Malick, this critically acclaimed, unconventional, and visually rich narrative of a 1950s Catholic family in Waco, TX begins with a framing quotation

from *Job* (38:4,7) and offered the large Friday evening audience in Nau Auditorium the opportunity to think very hard and to be overwhelmed by the cosmic significance of the Act of Creation and our places within this larger, Grace filled Divine Narrative.

The Institute began the month of November by again encouraging our various audiences to participate in the St. Thomas Aquinas Haiti Ministry sponsorship drive for students of St. Michel Parish in Saltadere, Haiti. Drama Professor Kate Burke spoke eloquently at both the Fall Dinner and, more briefly, at one of our public lectures about the great needs of our many younger brothers and sisters in Haiti and she shared a very moving letter written to the St. Anselm Institute from our dear friend Fr. Blot, pastor of St. Michel.

On **November 4**, the Institute was honored to welcome Fr. John Sullivan, O.C.D., who accepted our invitation to give a public lecture on "The Academic Saint: The Life and Writings of St. Edith Stein/Teresa Benedicta of the Cross." Fr. Sullivan is the Provincial of the Washington Province of the Discalced Carmelites, the Order's Representative to the United Nations, and the editor of the recent English translations of the *Collected Works of St. Edith Stein*. Fr. Sullivan also led our third and final fall Doctors of the Church lunch seminar on the youngest and most modern of the Doctors: the ever loved Little Flower of Lisieux, St. Therese of the Child Jesus (1873-1897).

We concluded our fall semester on **November 18** with a public lecture by one of Europe's most innovative and prolific social theorists, German sociologist Hans Joas of the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies and the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. Professor Joas discussed the intellectual demise of the once widely held but now abandoned secularization thesis that economic progress and modernization would lead inevitably to religious decline.

Many thanks for your generous support, we're looking forward to 2012.

# Our Annual Fall Faculty/Student Dinner

"The St. Anselm Annual Student-faculty dinner allowed me to connect to other Catholic students and faculty that I otherwise would have never been connected to."

--Nikki Krzysik, '09



In 2006, the St. Anselm Institute resurrected the grand tradition of the academical dinner at the University of Virginia, holding our first and now annual fall dinner to open our calendar of events for the academic year.

This festive catered dinner, cosponsored with the Catholic Student Ministry group, brings together UVA faculty and students, various friends of the Institute, as well as the Dominican friars of St. Thomas University Parish.

UVA alum Nikki Krzysik, now a professional soccer player for the Philadelphia Independence, attended her first dinner and left encouraged "to hear about how" others "used their Catholic faith to positively influence the University."

This dinner event always begins with Evening Prayer, led by one of our local Dominican priests. For many faculty, spouses, and students, this opening

ritual is their first exposure to the Dominican practice of praying the Psalms and the Liturgy of the Hours in choir form.

After an elegant dinner and a roomful of felicitous conversation, a faculty member is called upon to deliver a short keynote address on a topic of their choice. Several years ago, Dr. Kant Lin discussed his work as a pediatric reconstructive plastic surgeon in light of John Paul II's Theology of the Body. More recently, political scientist Charles Kromkowski focused on the Catholic ideals of universalism and personalism and the practices of modern democracy, and Philosopher Jorge Secada reflected on the origins and purposes of universities as sites for contemplation and learning. with others. At the 2011 Dinner, Art History Professor John Dobbins analyzed the famous Transfiguration of Christ Icon at St. Catherine Monastery at Mount Sinai.

# Doctores Ecclesiae: Our Faculty/Student Lunch Seminar Series



The St. Anselm Institute initiated its popular Doctores Ecclesiae faculty-student lunch seminar series in 2008. The goal of these lunch seminars is to provide a friendly interdisciplinary setting for UVA students and faculty to meet outside of their classes and, often, one's particular area of study.

Each seminar centers on the life and works of one of the 34 Doctors of the Church; a learned Saint of the Church like St. Edith Stein or St. Gregory Palamas; or, on others who have assisted the Church in their thinking like Blessed. John Duns Scotus, Blessed John Henry Newman, and Boethius.

Prior academic experience is never required, and advanced doctoral and professional students often participate alongside first and second-year students. A different set of 3-4 faculty attend each lunch, creating pleasant yet often unexpected combinations of University professors and students. The net effect has been very positive. As one student reflected: "It is very easy to feel that one's academic life exists rather

independently of one's religion, but these Anselm Institute lunches prove that this need not be the case, and that is a heartening assurance."

The Doctors of the Church lunch seminars typically convene on Grounds, which also often means space is very limited and reservations are required by all participants. Before each lunch, faculty and student participants complete a short set of readings posted to the Institute website, which then serves as an initial focal point for the free flowing seminar discussion that subsequently ensues.

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"It was a very interesting discussion. I will read more from Ephrem. I hope my children will have these kinds of activities in their college experience."

--Faculty participant

## Faculty & Students:

If you have not yet participated in one of our lunch seminars: why not? Don't be bashful: we're waiting to hear from you. Email us at: [info@stanselmminstitute.org](mailto:info@stanselmminstitute.org), and we'll save you a seat.

## 2011-2012 Calendar

### Public Lecture Series

**Sept. 16: Reinhard Huetter**, Duke University. "A Catholic Philosophical Critique of the Modern Research University"

**Nov. 4: Fr. John Sullivan, O.C.D.**, "The Life & Writings of St. Edith Stein/Teresa Benedicta of the Cross"

**Nov. 18: Hans Joas**, Universities of Freiburg/Chicago, "Waves of Secularization: An Alternative Explanation"

**Jan. 25, 2012: Robert Louis Wilken**, Univ. of Virginia, Providence College, "The Catholic Roots of Religious Freedom"

**April 19, 2012: Brad Gregory**, University of Notre Dame, "The Unintended Revolution: How a Religious Reformation Secularized Society"

### Other Events

**September 9:** Annual Fall Faculty/Student Dinner, St. Thomas Aquinas Hall

#### **2011-12 Doctors of the Church Faculty/Student Lunch Seminar Series:**

Sept. 16: Blessed John Henry Newman; Sept. 26: St. John of Avila; Nov. 4: St. Therese of Lisieux; Jan. 20: Francisco de Vittoria, O.P. & Francisco Suárez, S.J.; Feb. TBA: St. Anselm; March: TBA; April 20: St. Francis de Sales

#### **Friday Night at the Movies:**

Oct. 21: *The Tree of Life*; Jan. 20: *The Mission*; Feb/March TBA: *The Way*

**April 21, 2012:** St. Anselm Feast Day

**May 19, 2012:** Baccalaureate Mass, St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish

**Visit us:**

**[www.stanselmminstitute.org](http://www.stanselmminstitute.org)**

## **VERBATIM: The St. Anselm Institute in the Words of Others:**

"The St. Anselm Institute is an extraordinary endeavor and I feel quite fortunate to have the opportunity to be a small part of such a noble undertaking."

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"I had not been aware of the establishment of the St. Anselm Institute at The University. My wife and I graduated in '92 and '91, respectively. Masses at St. Thomas were always full, but it is good to see that the Institute is fostering an intellectual culture of Catholics."

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"Our lives have been enriched by the variety of the topics and the highly qualified speakers you bring every time...thank you for a lovely evening."

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"I participated in a lunch last year and found it illuminating and inspiring. I'd love to be part of this series again."

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"Thank you for hosting the Catholic Student Ministry at the annual faculty-student dinner. We are so blessed to have the Institute's constant support and generosity. We look forward to extending our fellowship at the faculty-student lunches, and the great lecture series you have planned."

"Last night saw the largest turnout ever for this faculty-student dinner. That's great. I must say that the conversations at my table between faculty and students flowed quite easily and was very enjoyable. I look forward to next year."

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"Just a brief note to thank you again for both the invitation to speak and your hospitality. It was a visit I will remember fondly."

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"The Anselm Institute lunches provide one of the few opportunities for students enrolled at the University to engage intimately in conversation with professors they know to share certain fundamental beliefs. It is an invaluable comfort, in an increasingly secular academic world, to have access to successful participants in academia who strongly, and unabashedly, adhere to and proclaim their religious beliefs."

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"It was indeed a great pleasure for me to be among such an 'august' group of individuals! Truly inspiring!"

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"I had the good fortune of reading through the Institute website when I was making the decision which job offer to take. It was definitely a selling point for me."



**University of Chicago Professor Bernard McGinn engages a St. Anselm Institute audience in Minor Hall.**

# The St. Anselm Institute Distinguished Public Lecture Series, 2011-2001

## 2011-10 Public Lecture Series

**Thomas F.X. Noble**, University of Notre Dame History Department, "Faith Taking Shape: Early Christianity and the Arts," April 7, 2011.

**Catholic University of America Chamber Choir**, "A Winter's Evening Concert," Leo Nestor, conductor, Feb. 18, 2011.

**Richard Garnett**, University of Notre Dame Law School, "Positive Secularism: Understanding the Separation of Church and State," Feb. 4, 2011:

**George Weigel**, "The Life and Legacy of Pope John Paul II," Nov. 19, 2010.

**Miklos Veto**, "Approaches to God in the Philosophy of Jean Luc Marion," Oct. 19, 2010.

**Trent Pomplun**, Loyola University-Maryland, "Jesuit on the Roof of the World: Ippolito Desideri's Mission to Tibet," October 7, 2010.

## 2009-10 Public Lecture Series

**Elizabeth Schiltz**, Univ. of St. Thomas Law School, "Taking Complementarity Seriously: A Catholic Approach to Gender Differences, Feminism, and Public Policy," April 9, 2010:

**Robert Louis Wilken**, University of Virginia "Catholicism and Culture," March 25, 2010.

**Paul Mariani**, Boston College, "The Life and Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J.," October 22, 2009.

**Fr. Brendan McAnerney, O.P.** "Holy Icons - Holy Churches," September 30, 2009.

## 2008-09 Public Lecture Series

**W. David Solomon**, University of Notre Dame, April 16, 2009: "The Assault on Human Dignity: Can Bioethics Do Without it?"

**Stephen Barr**, Physics Department, University of Delaware, February 18, 2009: "Modern Physics and Ancient Faith"

**Bernard McGinn**, University of Chicago, Divinity School, February 12, 2009: "The Imitation of Christ and the Catholic Mystical Tradition"

**Anthony Esolen**, Providence College, November 5, 2008: "Dante: The Prison of Autonomy, the Freedom of Obedience"

**Augustine Thompson, O.P.**, University of Virginia, October 1, 2008: "The Quest for the Historical Francis of Assisi"

## 2007-08 Public Lecture Series

**Lamin Sanneh**, Yale University, March 26, 2008: "The Fall of Constantinople and the Fall of the Twin Towers"

**William Mahrt**, Music Department, Stanford University, February 20, 2008: "What Makes Music Sacred?" with vocal accompaniment by early music vocal ensemble Zephyrus, directed by Paul Walker, University of Virginia Music Department.

## 2007-08 Public Lecture Series (cont.)

**Mark C. Murphy**, Philosophy Department, Georgetown University, November 14, 2007: "God and Nature in Natural Law"

**Mother Assumpta Long, O.P.**, September 26, 2007: "The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Christian Life"

## 2006-2007 Public Lecture Series

**Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.**, March 22, 2007: "Catholicism in Post-Protestant America"

**John Cavadini**, University of Notre Dame, February 20, 2007: "Augustine's City of God and Political Realism"

**Gary Anderson**, University of Notre Dame, November 16, 2006: "The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Matriarchs of Israel"

**James Ceaser** (Politics), **Abdulazziz Sachedina** (Religious Studies), **Jorge Secada** (Philosophy), **Robert Wilken** (Religious Studies) November, 15, 2006: "Benedict XVI on 'Faith, Reason and the University': The Regensburg Address in Context"

**Columba Stewart, OSB**, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, September 27, 2006: "Living a Simple Life"

## 2005-06 Public Lecture Series

**James Murphy**, Dartmouth, April 4, 2006: "A Catholic Perspective on Work"

**Msgr. Francis Mannion**, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Salt Lake City, Utah, February 21, 2006: "The Liturgy as Festival of the Future World"

**Evelyn Vitz**, New York University, January 24, 2006: "The Sacredness of Time and Life's Rhythms"

**Edward Oakes, S.J.**, St. Mary of the Lake University, Mundelein, November 15, 2005: "Unreal Words: Truth and Beauty"

**Paul Griffiths**, Catholic Studies, University of Illinois, Chicago Circle, October 25, 2005: "The Love of Learning and the Desire for God: Catholicism and the Meaning of Study"

**Carol Zaleski**, Smith College, September 20, 2005: "The Two Benedicts and the Renewal of Catholic Culture"

## 2004-05 Public Lecture Series

**Daniel Sulmasy, O.v.F. M., M.D.**, Bioethics Institute, New York Medical College, April 5, 2005: "Catholic Christianity and the Meaning of Healing"

**Sr. Carol Taylor, C.S.F.N.**, Georgetown Center for Clinical Bioethics, March 1, 2005: "Spiritual Care for the Seriously Ill and Dying"

**Margaret Hogan**, University of Portland, February 1, 2005: "Genetic Testing: Cui Bono?"

**Robert Boyle**, M.D., University of Virginia Medical School, Nov. 15, 2004: "Moral Dilemmas at the Beginning and End of Life"

## 2004-05 Public Lecture Series (cont.)

**Edmund D. Pellegrino, M.D.**, Georgetown University, Oct. 19, 2004: "Modern Bioethics and the Catholic Moral Tradition"

**Robert P. George**, Princeton University, October 5, 2004: "The Embryo Question: Justice and Nascent Human Life"

## 2003-04 Public Lecture Series

**Fr. Michael Baxter, C.S.C.**, University of Notre Dame, April 21, 2004: "Beyond Liberal and Conservative Catholicism"

**Russell Hittinger**, University of Tulsa, March 30, 2004: "Catholic Social Doctrine in Historical Perspective"

**Joseph Bottum**, Feb. 17, 2004: "Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust"

**Peter Steinfels**, Columnist, *The New York Times*, November 11, 2003: "Catholics in the Public Square: The Case for Liberal Catholicism"

**Sr. Mary Rose McGeedy**, Covenant House, October 21, 2003: "Ministry to Street Kids: A Challenge to the Church"

**Fr. Richard John Neuhaus**, *First Things*, Sept. 30, 2003: "After Nihilism"

## 2002-03 Public Lecture Series

**Christopher L. Shannon**, Christendom College, April 2, 2003: "A Catholic Critique of Multiculturalism"

**Gregory Wolfe**, editor, *Image: A Journal of the Arts and Religion*, March 17, 2003: "Ever Ancient, Ever New: Contemporary Catholic Visual Artists"

**Duncan Stroik**, Notre Dame School of Architecture, November 12, 2002: "Beauty, Goodness, and Truth: What is the Future of Sacred Architecture?"

**Dana Gioia**, poet, October 2, 2002: "The Catholic Writer Today"

## 2001-02 Public Lecture Series

**Thomas S. Hibbs**, March 7, 2002: "Thomas Aquinas: Philosopher of the New Millennium"

**Cyprian Davis, OSB**, St. Meinrad's Archabbey, February 12, 2002: "Black Catholic Self-Understanding in 19th Century America"

**Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J.**, February 6, 2002: "Theology in the University"

**James J. Buckley**, Theology, Loyola College in Maryland, November 29, 2001: "John Henry Cardinal Newman"

**Fr. Gerald P. Fogarty, S.J.**, University of Virginia, November 8, 2001: "Commonwealth Catholicism: A History of the Catholic Church in Virginia"

**Hon. John T. Noonan, Jr.**, October 4, 2001: "Religion, Freedom, and Catholicism"



## Who We Are

The St. Anselm Institute is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, chartered in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Institute is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors composed of Catholic faculty, alumni of the University of Virginia, and several friends of the Institute's mission and activities. Dr. Robert Louis Wilken serves as Chairman of the St. Anselm Institute Board.

Several officers and a voluntary UVA Faculty Steering Committee shape and guide the Institute's activities throughout the year. Dr. Charles Kromkowski serves as the Institute's Executive Director; Dr. Jorge Secada is the Institute's third President; and Dr. John Miller serves as Vice-President and will become the Institute's fourth President in 2012-13.

## Our Mission

The mission of the St. Anselm Institute consists of three complementary commitments. The Institute exists to deepen the Catholic intellectual presence and community at the University of Virginia.

Second, the Institute is committed to developing programs that permit public consideration of the Catholic tradition of thought and action by all interested individuals at the University and in the local community.

Third, like the Lumen Christi Institute at the University of Chicago and similar organizations at other secular universities, the St. Anselm Institute strives to sustain and offer itself as a model for reinvigorating Catholic intellectual networks and cultural life among faculty, students, alumni and others associated with academic communities. Today, almost 90 per cent of U.S. Catholic undergraduate and graduate students attend secular universities and colleges. As an independent yet faculty-based organization, the St. Anselm Institute offers a structure and mission designed to help bridge the intellectual and cultural spaces that exist between secular universities and colleges, their Catholic student and workforce populations, and Catholic university parishes, Newman Centers, and Catholic student ministry groups.



## The St. Anselm Institute Needs Your Support

Since our beginning in 2000, we have been an independent, faculty-run nonprofit organization. Although we now support a full calendar of events throughout the academic year, we do not receive any University support for our programs. We do not yet have an endowment, so our presence and programs each year truly do rely upon generous and thoughtful individuals like you. We have accomplished much in a short time, but the needs and possibilities clearly remain great. Please have confidence that your generosity will be used wisely and fully to support and to extend the programs we freely provide to the University community. Please contact the Institute's President Jorge Secada or its Executive Director Dr. Charles Kromkowski with particular inquiries or questions: (by email) [info@stanselm.institute.org](mailto:info@stanselm.institute.org); or (by mail) The St. Anselm Institute for Catholic Thought, P.O. Box 6432, Charlottesville, VA 22906.

*All charitable donations to the St. Anselm Institute are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by the law. If needed, please consult a financial advisor to determine how your gift might best advance the Institute's immediate needs and long-term mission. The Institute's financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218.*

The St. Anselm Institute for  
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*Fides Quaerens Intellectum*  
Faith Seeking Understanding

## Postscript: Why the St. Anselm Institute?

**The St. Anselm Institute**  
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To learn more about the  
Institute, please visit:

[www.stanselmminstitute.org](http://www.stanselmminstitute.org)

"On University campuses, Catholic faculty are largely invisible. They are seldom known to students and, though many are accomplished scholars in their academic disciplines, few have the formation in Catholic culture or history to serve as mentors to students. More often than not, their Catholicism is a private and personal thing, an affair of piety and practice, divorced from the intellectual enterprise that is the business of the university. The absence of intellectual leadership on the part of Catholic faculty deprives students of models of well-educated Catholic laymen and laywomen who by their life and conversation display a mature and seasoned faith.... Sadly, many Catholic students will go through four years of college to become reasonably well informed in some area of study --European history, American literature, international politics, biology--yet leave the university children spiritually."

**Robert Louis Wilken, "Catholic  
Scholars,  
Secular Schools"**

"Whenever there is a loss of fidelity to the transcendent order, and a loss of respect for that "grammar" of dialogue which is the universal moral law written on human hearts, whenever the integral development of the person and the protection of his fundamental rights are hindered or denied, whenever countless people are forced to endure intolerable injustices and inequalities, how can we hope that the good of peace will be realized? .... [The Church] reminds everyone that, if peace is to be authentic and lasting, it must be built on the bedrock of the truth about God and the truth about man. This truth alone can create a sensitivity to justice and openness to love and solidarity, while encouraging everyone to work for a truly free and harmonious human family. The foundations of authentic peace rest on the truth about God and man.

**Pope Benedict XVI, "Message for the  
World Day of Peace in 2006"**