



AMERICAN JACQUES MARITAIN ASSOCIATION

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CALL FOR PAPERS

AMERICAN JACQUES MARITAIN ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

2007 ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 25-28, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

“THE MAJESTY AND POVERTY OF METAPHYSICS”

CO-SPONSORED BY: THE MARITAIN CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

& WALSH UNIVERSITY

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Program Chair: Gavin Colvert

Program Committee: Joe Butera, Peter Koritansky, John O'Callaghan, John Trapani

The American Jacques Maritain Association invites proposals for papers to be delivered at its annual conference to be held at the University of Notre Dame, IN, on October 25-28, 2007.

The theme for this year's conference is drawn from the opening essay of Maritain's masterwork, *The Degrees of Knowledge*. While papers need not address this essay specifically, conference participants are invited to examine it and the larger themes of Maritain's book as a starting point for their own reflections. As Maritain notes in the essay, speaking of the contemporary world, "...the very age that is unaware of the majesty of metaphysics, likewise overlooks its poverty. Its majesty? It is wisdom. Its poverty? It is human science." Maritain was acutely aware of the fact that the empiricist turn of modernity called into question the continued relevance of metaphysics as a form of human inquiry. While *The Degrees of Knowledge* provides a fundamentally optimistic account of the future of metaphysics, it also cautions the reader not to exaggerate its potential. Metaphysics opens the door to wisdom and indeed to mystical experience, but it is not a substitute. Maritain notes, "That, then is the poverty of metaphysics (and its majesty, too). It awakens a desire for supreme union, for spiritual possession completed in the order of reality itself and not only in the concept. It cannot satisfy that desire." Accordingly, central themes in *The Degrees of Knowledge* include: philosophical realism, philosophy and empirical knowledge, metaphysical knowledge, mystical experience, and speculative and practical knowing. Papers on the subjects of metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of human nature and science, philosophical theology, and ethics would all be highly appropriate. We also welcome papers on the work of cognate thinkers who were known to Maritain or who profited from his work.

Presentations at the meeting will be limited to 25 minutes reading time. Participants may wish to have their papers considered for publication in the AMA book series following the conference.

By **June 15th 2007** please send papers or paper proposals (of no more than 2 pp.) to the Program Chair: Gavin Colvert, Associate Professor, Philosophy Department, Assumption College, 500 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609 (email: gcolvert@assumption.edu). **Email submissions are especially encouraged.**

A special invitation is extended to graduate students. A stipend of \$250.00 together with waiver of registration fees will be awarded to a graduate student for paper presentation. In order to be considered for this award, please submit a completed essay (no longer than 12 double spaced pages) indicating department affiliation to the Program Chair by **June 15th 2007**. The essay must be marked clearly as a graduate student submission in order to be considered for the award.

In addition, the AMA extends an invitation to societies or individuals interested in organizing a satellite session for the 2007 conference. Session organizers should submit by the deadline a brief description of the proposed session, including presenters' names, presentation titles, academic affiliations and a brief description of each presentation. For further information please contact the Program Chair.

The conference venue: The University of Notre Dame is one of America's premiere Catholic universities. Located in Indiana on a picturesque and historic campus, Notre Dame provides a world-class destination for academic conferences. The conference hotel, The Morris Inn, is conveniently located on the Notre Dame Campus directly across from the Conference Center. Participants will be able to enjoy fully the Notre Dame setting (sorry not a football weekend) during the conference. The campus is located approximately 15 miles from the South Bend Regional Airport and is accessible by taxi service (about \$15.00 - \$20.00).