



AMERICAN JACQUES MARITAIN ASSOCIATION

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CALL FOR PAPERS

AMERICAN MARITAIN ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

2008 ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 23-25, BOSTON, MA

“LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP”

CO-SPONSORED BY: ST. JOHN’S SEMINARY AND BOSTON COLLEGE

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Local Chairs: Fr. Romanus Cessario, O.P. & Jorge Garcia

Program Chair: Gavin Colvert

Program Committee: Fr. Romanus Cessario O.P., Jorge Garcia, Bill Haggerty, and John Trapani

The American Maritain Association invites proposals for papers to be delivered at its annual conference to be held in Boston, MA, Thursday – Saturday, October 23-25, 2008.

Sponsored by St. John’s Seminary and Boston College, the theme for this year’s conference is “Love and Friendship,” which is the title of Chapter VII of Maritain’s Notebooks. While papers may be on any topic of philosophical merit, conference participants are encouraged to examine this text and reflect on its contents and the larger themes it suggests. This chapter, written in 1962, is different from the other diary-like entries found in the Notebooks. It contains a rich text that Maritain wrote in response to issues raised by the prior publication of Raissa’s Journal: “In the following pages, a first part has for its aim to comment on and to develop certain things which Raissa has said very clearly but very briefly. In a second and a third part, I would like to propose my own views on some problems which today preoccupy many minds.” The love between Jacques and Raissa, as well as the many deep and lasting friendships that Jacques sustained, including his friendship with Giovanni Montini – Pope Paul VI, the 30th anniversary of whose death we commemorate this year – are all worthy models of a spiritual life that brightens the despair and superficiality sometimes prevalent as a result of the technological and media influences that complicate human relationships in the 21st century. Papers specifically on the subjects of love and friendship, as well as related themes in the philosophy of human nature, social/political thought, 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, with 15 minutes for discussion. Participants may wish to have their papers considered for publication in the AMA book series following the conference.

By **June 15th 2008**, please send papers or paper proposals (of no more than 2 pages) to the Program Chair: Gavin Colvert, Associate Professor, Philosophy Department, Assumption College, 500 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609 (email: gcolvert@assumption.edu). **The Chair prefers email submissions.**

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 2008**. 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 2008 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: Boston, MA is one of America’s premiere cities. Located on the Charles River, Boston is home to numerous colleges and universities and is distinguished as one of the historic and culture capitols of the world. The Thursday and Friday conference sessions will be held at the Tremont Marriott Courtyard Hotel, in Boston’s downtown theater district, which is a short walk from the Boston Common. On Saturday, participants will be able to enjoy the beautiful campuses of both St. John’s Seminary and Boston College (sorry not a football weekend), and the Conference closing mass on Saturday will be celebrated by Boston’s **Cardinal Sean O’Malley**. The conference venue is conveniently accessible by Logan International Airport and the historic Boston MTA transit system.