

The Maritain Notebook

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN MARITAIN ASSOCIATION / VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1 / SUMMER 2022

President's Remarks

Introduction

I want to begin by thanking the outgoing officers for their many years of service to the AMA. Jim Hanink, Joshua Schulz, Heather Erb, and Giuseppe Butera all stepped up and served two full terms (and in some cases, even longer!). The AMA appreciates all they have contributed to our ongoing success.

I also want to recognize the new officers: Jim Murdoch as Vice-President, Matthew Minerd as Secretary and Webmaster, and Travis Dumsday as General Editor (after acting as assistant GE for Giuseppe for a number of years). Due to personal reasons Daniel Wagner had to step down as treasurer. Francisco Plaza will be the acting Treasurer. We will revisit this office at our next meeting.

CFP: 2023 Conference

As my first order of business, I am happy to present the call for papers for our 46th Annual Meeting. (See below in the Newsletter.) Our next conference, to be hosted by the University of Dallas, coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Jacques Maritain on April 28, 1973. It is only appropriate, therefore, that the theme of the conference is "Commemorating the

Legacy of Jacques Maritain on the Fiftieth Anniversary of His Death."



The late Jude Dougherty was effusive in his estimation of Maritain's influence: "As a model of the philosopher working within the Catholic faith and drawing upon antiquity and the Middle Ages, principally Aquinas, to address contemporary issues, Maritain is likely to be unsurpassed. In the twentieth century he preeminently represented the *philosophia perennis* and has thereby earned the accolade of 'doctor of the Church.'" We students of Maritain seek to emulate this model by cultivating the wisdom of the perennial tradition in response to the challenges the modern world continues to throw at us. Maritain's legacy, then, is not a nostalgic curation of past

philosophies, but an intrepid engagement with the world of ideas, an engagement grounded in the confidence in Truth that only faith-filled reason can provide.

Plenary Speakers for 2023

Our commemoration of Maritain's legacy will reflect the breadth of topics in which he exercises ongoing importance for contemporary Catholic thought. The question of the relationship of faith and reason will be the topic for William Sweet of St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, and former President of the Canadian Maritain Association. Noted poet and scholar James Matthew Wilson, of the University of St. Thomas, Houston, will consider Maritain's aesthetics. The political philosophy of Maritain will be discussed by Brad Lewis of The Catholic University of America. And the wider implications of Maritain's social teaching will be addressed by Timothy B. Shah, founder of the Jacques and Raïssa Maritain Program on Catholicism, Public Life, and World Affairs at the University of Dallas.

Upgrading our Web Presence

Apart from the conference, we seek to generate involvement in the AMA through these newsletters and the website. We recognize that over the past few years Covid has been a great impediment for members trying to stay involved in the conferences. So, to

reconnect with members—and attract new ones—we encourage you to keep an

eye out for augmented offerings in both fora in the near future. Please look below for comments from Matthew Minerd about how you can participate in this.

Preparing for Future Conferences

As we look forward to next year's meeting in Dallas, we also keep an eye on conferences after that. If you would like to serve as host of a future meeting, please let us know. We are thankful to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for hosting our last five (!) conferences. I hope that schools in other states are interested in taking their turn. Also, if you have any suggestions about how to improve the AMA and its conference, please contact me.

Closing Remarks

As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Jacques Maritain, I want to offer for your consideration his own thoughts about those who have passed to eternal life: "There is something which scandalizes me: it is the manner in which Christians speak of their deceased.

They call them the dead—they have not been capable of renewing the miserable human vocabulary on a point which nevertheless concerns the essential data of their faith. The dead! ... As if they weren't billions of times more living than we! As if the fundamental truth stated in the Preface of the Burial Mass: *vita mutatur, non tollitur*—life is changed, it is not taken away—was itself a dead truth." In commemorating the anniversary of Jacques Maritain's death, we must keep in mind that both Jacques and his legacy are indeed alive!

James Jacobs, President

REMARKS FROM THE SECRETARY

We would like to continue "sprucing up" our web presence, which really is only beginning its new life, started during the beginning of the Covid pandemic. Moreover, we believe that we can also use the Maritain Notebook as a useful way to keep the membership engaged with each other throughout the year. For now, we will be returning to a *quarterly* format. In due time, we would like to begin soliciting content from members of the association. Indeed, it is my hope, as secretary, that I will someday have the duty to do the newsletter monthly. However, we will take this step-by-step...! In the coming month, look for an email from me requesting further information for our online presence.

Online Update Summary

- We believe it would be helpful to list membership online. I even think it would be very useful to create separate webpages for the membership, with links to your work and publications. Undoubtedly, at first, this will create a good bit of work for me. However, in due time, it would create a *very* compelling website which could showcase the vibrancy of our membership, perhaps increase our sphere of influence, and also draw new membership into the fold. This will be *optional*, but we hope that you will consider taking part in this!
- We would like to begin a process of publishing book reviews on the website—something simple but useful to the membership. We are still working out the exact details of this. Eventually, we would also include these reviews in the newsletter as well.
- I plan to begin a monthly process of emailing membership, at the start of each month, to ask for any recommendations for website postings and announcements.
- Other plans will develop in light of our experiences implementing these ones

Newsletter Updates

- We plan to create a fair process that will allow membership to write brief comments to be included in the newsletter. We will be in touch with further details about this as we work on our next newsletter. This will allow the membership to reflect on current events in the Church and the world, in light of our shared philosophical and theological commitments.
- Every issue I want to showcase *all* the work done by the membership during the time since the previous issue. I will email to solicit this information.
- We will also include "new book" postings of interest for the membership in the newsletter. I will also solicit for this information via email.

I look forward to working to make the newsletter and website tools that can showcase all of your wonderful work and service to the truth and the Church!

Matthew Minerd, Secretary
webmaster@americanmaritainassociation.com

Some Other “Housekeeping”

DUES REMINDER

We will begin collecting yearly dues in July 2022. Please consider paying this before the conference, as the dues help us to budget for the event, in particular for the honoraria that we offer to plenary speakers. Thank you for your continued membership and support!

DUES PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE WEBSITE AT AMERICANMARITAINASSOCIATION.COM

INFORMATION IS ON THE MAIN PAGE

ACPA SATELLITE SESSION

The AMA will be hosting a satellite session at the annual meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, to be held Nov. 17–20, 2022 in New Orleans, LA. It will be entitled “The Challenge of Maritain's Aesthetics.” Presenters will include Stephen Chamberlain, John Trapani, and Jim Jacobs. Let's make a good show for the AMA when everyone is gathered together for the conference!

Also, start thinking about possible satellite sessions for the 2023 meeting of the ACPA. We would like to start hosting a satellite session at every ACPA meeting.

GROWING OUR MEMBERSHIP

As we work to “return to normalcy” after the events of 2020–2021, we want to work to grow our membership. As members, *you* are the best spokespersons for the Association. There are many young scholars who desire to take part in the ongoing renewal of the Catholic intellectual life, especially in a Thomistic way. Let's work to recruit them to take part in our ongoing conversation in service to the Truth.

A WORD FROM MARITAIN....

“It should be noted that Saint Paul makes professors play a central role in the spread of [this] sickness. A time will come, he tells us (2 Tim 4:3–4), when men will be taken in tow by a crowd of *didaskaloi* because their ears will itch. In other words, this sickness—which is very contagious, to judge from appearances—will have its breeding ground among the experts or professors. And the itching in the ears will become so general that no one will be able to hear the truth any longer, and men will turn to fables—*epi tous muthous*, writes St. Paul, to myths. But hold on, aren't these the precious myths on which we are gorging ourselves? Of course they are, but they are not the great venerable myths of the youth of mankind. Our craving is for myths of decay, a sterile and synthetic lot (the work of professors)—in particular the myths of demythologizing....

In one form or another, it is always the adoration of the ephemeral, whether to be devoured by it, or to accept, with eyes closed, what it has engendered (in the line of decent leading to him) up to the time he enters the list himself.

By being concerned for truth, and by grasping it, the spirit transcends time. To make the things of the spirit pass under the law of the ephemeral—which is the law of matter and the purely biological—to act as if the spirit were subject to the lord of the flies, is the first sign, the first major symptom of the sickness denounced by Saint Paul”

The Peasant of the Garonne, 12–14.

trans. Michael Cuddihy and Elizabeth Hughes
New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1968



2023 AMA Conference CFP

Commemorating the Legacy of Jacques Maritain on the Fiftieth Anniversary of His Death

THE 46TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MARITAIN ASSOCIATION

Thursday, April 27 to Saturday, April 29, 2023
Hosted by the University of Dallas, Irving, TX

April 28, 2023, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Jacques Maritain. We therefore take this opportunity to reflect on the significance of Maritain's thought in his own day and its continued relevance for Catholic thinkers in ours. Like his great teachers, Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas, Maritain himself embraced a "supreme docility to the lessons of the real [that ground] the principles and the scale of values" (Degrees of Knowledge, xiv) in the full spectrum of intellectual inquiry, from science and politics to art and theology. Maritain's dedication to the unity of wisdom based in being is a model for contemporary scholars in their work to overcome both the groundless idealism of modern philosophy and the overspecialization that obscures the integrity of human experience.

Accordingly, we invite proposals for papers in any area of philosophy considering how Maritain influenced the development of Catholic and Thomistic thought in the twentieth century and how his contribution to the *philosophia perennis* inspires continued efforts to align man with reality. We also invite papers on any topic in which the perennial philosophy engages issues of contemporary debate.

PLENARY SPEAKERS TO INCLUDE:

V. Bradley Lewis (*The Catholic University of America*)

Timothy B. Shah (*University of Dallas*)

William Sweet (*St Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia*)

James Matthew Wilson (*University of St. Thomas, Houston*).

SUBMISSIONS

Please send proposals of up to 500 words that explore the above and related questions to **Dr. James M. Jacobs at jjacobs@nds.edu** by January 1, 2021. There is a \$250 prize and a guarantee of publication for the best graduate student paper; this paper is to be submitted by January 15, 2023. For more information, visit www.americanmaritainassociation.com. **Final presentations should be 25-30 minutes in length.**

CONFERENCE FEES

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: \$125 (\$50 for students).

OPTIONAL CONFERENCE BANQUET AND PREPRANDIALS: \$50.

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$75.00 (\$35.00 for students).

We encourage online payment by March 15, 2023.

Registration at the conference will be \$175.00 (\$75.00 for students)

Program Committee: James M. Jacobs (President), James M. Murdoch (Vice-President and Program Chair), Matthew Minerd (Secretary and Web Editor), Francisco Plaza (Acting Treasurer), Travis Dumsday (General Editor)

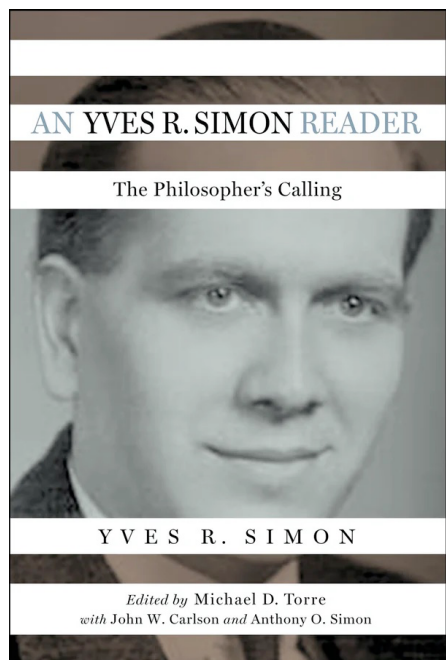
Recent Books by Members of the AMA

(This is a preview of our future planned section, based on submissions from membership.)

AN YVES R. SIMON READER: THE PHILOSOPHER'S CALLING

By Yves R. Simon

Edited by Michael Torre, with John W. Carlson and Anthony O. Simon



An Yves R. Simon Reader is the first collection of texts from the entirety of the philosopher's work.

In *An Yves R. Simon Reader: The Philosopher's Calling*, Michael D. Torre provides an erudite and helpful introduction to Simon's life and thought. The volume contains selected key texts from all of Simon's twenty books, half of which were published posthumously. The selections are long enough to be substantive and contain sustained and complete arguments. Each selection has its own foreword by an eminent commentator, familiar with Simon's work, who lays out the necessary context for the reader.

The hallmarks of his work—his careful conceptual analysis, his genius for finding undervalued examples, and his talent for creating expressions that revived an outworn idea—are on display throughout. Indeed, as one of the book's contributors says, Simon touched nothing that he did not adorn. The result is a highly readable introduction to the thought of a key and underappreciated modern philosopher.

PAPERBACK, 514 PP.

PRICE: \$45.00

ISBN: 978-0268108304

AVAILABLE AT:

UNDPRESS.ND.EDU

AMAZON.COM

Volume includes section introductions written by the following contributors:

Michael D. Torre, Jude P. Dougherty, Raymond Dennehy, John C. Cahalan, Steven A. Long, Ralph Nelson, John P. Hittinger, Ralph McInerny, David B. Burrell, CSC, Laurence Berns, Catherine Green, W. David Solomon, V. Bradley Lewis, Joseph W. Koterski, SJ, James V. Schall, SJ, George Anastaplo, Walter J. Nicgorski, John A. Gueguen, Jr., Thomas R. Rourke, Jeanne Heffernan Schindler, and Robert Royal.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Michael D. Torre is associate professor of philosophy at the University of San Francisco. He is the author and editor of twelve books, including *Do Not Resist the Spirit's Call: Francisco Marín-Sola on Sufficient Grace*.

Recent Books by Members of the AMA

(This is a preview of our future planned section, based on submissions from membership.)

ETHICAL EXCELLENCE PHILOSOPHERS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, AND REAL-LIFE EXEMPLARS SHOW US HOW TO ACHIEVE IT

By Heidi M. Giebel.



PAPERBACK, 400 PP.

PRICE: \$34.95

ISBN: 978-0813233338

AVAILABLE AT:

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WHY DO SOME PEOPLE ACHIEVE ETHICAL EXCELLENCE WHILE OTHERS FAIL? For example, how did Gloria Lewis overcome a lifetime of difficulty and go on to found a non-profit focused on feeding the homeless while Danny Starrett, despite a seemingly ideal childhood, became a rapist and murderer? Why did some Germans rescue their Jewish neighbors while others stood by?

The three approaches deployed in this book—philosophical, psychological, and biographical—help to triangulate" ethical excellence and its achievement, presenting a much clearer and more complete picture than we can get from any one of these methods alone.

“Offers a novel approach by bringing together two wisdom traditions, contemporary psychological research on character development, and the stories of real-life exemplars in order to give helpful advice on how to become virtuous...shows what can be gained by making philosophy more personal.”

— David McPherson
Creighton University”

“Ethical Excellence is an amazing achievement. Drawing on ancient Greek and Confucian philosophy, contemporary psychology, interviews with sixteen living exemplars, and her own lived experience, Heidi Giebel takes us on a fascinating tour of the virtues and what it is to live a life of excellence. Highly recommended!”

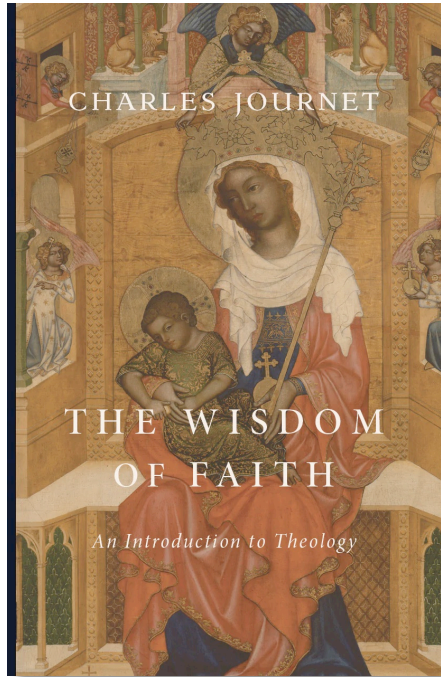
— Christian Miller,
Wake Forest University
And Director of the Honesty Project

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Heidi Giebel is professor of philosophy at the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota.

THE WISDOM OF FAITH: AN INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY

By Charles Journet | Translated by R. F. Smith, S.J.



PAPERBACK, 242 PP.

PRICE: \$22.95

ISBN: 978-1952826818

AVAILABLE AT:

CLUNYMEDIA.COM

AMAZON.COM

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, always distinguishing, asserts that wisdom takes three forms: that of love, which comes from the Holy Spirit; that of faith, which emanates from revelation; and that of reason, which develops into metaphysics and measures the natural order. In *The Wisdom of Faith: An Introduction to Theology*, Charles Journet considers the second form of wisdom and conducts a study of *sacra doctrina*, the teachings of divine revelation. Following the Angelic Doctor, Journet traces the nature, purpose, and practice of the theological science from the necessary truths imparted to the human race by divine revelation.

Covering such topics as the doctrine of analogy, the *fides et ratio* relationship, and the distinction between “doctrinal” and “historical” theology, *The Wisdom of Faith* is a sweeping treatment of the many facets of the queen of the sciences, and one able to provide a “theological sense that is at once sure, vivifying, [and] lucid.”

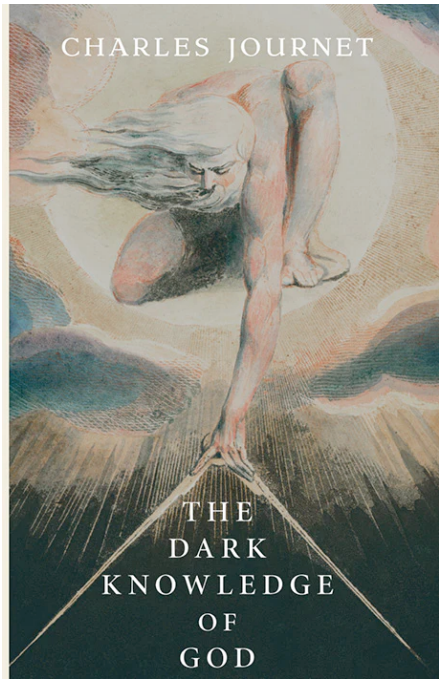
“There can be no question whether or not theology is necessary. For all men theologize. The only question worth asking is whether the theology that exists is good or bad, true or false, complete or incomplete”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CHARLES JOURNET (1891–1975) was a Swiss Roman Catholic theologian and cardinal. In 1926, with his close friend Jacques Maritain, Journet founded the influential theological journal *Nova et Vetera*. His works in English include: *The Dark Knowledge of God*, *The Church of the Word Incarnate*, and *The Meaning of Evil*.

THE DARK KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

By Charles Journet | *Translated by* James F. Anderson



PAPERBACK, 148 PP.

PRICE: \$18.95

ISBN: 978-1952826214

AVAILABLE AT:

CLUNYMEDIA.COM

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FROM SACRED SCRIPTURE TO THE *SUMMA THEOLOGIAE*, the silent wisdom of the *via negativa* has inspired what Charles Journet calls the “*unknowing* of love and the ignorance that is truly *learned*.” *The Dark Knowledge of God* conducts a concise overview of the apophatic tradition with a series of intriguing meditations on the divine nature. In entering into the awesome mystery of God himself, we encounter all other mysteries in their true depth.

Moving nimbly from metaphysics to mysticism, Journet clarifies the key insight of the apophatic tradition—that we can neither speak nor stay silent about God—in such a way as to allow the dark mystery of God to shine as a light on the path of Truth.

“This Name, ineffable here below, the elect shall know by being born again to eternal life. God, Who alone can pronounce it fully, will impart It to them; he will Himself form his name within them. ‘If we could know the divine essence as It is in Itself,’ St. Thomas says, ‘and name it by Its proper name, we would express It by one unique name...’. It will not be a sonorous name which might be uttered in some human language; it will be a name of fire and of light, a spiritual name, a name that sustains and invades the heart of man. This Name will be pronounced in the hearts of the elect and of the angels (immersed in It like a sponge in the sea) by the divine essence Itself. And this Name will of *Itself* be able to show forth all the transparency and all the fulness of the divine essence. But no creature will *in fact* ever possess it to the point of exhausting Its content or of circumscribing Its wealth; for to know absolutely all that God is, it is necessary to *be* absolutely all that God is.”

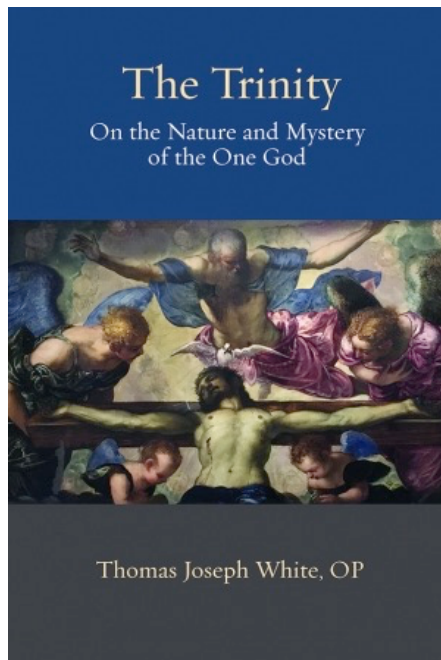
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Recent Publications of Interest...

THE TRINITY: ON THE NATURE AND MYSTERY OF THE ONE GOD

By Fr. Thomas-Joseph White, OP



PAPERBACK, 738 PP.

PRICE: \$34.95

ISBN: 978-0813234830

AVAILABLE AT:

HFSBOOKS.COM

AMAZON.COM

THE TRINITY is the central mystery of the Christian faith. What can we say about the divine nature, and what does it mean to say that God is Father, Son, Holy Spirit, three persons who are one in being? In this book, best selling author Thomas Joseph White, OP, examines the development of early Christian reflection on the Trinity, arguing that essential contributions of Patristic theology are preserved and expanded in the thought of Thomas Aquinas.

By focusing on Aquinas' theology of the divine nature as well as his treatment of divine personhood, White explores in depth the mystery of Trinitarian monotheism. *The Trinity: On the Nature and Mystery of the One God* also engages with influential proposals of modern theologians on major topics such as Trinitarian creation, Incarnation and crucifixion, and presents creative engagements with these topics. Ultimately any theology of the cross is also a theology of the Trinity, and this book seeks to illustrate how the human life, death, and resurrection of Jesus reveal the inner life of God as Trinity.

"This book will be very helpful to students, and to professors as well. Thomas Joseph White brings together what textbooks too often divide: he offers a study that exposes simultaneously God as One and as Trinity. The patristic and Thomistic parts of the book are very well done (with a solid rooting in the Bible); the critical discussion of contemporary currents of Trinitarian theology is well documented and really enlightening. An excellent contribution, in the Dominican tradition, to contemporary theological reflection on the subject."

- Fr. Gilles Emery, OP
University of Fribourg

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

FR. THOMAS JOSEPH WHITE, OP, is the Rector of the Angelicum at Rome, and author of *The Light of Christ: An Introduction to Catholicism* and *The Incarnate Lord: A Thomistic Study in Christology* (both CUA Press).



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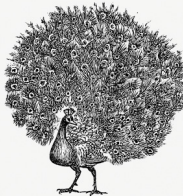
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