Daily Schedule
(Unless otherwise indicated in the detailed schedule)

8:45 am .................. Breakfast
10:00–11:20 am ............. Lecture
12:00 noon ................. Lunch
1:30 pm ..................... Lecture
2:50 pm ..................... Coffee Break
3:20 pm ..................... Quodlibet
4:10–5:00 pm .............. Quodlibet

In addition to the ordinary liturgical schedule on campus, a special Holy Mass will be available every day at 8:15 am for the participants.

Grant me, O merciful God,
that I might ardently love,
prudently ponder,
rightly acknowledge,
and perfectly fulfill
all that is pleasing to you,
for the praise and glory of your name.

~Saint Thomas Aquinas

The development of modern philosophy and human-rights politics were closely connected to the famous hypothesis eiamus daremos non esse Deum—ethics, it was claimed, was grounded on nature and did not need God to be valid. Not long after, nature was strongly challenged too; and skepticism, nihilism, and the will to power joined, in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the strongest movements of practical and theoretical atheism ever seen in human history. This has not produced much good fruit. Today scholars look more and more for new solutions in the past. They have initiated a slow but wise rereading of pre-modern traditions, which confronts two main challenges: namely, to recover the concept of nature, on the one hand, and to examine whether God has any real role to play in moral philosophy, on the other.

Participants to this conference have been asked to address primarily, but not exclusively, the second challenge. The inspiration of the conference is Thomistic and philosophical. This leads to dialogue with other traditions as well as with other branches of human knowledge. The invited speakers include not only prominent philosophers but also theologians and political scientists; and not all of them are, strictly speaking, Thomists. At the same time, several speakers are leading natural law theorists, and so the conference will be of special interest to scholars and students of natural law and related areas.

The Banquet will cost $25 and will take place at The Morris Inn on the Notre Dame campus. Dinner is free for the speakers. Both participants and speakers, to assure themselves a place at the dinner, should contact the Maritain Center before July 1, 2003.

Conference Coordinator:
Fulvio Di Blasi
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Ethics Without God?
July 13–20, 2003
The Jacques Maritain Center
at the University of Notre Dame
In collaboration with Fondazione Rui’s VI European Seminar of Philosophical Studies
SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2003

Evening
Arrival of Participants

7:30 pm Welcome and Keynote Address:
   Ralph McInerny
   Director of the Jacques Maritain Center,
   Notre Dame

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2003

Morning Session
Chair: Jeffrey Langan
   University of Notre Dame, IN
10:00 am Lecture: Hierarchy and Direction for Choice
   Daniel McInerny, Liberty Fund, Inc.

Afternoon Session
Chair: Marie I. George
   St. John's University, NY
1:30 pm Lecture: The Divine in Aquinas's Commentary on the Ethics:
   Can We Be Good without God?
   Christopher Kaczor
   Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles
3:20 pm Quodlibet: The End of Human Life:
   in Aquinas' Sententia libri Ethicorum
   Antonio Donato, St. Hugh's, Oxford
4:10 pm Quodlibet: "Lire les mystiques sans Dieu":
   Interpersonal Communication,
   Mystical Language, and God in the Late Roland Barthes
   Marco Maggi, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2003

Morning Session
Chair: Laura Garcia
   Boston College, MA
10:00 am Lecture: Without God: Resentment and Utopia in Mainstream Fiction
   Paolo Braga, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2003

Morning Session
Chair: Anthony J. Lisska
   Denison University, Ohio
10:00 am Lecture: God and Natural Law
   Steven Long, University of St. Paul, MI

Afternoon Session
Chair: Ralph McInerny
   Jacques Maritain Center, Director
1:30 pm Book Presentation: Real Ethics:
   Rethinking the Foundation of Morality
   Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002
   John M. Rist
   Speakers:
   Michael Dauphinais, Ave Maria College, MI
   Barry David, Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH
   Armando Fumagalli, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano
   Daniel McInerny, Liberty Fund, Inc.
3:10 pm Break
3:30 pm Reply by John M. Rist
   Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Classics
   at the University of Toronto
4:10 pm Free Discussion

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2003

Morning Session.
Chair: Matthew Levering
   Ave Maria College, MI
10:00 pm Lecture: Knowledge of the Good as Participation in God's Love
   Fulvio Di Blasi, Jacques Maritain Center, Notre Dame

Afternoon Session
Chair: Ralph McInerny
   Jacques Maritain Center, Director
1:30 pm Book Presentation: The First Grace:
   Rediscovering the Natural Law in a Post-Christian World
   Wilmington, DE: ISI Books, 2003
   Russell Hittinger
   Speakers:
   Robert A. Gahl, Pontificia Università della Santa Croce, Roma
   Joshua Hochschuld, Wheaton College, IL
   Matthew Levering, Ave Maria College, MI
   Steven Long, University of St. Paul, MI
   Michael Zuckert, University of Notre Dame, IN
3:10 pm Break
3:30 pm Reply by Russell Hittinger
   Chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Religion
   at the University of Tulsa
4:10 pm Free Discussion
6:45 pm Banquet

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2003

Morning Session
Chair: John M. Rist
   Emeritus, University of Toronto, Canada
10:00 pm Lecture: Who Made the Law? God, Ethics, and the Law of Nature
   Robert A. Gahl, Pontificia Università della Santa Croce, Roma

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2003

Morning Session
Chair: Kevin McDonnell
   Saint Mary's College, IN
10:00 pm Lecture: Is Ethical Naturalism Possible in Thomas Aquinas?
   Anthony J. Lisska, Denison University, Ohio
11:20 pm Coffee Break
11:40 pm Lecture: Ethics with One Wing
   Laura Garcia, Boston College, MA
1:00 pm Lunch

Afternoon Session
Chair: Fulvio Di Blasi
   Jacques Maritain Center, Notre Dame
3:00 pm Lecture: Can an Aristotelian be a Friend of God?
   Kevin Flannery, Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Roma

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2003

8:00 am Holy Mass
8:45 am Breakfast
10:00 am Departure