Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage & Family

at The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

ACADEMIC CATALOG

2021 – 2023
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family is:

1. To provide a comprehensive understanding of marriage and family faithful to the Catholic magisterial tradition in light of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and Pope John Paul II, by means of a multidisciplinary education centered in theology and integrated in light of John Paul II’s notion of man and woman as an embodied, sexually differentiated communion of persons created in the image of God and destined for a state of life;

2. To develop a critical understanding of issues on marriage and family, biotechnology and ethics in light of Western/modern assumptions regarding the human person, as these bear on the nature and dignity of human life and the transcendental meaning of beauty, truth, and goodness, in a way that fosters a unity of theory and pastoral practice at the service of the Church’s “new evangelization”;

3. To offer accredited pontifical degree programs, as well as civilly accredited graduate degree programs (master’s, license, and doctoral-level education);

4. To prepare graduates (laypersons, priests, and religious) for teaching and research in academic, seminary, and diocesan contexts; for work in legal, medical, and other professional occupations; and for evangelization of the family as the foundation for the development of a “culture of life” leading to the creation of a “civilization of love”; and

5. To undertake significant research and publication relative to the contemporary discussion regarding person, marriage, and family.
The Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family

A longtime philosopher-friend of Karol Wojtyła once said that Wojtyła had always been occupied with understanding the human person in terms of love. The mission of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute, in a profound sense, begins here, in this abiding conviction of the Holy Father that love reveals the meaning of the person and, through the person, of all “flesh”—the whole of creation (cf. Familiaris consortio, 11; Redemptor hominis, 10; Dominum et vivificantem, 50). This conviction finds its paradigmatic expression in the great text of the Second Vatican Council: “In reality it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man truly becomes clear. . . . Christ . . . , in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love, fully reveals man to himself . . . .” (Gaudium et spes, 22). The John Paul II Institute is devoted to the study of this truth about the human person in all of its dimensions: theological, philosophical, anthropological, and indeed cosmological-scientific. The Institute centers its study of the person in the community that is the original cell of human society: marriage and family (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2207; Letter to Families, 13).

The Cultural Dimension of the Institute: “Reading the Signs of the Times”

Cultural issues are central for the work of the Institute. The Institute considers the study of culture, in particular the culture of modernity as developed in America, to be an integral part of the clarification of fundamental theological concepts. The Institute engages this cultural study in light of the history of the Church and Christian thought, with special attention to the writings of the Second Vatican Council and John Paul II.

The aim of such study is to generate a “culture of life”: a culture whose members “see life in its deeper meaning, its beauty and its invitation to freedom and responsibility”; “who do not presume to take possession of reality, but instead accept it as a gift, discovering in all things the reflection of the Creator and seeing in every person his living image” (Evangelium vitae, 83). A culture of life is a culture wherein the Church’s understanding of sexual and family ethics, the body and gender difference, fatherhood and motherhood, filiation and fraternity, birth and death, find a home. The culture of life resists the “consumerist, anti-birth mentality,” or again the “contraceptive mentality,” characteristic of the “technocratic logic” lying at the heart of what John Paul II has termed a veritable “anti-civilization” (LF, 13; cf. FC, 6; Fides et ratio, 15).

Marriage-Family as a Way of Life

Recognition of the cultural dimension of theology helps to explain the breadth of the Institute’s concerns in its study of marriage and the family. The Institute conceives the family as a way of life that is generative of a new culture centered in wonder, gratitude, and gift. The Institute approaches questions of morality in the light of the order of being itself: that is, within the context of the transcendentals—truth, goodness, and beauty—all of these integrated into the “liturgy,” or “work of glory,” that John Paul II insists is “the fundamental destiny of every creature, and above all of man” (Crossing the Threshold of Hope, 18).
Nature & Purpose

of the Institute

The Distinguishing Feature of the Institute's Study of Marriage and Family

The distinguishing feature of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute, in sum, lies in conceiving marriage and the family, and all the moral problems associated with these, within an entire vision of reality. The uniqueness of the Institute lies, further, in its anchoring of this vision of reality, and this marital-familial love, in God’s self-revelation as a trinitarian communion of persons (LF, 6: “The primordial model of the family is to be sought in God himself, in the trinitarian mystery of his life”).

The “New Evangelization”

It is thus in this distinctive way that the Institute carries on the work of John Paul II’s “new evangelization,” whose great task is to recapture “the ultimate meaning of life and its fundamental values” (FC, 8)—which, again, is done by examining “the relationship between the life of the person and his sharing in the life of the Trinity” (LF, 9). The family plays an essential cultural and ecclesial role as both the subject and the object of this evangelization (cf. FC, 53). Indeed, the pope sees the role of the family in the new evangelization as decisive and irreplaceable, because in fact “the future of the world and of the Church passes through the family” (FC, 75).

Theological Presuppositions Concerning Marriage and Family

The main presupposition guiding the Institute’s approach to study is thus that the person, and indeed the whole of reality, are best understood in terms of the trinitarian love of God revealed in Christ; and that this trinitarian love is expressed in a privileged way in and through nuptiality. This presupposition is articulated in various ways in the pontificate of John Paul II:

1. “The divine image is present in every man, in the communion of persons,” especially in the “we’ formed by the man and the woman” (LF, 6), that is a likeness to “the union of the divine persons among themselves” (CCC, 1702; cf. 1878).
2. The covenant with the world that God establishes in Jesus Christ through his Church is one of nuptiality (CCC, 1612; cf. FC, 12). (3) The family is the “Church in miniature” (Ecclesia domestica: FC, 49).
3. Christian marriage is an efficacious sign, or sacrament, of the love between Christ and his Church (CCC, 1617; FC, 3). (4) Marital-familial love is one of the two specific human vocations identified by revelation for the following of Christ (FC, 11).
4. “The sexual difference constitutes the very identity of the person” (Address to Institute Faculty, August 1999, #5). The body itself “manifests the reciprocity and communion of persons. It expresses this by means of the gift as the fundamental characteristic of personal existence.” John Paul II identifies this internal aptness of the body for expressing love, or again this rootedness of the body in love, as the “nuptial attribute” of the body (Theology of the Body: Human Love in the Divine Plan).

Bioethics and Technology; Person, Family, and Society

Within the fundamental orientation of its studies as described, the Institute gives special attention to two areas whose significance has been stressed by John Paul II. The first concerns the “technocratic logic” lying at the heart of issues in bioethics today such as cloning, euthanasia, biogenetics, and “reproductive health.” Contrasting it with a civilization centered in the “splendor of truth” about “love,”
“freedom,” “gift,” and “person,” the Holy Father suggests that our contemporary “civilization of technology” is often “linked with a scientific and technological progress which is . . . achieved in a one-sided way” and which, consequently, leads to “agnosticism” and “utilitarianism” (LF, 13).

The second area concerns the relation between person and society. John Paul II states this second concern thus: “The Christian response to the failure of individualist and collectivist anthropology calls for an ontological personalism rooted in the analysis of the primary family relations. The rationality and relationality of the human person, unity and difference in communion, and the constitutive polarities of man and woman, spirit and body, and individual and community are co-essential and inseparable dimensions. Thus reflection on the person, marriage, and the family can be integrated into the Church’s social teaching and become one of its most solid roots” (Address to Institute Faculty, August 1999, #5). As this statement makes clear, the pope—and the Institute—reject the dichotomy commonly assumed today between (so-called) “personal” or “private” ethics (i.e., sexual and family ethics) and (so-called) “public” or social ethics.

In accord with this twofold concern of John Paul II, the Institute encourages study in the areas of bioethics and technology on the one hand, and of the relation of person and family to society, on the other.

Programs of Study and Objectives

The curriculum of the Institute encompasses the full range of fields required for a complete education in the areas of marriage and family: scripture, theology, philosophy, ethics, law and public policy, natural and life sciences, and literature. This range of fields indicates why the Institute is called an institute for “studies” on marriage and family. The “transdisciplinary” nature of the curriculum receives an (analogous) unity through the notion of the “communion of persons.” The fundamental aim of the curriculum is to develop an intelligent understanding of person, marriage, and family, as integral to a Christian vision of reality. The expectation is that the Institute’s academic programs will prepare students for work in a variety of areas: educational work as teachers and researchers in universities, theological schools, seminaries, and secondary schools; pastoral work in Life or Family Bureaus, or other specialized areas of marriage and family. Study at the Institute also provides theological, philosophical, and ethical formation for work in the biosciences, and for professional service in health care, social and community work, and law and public policy.

In a statement accompanying her application for admission, an Institute student cited a recent Catholic thinker’s observation that “sanity does not mean living in the same world as everyone else; it means living in the real world.” The student then went on to say that she wanted to study theology at the Institute “in order to better know the real world and live in it, and to help others do the same.” This expresses the purpose of the Institute in the most comprehensive sense: to study the personal-familial love that is basic to the “real world” as created by God; and through this study to deepen one’s understanding of that world, in order the better to live in it—in order to assist in developing what John Paul II calls the “civilization of love” (LF, 13).
History of the Institute

At the conclusion of the 1980 Synod of Bishops devoted to the family, the Synod Fathers called for the creation of theological centers devoted to the study of the Church’s teaching on marriage and the family. Accordingly, Pope John Paul II responded to the Synod with the establishment of the Pontifical Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family and the Pontifical Council for the Family. The Institute’s establishment was to be announced at the Holy Father’s Wednesday audience on May 13, 1981. Because of the attempted assassination, the Institute’s Apostolic Constitution, Magnum matrimonii sacramentum, was instead given on October 7, 1982, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. On that occasion the Institute was entrusted in a special way to the care of the most Blessed Virgin Mary under her title Our Lady of Fatima.

In 1987, His Eminence, James Cardinal Hickey, Archbishop of Washington, joined Mr. Virgil C. Dechant, then Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, in asking the Holy See for permission to establish a campus, or session, of the Institute in the Archdiocese of Washington to serve American and other English-speaking students. The permission was granted by the Congregation for Catholic Education on August 22, 1988, creating a session of the Institute in Washington, D.C., and empowering it to grant degrees. The Institute began its work in the fall of 1988. The Institute now offers studies leading to the Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.), the Licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.), the Doctorate of Sacred Theology with a Specialization in Marriage and Family (S.T.D.), and the Doctorate of Philosophy in Theology with a Specialization in Person, Marriage, and Family (Ph.D.).

In the United States, the Institute is under the authority of the Archbishop of Washington, who serves as Vice Chancellor (currently Wilton D. Gregory), of a Vice President (currently Carl Anderson – Past Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus), and of a Provost (currently Rev. Antonio López, F.S.C.B.), and Dean (currently, Dr. David Crawford). The President of the Institute worldwide (currently Rev. Msgr. Philippe Bordeyne) is directly appointed by the Holy Father.

As a canonically recognized ecclesiastical faculty, the Institute is one of seven institutions in the United States that grants degrees by the authority of the Holy See.

Licensure and Accreditation

The Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family is authorized by the Congregation for Catholic Education to grant ecclesiastical degrees. The administration of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, incorporated in the District of Columbia (2013) as the “John Paul II Shrine and Institute, Inc.” (formerly incorporated in the District of Columbia (1988-2013) as the “Knights of Columbus Family Life Bureau, Inc.”) is licensed by the Education Licensure Commission of the District of Columbia.

The Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. (267-284-5000) The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.
International Character of the Institute

Full sessions of the John Paul II Institute have also been established or are developing in Valencia and Madrid (Spain); Mexico City, Guadalajara, and several other Mexican cities; Cotonou (Benin); Salvador da Bahia (Brazil); Changanacherry (India); and Beirut (Lebanon); Daejeon (Korea); and Bacolod (Philippines). Together these campuses have offered the Institute’s programs to thousands of students from almost every nation. Faculty and students have come to the Washington session from Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Europe, as well as Canada and the United States. The John Paul II Institute is thus a community of scholars, global in its environment and vision and multidisciplinary in its academic scope.

Domestic Institutional Affiliations

Veritatis gaudium and Ex corde ecclesiae, the documents that govern pontifical faculties and Catholic universities, respectively, encourage mutual cooperation among these faculties and universities, especially when they are located in the same geographic region. Accordingly, the Washington session of the Institute has entered into an agreement with The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., pursuant to such cooperation.

The Institute resides in McGivney Hall on the campus of The Catholic University of America, and has a special “cooperative agreement” with the university. This agreement permits cross-registration of certain courses in accord with established norms and with the approval of the pertinent deans at each institution and encourages shared facilities, cooperation in scholarship, and jointly sponsored events.
GENERAL INFORMATION

2021-22 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Friday, August 20
Friday, August 27
Monday, August 30
Monday, September 6
Friday, September 10
Tuesday, September 14
Saturday, September 18
Tuesday, October 4
Monday, October 11
Tuesday, October 12
Friday, October 15

Monday, October 18
Mon.-Fri., November 1-5
Friday, November 12

Sat.-Mon., November 13 & 15
Wed.-Fri., November 24-26
Wednesday, December 8
Monday, December 13
Mon.-Fri., December 14-17
Saturday, December 18
December 20-January 7
Monday, January 10
Mon.-Fri., January 10-14
Monday, January 17
Tuesday, January 21

Mon.-Fri., January 24-28
Tuesday, February 22

Friday, February 25

Monday, March 1
Mon.-Fri., March 7-11
Monday, March 14
Monday, March 14
Sat. & Mon., March 19 & 21
Mon.-Fri., March 28-April 1
Wednesday, March 30

Thursday, April 14
Friday, April 15
Monday, April 18
Tuesday, April 19
Friday, April 29
Mon.-Fri., May 2-6
May 9
May 10

Ph.D. Foundational Works Examinations
Orientation and Opening Charge
Classes begin
Labor Day (holiday)
Last day to add or drop courses without record; final day for 100% refund
Opening Mass, 2:00 p.m.
Institute Picnic 1-5 p.m.
Ph.D./S.T.D. Dissertation Deposit Date
Columbus Day (holiday)
Administrative Monday (Monday classes meet instead of Tuesday classes)
Midterm
Last day to change from “credit” to “audit”; last day to receive a 50% refund; last day to resolve grades of “I” from Spring 2019 semester
S.T.L. Thesis Deposit Date
Registration for returning students
Last day to withdraw from courses with a mark of “W” (approved withdrawal)
M.T.S. Comprehensive Examinations
Thanksgiving Recess
Feast of the Immaculate Conception (holiday)
Last day of classes
Final examinations
Christmas Gathering
Christmas & New Year’s Break
Spring Semester begins
Registration for new students
Martin Luther King, Jr., Day (holiday)
Last day to add or drop courses without record; final day for 100% refund
Ph.D. Qualifying Examinations
Administrative Monday (Monday classes meet instead of Tuesday classes)
Midterm
Last day to change from “credit” to “audit”; last day to receive a 50% refund; last day to resolve grades of “I” from previous semester
Ph.D./S.T.D. Dissertation Deposit Date
Spring Recess
Classes Resume
S.T.L. Thesis Deposit Date
M.T.S. Comprehensive Examinations
Registration for returning students, Fall 2022
Last day to withdraw from courses with a mark of “W” (approved withdrawal)
Holy Thursday (holiday)
Good Friday (holiday)
Easter Monday (holiday)
Classes Resume
Last day of classes
Final Examinations
Graduation Ball
Graduation Mass, 2:00 p.m.
STUDENT LIFE

The Institute recognizes that its distinctive character ultimately depends on the intellectual and moral quality of its students. To create an environment that is intellectually stimulating and characterized by the generosity and mutual support required for collegial life and personal growth, the Institute seeks men and women who are not only professionally competent but who will also contribute to its Catholic moral and cultural milieu. A student enrolling in the Institute assumes an obligation to live in a manner compatible with the Institute’s mission as a Catholic educational institution.

FACILITIES

The administrative and faculty offices of the Institute are located on the second and third floors of McGivney Hall on the campus of The Catholic University of America. Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The telephone number of the Institute is (202) 526-3799.

Classrooms are located on the ground floor of McGivney Hall.

BROOKLAND/CUA AREA

Located across the mall from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, on the campus of The Catholic University of America, the Institute situates its students in the center of the life of the Church in the United States. The Brookland/CUA area is home to a number of religious communities, including the Franciscan Monastery.

When traveling throughout the Brookland area students should exercise normal prudence. The Catholic University of America campus is staffed 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week by campus police officers.

HOUSING OPTIONS

The following residences may have rooms available for students of the Institute. Arrangements should be made directly with each facility. Costs and fees are subject to change and inquiries should be made directly of the appropriate institution. Other apartment and housemate listings can be found at https://www.johnpaulii.edu/student-life/campus-living/.

Rosary House of Studies
1201 Monroe St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
(202) 529-1768

The Rosary House of Studies is the home of the Dominican Sisters of the Presentation. They have facilities for housing young women, but space is limited. Breakfast foods and dinner are provided during the week. Rosary House is a ten-minute walk from the Institute.

Centro Maria Residence
650 Jackson St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
(202) 635-1697

Centro Maria Residence is located two blocks from the Institute and offers housing for women only, ages 18-29. Rates are for single air-conditioned rooms in a smoke-free building. Applications may be made in writing or in person. Rates include breakfast and dinner six days a week, and facilities include a chapel, dining room, laundry, TV room, and limited maid service.

St. Francis Capuchin Friary
4121 Harewood Rd., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
(202) 529-2188

The Capuchin College is a house of formation for the Capuchin community. Residence is available to men religious and priests. All student residents are asked to participate in common prayer and meals and to help maintain the house. For more information, write to the local superior at the above address.

Casa Sacri Cuori
1321 Otis Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
(202) 526-0130
Sr. Ada Grano, POSC

Casa Sacri Cuori is a residence run by the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts which offers housing for women studying or working in the Washington, D.C. area. Rates are for single, air-conditioned rooms in a smoke-free building. Applications may be made in writing or in person. Rates include all utilities paid, large common library, cable internet service in each
GENERAL INFORMATION

room, washer and dryer, large chapel, large kitchen with unlimited use, and large common dining room and TV room. Limited maid service. Some parking is available off main road but is limited. Unlimited phone use in the continental USA. Casa Sacri Cuori is a ten-minute walk to the Red Line Brookland/CUA metro station and a fifteen-minute walk to the Institute.

Housing Organizations

Online Off-Campus Housing Resource Center at The Catholic University of America http://offcampushousing.cua.edu

The online off-campus housing resource center is designed to assist CUA students in search of living accommodations. These accommodations are available in privately-owned homes, apartments, and rooming houses. Organized as a self-help service, the online center provides listings of available housing and a roommate search function.

MEALS

The cafeteria at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is open for breakfast and lunch. Dining services are also available at the Pryzbyla Center on The Catholic University of America campus. The student restaurant on the third floor offers a buffet for breakfast, lunch, and dinner Monday through Friday and brunch and dinner on the weekend. The food court on the second floor offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner Monday through Friday. Additionally, there is a convenience store located on the first floor of the Pryzbyla Center.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

Medical insurance is required of all full-time domestic students and of all full-time and part-time international students. Student health insurance is available through The Catholic University of America to students enrolled full-time and part-time at the Institute. Students interested in this option should direct questions to the Administrative Assistant (Room 312), where enrollment procedures will be explained.

Opportunities for enrollment are in January and August. There is no option for a prorated fee in the case of late enrollment. The policy is portable for domestic students who withdraw from the Institute during the course of the year. For international students, the coverage ends when the student returns to his or her own country. This health insurance policy does not include services at The Catholic University of America Student Health Service.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Student identification cards are available in the Pryzbyla Center, room 224. These cards allow Institute students access to the John K. Mullen Memorial Library at The Catholic University of America. Students may obtain admission to some theaters and other events at a student rate with this card.

LITURGICAL LIFE

Study at the Institute affords students the opportunity to participate in liturgical life with fellow students and faculty. An Institute Mass is celebrated each Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in the chapel of Caldwell Hall on the campus of The Catholic University of America. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in this liturgy. A number of parishes and religious houses in the area offer opportunities for Mass and/or Adoration:

Dominican House of Studies
487 Michigan Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
202-529-5300; www.dhspriory.org
Daily Mass Monday to Friday at 7:00 a.m.; Saturday at 8:00 a.m.
Sunday Mass at 11:15 a.m.

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
400 Michigan Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017-1566
202-526-8300; www.nationalshrine.com
Daily Mass at 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30 a.m., and at 12:10 and 5:15 p.m.
Sunday Mass at 5:15 p.m. (Saturday Vigil), 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., and at 12:00 (Choir), 1:30 (Spanish) and 4:30 p.m.
Holy Days of Obligation at 5:15 p.m. (vigil), 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 10:00 a.m., and at 12:00 and 5:15 p.m.
Confessions: Monday to Saturday, at 7:45 a.m.-8:15 a.m., 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, 3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.; Sunday, at 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. (Spanish), 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Fridays 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., First Saturdays 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

CUA Campus Ministry
Ground Floor Caldwell Hall
The Catholic University of America
620 Michigan Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20064
202-319-5575; ministry.cua.edu
Daily Mass at 12:20 p.m. and 5:10 p.m. Monday-Friday in St. Michael’s Chapel.
Daily Mass at 12:35 p.m. in the Columbus Law School Chapel.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Caldwell Chapel on Wednesdays, 9:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. (praise and worship), and Thursdays, 9:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. (solemn).

Franciscan Monastery
1400 Quincy St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
202-526-6800; www.myfranciscan.org
Daily Mass is at 6:00 and 7:00 a.m., Monday-Friday except Tuesday; 6:00 a.m., 9 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays; Saturdays at 7:00 a.m.
Sunday Mass at 5:00 p.m. (Saturday Vigil), 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 12:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. (Spanish).
Confessions: Monday-Saturday on the hour, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (except at noon).

Saint John Paul II Shrine
3900 Harewood Road, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
202-635-5400; www.jp2shrine.org
Daily Mass at 12:00 p.m., Monday-Saturday and 7:00 p.m., Tuesday.
Sunday Mass at 5:00 p.m. (Saturday vigil), 7:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Confessions: Monday-Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

DRESS CODE
Modesty in dress and dignified apparel reflect the Christian understanding of the human person. The appearance and behavior of students during the normal class periods, and in all Institute-related activities, should therefore reflect positively on the student and the Institute. The Institute expects that all students will maintain a neat, clean, and modest mode of dress and appearance. Extremes of dress should be avoided.

For women, inappropriate dress includes, but is not limited to: casual sandals such as flip-flops, sneakers, tee shirts, athletic wear, shorts, leggings, jeans, spaghetti straps, tank tops, and the like.

For men, inappropriate dress includes, but is not limited to: casual sandals such as flip-flops, sneakers, tee shirts, athletic wear, shorts, jeans, and the like.

CULTURAL EVENTS
The unique setting of Washington, D.C. enriches the Institute’s academic programs. From the Library of Congress to the historic Woodstock Library at Georgetown University, from the National Institutes of Health to the National Academy of Sciences, from Mount Vernon to the Kennedy Center, educational and research opportunities abound.

Washington, D.C. also offers a variety of opportunities for students to deepen their appreciation for and understanding of the arts. The Institute encourages attention to beauty as an essential dimension of building a culture of life. To complement the numerous local activities that are free of charge, the Institute sometimes sponsors a limited number of student tickets to performances by local groups such as the Washington Bach Consort, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and the Washington Performing Arts Society.
TRANSPORTATION
The Brookland/Catholic University Metrorail stop is located to the east of The Catholic University of America campus, near the intersection of Michigan Avenue and John McCormack Road, which is a five-minute walk to the Institute.

Frequent patrons of Metro may wish to purchase a SmarTrip card, which is a permanent, rechargeable fare-card. See www.wmata.com for details.

PARKING
Catholic University of America parking permits (on-campus) are available in the Pryzbyla Center, room 242. Students may purchase only one vehicle hangtag permit. Permits are not transferable. Students may inquire in McGivney Room 312 about possible availability of limited permits for off-campus parking through the Saint John Paul II National Shrine.

INCLEMENT WEATHER
The Institute follows the decision of The Catholic University of America regarding a full day’s closure of campus or a delay of classes, with the following exceptions to accommodate the Institute's unique class schedule: in the case of a two-hour delay (campus opening at 10 a.m.), the Institute’s morning classes will meet at 10 a.m. and will conclude at their normally scheduled time. The same principle holds for the Institute's afternoon classes if campus does not open until the afternoon hours.

For details, students may check the Institute's website or call the Institute's main line, 202-526-3799. On days when the class schedule is affected by the weather, a message will be recorded by 7:00 a.m. indicating the starting time for classes. Information regarding CUA’s decision may also be found by visiting the CUA home page (www.cua.edu) or calling the CUA switchboard (202-319-5000).

POST OFFICE
The Catholic University of America operates a Contract Postal Station of the Washington, D.C., Post Office, identified as Cardinal Station. The station is located on the ground floor of McMahon Hall. Postal hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Telephone: 202-319-5225.

The Brookland Station Post Office is located at 3401 12th St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017. Telephone: 202-842-3374.

STUDENT GRIEVANCES
Should a student encounter a problem with a member of the faculty or administration of the Institute, or another student, the matter should first be discussed with that person. It is preferable that any conflicts be resolved informally. However, when this is not possible, the student should contact the Associate Dean for Programs and Administration (if the grievance is with a staff member or another student) or the Dean (if the grievance is with a faculty member) and discuss the issue.

The full Student Grievance Policy can be found at www.johnpaulii.edu/student-life/.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY
As our Mission Statement makes clear, the Institute is committed to offering and promoting education in each of its phases—learning, scholarship, and teaching—at the highest academic level and in accordance with the Catholic intellectual tradition, including its anthropological, moral, and cultural teachings. Vital to the realization of this mission, the Institute’s administration, faculty, and staff are actively committed both to cultivating and maintaining a safe and conducive learning and work environment for all members of the Institute community, including students, staff, and faculty. Sexual harassment detracts from the Institute’s ability to pursue its mission and therefore will not be permitted.

Sexual harassment is defined as any unsolicited, offensive behavior on the part of any member of the administration, faculty, staff, or student body that is inappropriately directed at another member of the Institute community, including students, staff, and faculty. Sexual harassment detracts from the Institute’s ability to pursue its mission and therefore will not be permitted.

Sexual harassment is defined as any unsolicited, offensive behavior on the part of any member of the administration, faculty, staff, or student body that is inappropriately directed at another member of the Institute community, including students, staff, and faculty. Sexual harassment detracts from the Institute’s ability to pursue its mission and therefore will not be permitted.
individual’s work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or learning environment; or (2) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment or academic admission or advancement or is used as the basis (or threatened to be used as the basis) for employment actions or academic decisions or evaluations.

All forms of sexual harassment are violations of the Institute’s policy and will not be tolerated. In cases where it is determined that sexual harassment occurred, the Institute will take appropriate disciplinary action against the perpetrator of the conduct, up to and including termination of employment or, in the case of a student, expulsion.

The full Sexual Harassment Policy can be found at [www.johnpaulii.edu/student-life/campus-safety/](http://www.johnpaulii.edu/student-life/campus-safety/).

**VETERANS BENEFITS**

**Title 38 United States Code Section 3679(e)**

**School Compliance**

As part of the recent amendment to the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018, section 3679 of title 38, the John Paul II Institute permits any person who is entitled to education assistance under GI Bill Benefits to attend or participate in the course of education of the program to which he or she has been accepted beginning on the date on which the person provides a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33 and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date on which payment from VA is made to the institution.
2. 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the certificate of eligibility.

The John Paul II Institute will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or require that a covered individual borrow additional funds because of the individual’s inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under chapter 31 or 33.

Additionally, covered individuals may be required to take the following actions:

1. Submit a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance no later than the first day of a course of education.
2. Submit a written request to use such entitlement.
3. Provide additional information necessary to the proper certification of enrollment by the educational institution.
4. Submit additional payments or pay fees for the amount that is the difference between the amount of the student’s financial obligation and the amount of the VA education benefit disbursement.

**CAREER AND PLACEMENT SERVICES**

Institute graduates enter a variety of careers involving education and the pastoral care of families. They serve in theological education, research, publication, and teaching positions at seminaries, colleges, and Catholic secondary schools. Others assume leadership positions in parishes and dioceses, as directors of religious education, family life offices, and pro-life offices. Institute graduates also have taken positions in health care, public interest and affairs organizations, and government.

The Institute endeavors to help its students and graduates to find professional options by posting information about job opportunities. In addition, the Institute stays in contact with Institute alumni and alumnae, who may know of positions in their areas of employment. The faculty of the Institute maintains a special interest in the professional development of students attending the Institute, and faculty members are available to provide career guidance. Students are encouraged to seek faculty guidance to develop a well-defined sense of their interests, abilities, and vocation. The jobs taken by Institute graduates reflect not only the diverse interests and backgrounds of those studying at the Institute but also the variety of opportunities open to Institute alumni and alumnae.
ADMISSIONS

Applications for Admission

Committed to the teaching of Vatican Council II that every type of discrimination, whether based on sex, race, color, social condition, language, or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God’s intent (Gaudium et spes, n. 29), the Pontifical John Paul II Institute admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the Institute. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and fellowship programs, and other Institute-administered programs.

Applications for admission are available online (www.johnpaulii.edu) and from the administrative offices of the Institute. Students may contact the Office of Admissions for information regarding admission and to arrange a visit the Institute. The application deadline for admission to the various degree programs is January 20. After this date, the Institute considers degree-seeking applications on a rolling basis, when places remain available.

FINANCIAL AID

Federal Loans and McGivney Scholarship Program

The Institute administers financial aid in such a way as to affirm the financial responsibility and integrity of both the student and the Institute. Responsibility for securing the necessary financial resources rests ultimately with the student.

Students enrolled at the John Paul II Institute who are U.S. citizens who carry at least six academic credits are eligible to apply for student loans to pay tuition and living expenses through the Stafford Direct and Graduate Plus loan programs. Students may apply for these loans by completing the FAFSA online.

Additionally, the Institute designates yearly a number of complete and partial tuition scholarships on the basis of academic merit and financial need. These scholarships are provided in memory of the Knights of Columbus founder, the Reverend Michael J. McGivney, through the support of the Knights of Columbus and may be given in conjunction with a student assistantship. Scholarship recipients are required to be enrolled full-time (that is, to carry a minimum of three courses per semester for credit). To be considered for a scholarship, the McGivney application must be completed and received by January 31.

Scholarship request forms may be obtained online or from the Office of Admissions.

In the M.T.S. and S.T.L. programs, scholarships are renewable for a period of up to four semesters, while S.T.D. scholarships are renewable for two semesters, during full-time course enrollment. Ph.D. scholarships (and fellowships) are renewable each year for up

Tuition and Fees

The following tuition and fees are effective for the 2021-22 academic year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuition per Semester:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full-time</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$9,375</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Application (non-refundable)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registration (per academic year)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student Activity Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis Direction Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graduation and Diploma</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deferred Payment Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Returned Check Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wire Transfer Fee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refund Policy

During first two weeks of term* 100%
Until mid-term* 50%
Following mid-term 0%

*For exact dates, please refer to academic calendar.
Fees and tuition are subject to change without notice.
to five years. Scholarships do not cover any type of fees: application, student activity, registration, dissertation direction, graduation, etc.

Scholarships are renewable based on assessment of academic performance and subject to availability of funds. Applicants are notified by mail at the end of March.

**Private Funds**

Recently, the Institute has received a small allotment of private funding to allocate to a few full-time students each year. This money comes from Paul and Paulette Kardos and other private donors as a way of supplementing educational expenses. With the exception of the Kardos funds, students who complete the McGivney Scholarship form are automatically considered for any funding the Institute may have received in a given year. These funds are dispensed in equal payments at the beginning of each academic semester during which the funds are awarded and typically assigned to the student as tuition remission.

**ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

**Registration**

**Students registering for the first time**

After students have notified the Institute of their decision to enroll, a registration package is sent. Prior to registering for courses, students who are not citizens of the United States must complete an “Admissions Supplement” form. This form is available online or sent to the student upon application to the Institute and is required to issue the I-20 form.

**Continuing students**

Registration packets are available for the coming semester after midterm.

**Fees**

An annual registration fee of $60 is assessed at the beginning of each academic year. To avoid a late fee, students are asked to complete their registration prior to the deadline noted in their packets.

**Finances**

Students who have outstanding financial balances cannot (1) register for classes; (2) receive grades or transcripts; or (3) graduate until their accounts are paid in full.

**Academic Advising**

The Program Advisors for each degree bear primary responsibility for advising students about their coursework and other degree requirements. The Program Advisors are available prior to registration for consultation with students who require guidance in the selection of courses.

Other faculty members are available to offer academic and career advice to students according to their own experience and fields of interest.

**Classification of Students**

**Degree-seeking students**

There are two classifications of degree-seeking students: full-time and part-time. Full-time students take at least three courses (nine credits) each semester. Part-time students take either one or two courses per semester. Only full-time students may apply for scholarships, in accord with the stipulations for each degree program. Students in the S.T.L., S.T.D., and Ph.D. programs who have finished coursework and are completing their dissertations are considered full-time students for status and federal aid purposes but are no longer eligible for scholarship funds.

**Non-degree-seeking students**

Persons who do not wish to pursue a degree but nevertheless desire to take courses at the Institute may apply to be special students, with “non-degree-seeking” status. A limited number of non-degree-seeking students are admitted based on their preparation for graduate study. A bachelor’s degree is required for admission. Financial aid is not available to non-degree-seeking students. Non-degree-seeking students who later desire to be admitted to a degree program must apply as degree-seeking students and complete the admission requirements for the relevant program. Following admission to a degree program, the student may petition the
Office of the Dean to have previously completed Institute courses applied toward the degree requirements.

**Auditing**

A student enrolled at the Institute may register for additional classes without course or degree credit, within his or her own program. In order for the course to appear on the student’s transcript as an audited course, the student must abide by the regular attendance policy of the Institute.

Full-time degree-seeking students may audit up to two courses per semester without additional charge (however, to enroll in more than five courses per semester requires the permission of the Dean). Part-time students must pay the fee of $500 per course to audit.

**Class Attendance**

Student’s presence at every class session (for both credit and required audit classes) is mandatory. At the professor’s discretion, one absence may be permitted for serious reasons. A second absence will require the student to obtain permission from the Program Advisor to remain in the course. More than two absences will require retaking the course in a new semester.

**Transfer of Credits**

Students may apply to transfer credits not used toward a previous degree by using the form available in the Registrar’s Office. In the M.T.S. program, a student may petition to transfer up to six credits from another graduate school with the written permission of the Dean. Transfer of credits in the S.T.L., S.T.D., and Ph.D. programs is considered on a case-by-case basis by the Dean. Only courses from an equivalent degree level may be considered transferable. Please note that transfer credits are not automatic and may be denied based on the Institute’s current curriculum.

**Change of Courses**

Students may add or drop courses with the approval of the Program Advisor and in accord with the deadlines published in the academic calendar. Forms are available in the Registrar’s Office.

**Grading System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Passing but marginal</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Withdrawal</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>Audit</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Plagiarism/Unethical Submission of Work**

A student who submits the academic work of another, including a research agency, as his/her own, or who uses prohibited materials in completing an examination, paper, thesis, dissertation, or other graded work is subject to a grade of F (failure) for the course or for the dissertation project. Further penalties, including possible expulsion, may be imposed in accordance with particular circumstances.

**Grade Reports**

Grade reports are issued by the Registrar after the end of each semester according to the system noted to the right. To remain in any of the degree programs at the Institute, students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 3.0. Please refer to GPA requirements for individual programs.

**Grade Appeals**

A student who wishes to appeal a course grade must do so within the first 30 days of the semester following the semester of the course in question. He or she should first take up the matter with the professor of the course. The professor must respond within 30 days. If a reasonable resolution is not reached within this period, the student may appeal formally by letter to the Dean, who will discuss the matter with the student and the professor and make a final decision within 30 days. A successful appeal of an “F” grade will result in a mandatory grade of “P.”
Transcripts and Diplomas

Each student may request one transcript free of charge. Further transcripts may be obtained for a fee of $5 each by check made payable to the “John Paul II Shrine and Institute, Inc.” Requests for transcripts may be obtained by completing the transcript request form found online and submitted to the Office of the Registrar.

Diplomas for the S.T.L. and S.T.D. degrees are issued through the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

Records and Directory Information

The Pontifical John Paul II Institute complies fully with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (also known as the Buckley Amendment), 20 U.S.C. 1232 et. seq. (1975), which guarantee the confidentiality of student records.

The following data are considered to be directory information and, at the discretion of the Institute, may be given to an inquirer, either in person, by mail, or by telephone, and may otherwise be made public: name of student; address (both local and permanent); e-mail address; telephone (both local and permanent); date and status of registered attendance; school or division of enrollment; field of study; nature and dates of degrees and awards received; and photograph. If an inquiry is made in person or by mail, a student’s signature and date and place of birth may be confirmed.

An individual student may request that no such directory information be disclosed by completing the appropriate form, available in the Registrar’s Office.

A student who alleges that the Institute has failed to comply with the requirements of Section 438 of the Act has the right to file a complaint with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office of the Department of Education.

Incompletes

Coursework is to be completed by the end of the semester in which the course is taken. The provisional grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be given only to a student who has not completed the requirements of a course for serious reasons, for example, death in the immediate family or hospitalization, and who has made a formal application using the form available in the Registrar’s Office. The grade of “I” is not given to one who has simply failed to meet the academic requirements of the course on time.

Incomplete grades must be removed before mid-semester of the succeeding term, whether or not the student continues in residence. If the grade of “I” is not removed by mid-semester, it will be recorded as a grade of “F” (Failure).

Under extraordinary circumstances, a student may petition the instructor of the course and the Dean for an extension of the period normally allowed for removal of the “I.” This petition must be made before the date of the mid-semester following the reported “I” grade.

Leave of Absence

Students may request a leave of absence, no longer than a year, for sufficient reason, such as prolonged illness, financial difficulty, or military service. Students must submit a written request, including a specific statement of the reason, to the Dean, using the form available in the Registrar’s Office. If permission is granted, the period of the leave of absence will not be counted against residency or other program requirements. Any grades of “Incomplete” must be completed in accord with the academic calendar and Institute policy, whether the student is enrolled in classes or on leave of absence in the following semester. The student may petition the Dean for exceptions to the leave of absence policy.

Text Books

Prior to each semester a book list for all courses is available in the Reception Office (Room 313) or on the Institute website.

For courses that supplement books with a compendium of readings, the compendia are available exclusively through Cognella. To purchase a compendium, please visit the company’s website at store.cognella.com.

Writing Center

Institute students are encouraged to make use of the Writing Center at The Catholic University of America (located at
219 Mullen Library). The Writing Center offers free, one-on-one consultations for writing projects at any stage of the process. Resources include: individual sessions with trained Writing Center instructors; reference material such as dictionaries, thesauri and citation formats for APA, MLA, and Chicago style guides; and writing workshops, grammar clinics and tutoring, and outreach presentations. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please consult: https://success.catholic.edu/academic-support/writing-center/index.html.

**Library Resources**

**Mullen Library**

Institute faculty and students are entitled to user privileges in the John K. Mullen Library and the Kathryn J. DuFour Law Library of The Catholic University of America. Upon enrollment, registered Institute students receive a library bar code at the circulation desk of Mullen Library upon presenting an Institute student ID. The University library system contains more than 1,300,000 journals, books, dissertations, and other research materials. The Theology/Philosophy/Canon Law Library located on the third floor of Mullen Library houses specialized reference materials in the areas of religious studies and philosophy.

As a benefit of CUA’s membership in the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC), students have access to ALADIN, a shared electronic library system serving several universities in the Washington, D.C. area. ALADIN includes the online library catalog as well as article databases, electronic journals, image collections, and Internet resources. Students may access ALADIN databases remotely, i.e., from home or office. In addition to the Consortium Loan Service, which allows students to borrow volumes from other universities in the WRLC via a courier service, interlibrary loan from non-WRLC-member schools is available, and requests for both loan services may be submitted to the Access Services desk via the Mullen Library website. All faculty and students are invited to take advantage of group and individual instruction in the use of electronic library resources at Mullen Library.

Mullen Library has a number of computer stations located throughout the building that are available for research and internet use. In addition, laptops can be checked out from the Circulation Desk for use inside the library. The laptops have word-processing capability and are connected to Mullen’s wireless network. Students may purchase a photocopy card for use with the Mullen photocopying machines on the second floor.

The regular semester hours of Mullen Library are as follows:

- **Monday-Thursday:** 8 a.m.-11:30 p.m.
- **Friday:** 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
- **Saturday:** 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
- **Sunday:** 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

Mullen Library has extended hours during the final exam periods. For vacation hours, students may call the schedule information number: 202-319-5077. For more information, visit the library’s homepage at http://libraries.cua.edu.

**Latkovic Collection**

The family of graduate Mark Latkovic (S.T.L. ’90, S.T.D. ’98), a long-time professor at the Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, MI, donated his personal library to the Institute following his unexpected death in May of 2020. This library of over 2600 volumes, which is now housed in Room 214, contains significant resources on systematic theology, moral theology, and bioethics. With the exception of certain non-circulating reference materials, the books in the collection are available to borrow. Access to the catalog and the collection may be requested through the Assistant to the Provost and Dean.

**Washington Theological Consortium**

In the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, the libraries of institutions which participate in the Washington Theological Consortium are available to students of the Institute for research and study through the Institute’s affiliation with Mullen Library. The institutions in the Consortium are the
Byzantine Catholic Seminary, Catholic University of America School of Theology and Religious Studies, Howard University School of Divinity, John Leland Center for Theological Studies, Dominican House of Studies, Reformed Theological Seminary, United Lutheran Seminary, Virginia Theological Seminary, Virginia Union University School of Theology, Wesley Theological Seminary, Paulist Fathers House of Mission and Studied (associate member), Shalem Institute of Spiritual Formation (associate member), Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences (affiliate member), Institute for Islamic, Christian & Jewish Studies (affiliate member), and Museum of the Bible. Institute students should bring their Mullen Library cards when researching in Consortium libraries. Access to Consortium libraries is for research only; to check out books, Institute students may use the interlibrary loan services of Mullen Library.

**Other Collections**

Other significant collections open to the public in the Washington, D.C. area include the Kennedy Institute of Ethics library, the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, and other university libraries.

**Commencement**

A graduation Mass is celebrated in the Redemptor Hominis Chapel of the Saint John Paul II National Shrine. All candidates on whom degrees are to be conferred must be present at the commencement exercises of the Institute, unless excused for serious reasons by the Dean.

An annual Graduation Ball completes the academic year; it typically takes place between final examinations and the graduation exercises.
DEGREE PROGRAMS

THE MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES: MARRIAGE AND FAMILY (M.T.S.)

Introduction
In light of the mission statement of the Institute, the M.T.S. Marriage and Family program prepares students for further academic study in higher degree programs as well as for professional work in a variety of contexts such as high school education, diocesan family bureaus, pro-life organizations, and legal, governmental, medical, and public policy fields.

Admissions Requirements
Applicants must possess an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution in the United States or from its equivalent in foreign countries. While it is advisable that applicants for admission have a previous background in philosophy and theology, students without a background in philosophy and theology are strongly encouraged to apply. Further requirements are enumerated in the application for the program.

Degree Requirements
M.T.S. students are subject to the degree requirements of the academic catalog of the year in which they were first enrolled as degree-seeking students.

M.T.S. students must complete 48 credits of course work, in addition to a certain number of audits, as announced during the course of the school year, with a grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0-point scale. Additionally, students must pass a comprehensive examination administered in the final semester of study.

As part of the M.T.S. curriculum, master’s program students are expected to participate in the Book Forum during the second and third semesters of their degree program.

Comprehensive Examination
The comprehensive examination is based on the areas of study in the M.T.S. curriculum, including the areas of Sacred Scripture, patristics, fundamental and systematic theology, philosophy, moral theology, law, and science. Each of the M.T.S. specializations (see below for a description of the Biotechnology and Ethics specialization) has its own examination, in accordance with the differences in the two curricula. In either case, the purpose of the comprehensive examination is to assist the candidate in synthesizing and integrating his or her knowledge in the specialization.

The examination consists in three two-hour written examinations. All components are graded on a pass-fail basis. If a student should fail any one of the questions, he or she may be required to retake the examination in whole or in part. If a student fails the second time, he or she will cease to be a candidate for the degree.

In the examination, the student must demonstrate a mastery of the material covered in the program commensurate with graduate study, including concrete historical and theoretical bases, and offer substantive interpretations, pertinent interrelationships between fields, and relevant concluding judgments.

Book Forum
The Book Forum consists in a series of evening lectures followed by discussion on selected works of literature. The purpose of the Book Forum is to promote common reflection and conversation around the themes of person, God, love, marriage, and family as these have been articulated especially within the great tradition of twentieth century Catholic/Christian authors in fiction, poetry, drama, essays, and the like. The authors to be read may include Bernanos, Chesterton, Claudel, O’Connor, Péguy, Berry, Eliot, Waugh, Percy, and others. In the words of Joseph Ratzinger, “Culture at its core means an opening to the divine.” At the heart of every culture is an implicit understanding of ultimacy, of the meaning of our existence in relation to God. It is this relation to God that endows all of the activities of a culture-raise and educating children, marriage,
music, dance, architecture, economy, etc., with their deepest significance. Reciprocally, in order to discern how a culture conceives the human being’s relation to God, all the aspects of that culture should be considered. Reflection on great works of literature is integral to cultural discernment, and thus integral to the educational mission of the Institute.

Students receive a “pass” or “fail” grade for the Book Forum based on attendance and participation in the discussion and on a short paper, to be submitted the day before the meeting.

Residency
This degree program requires four semesters of full-time study in residence. In certain cases, the Dean will consider requests to fulfill course requirements on a part-time basis. In all cases, total tuition payments for the degree must equal at least the cost of four full-time semesters.
THE MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES: BIOTECHNOLOGY AND ETHICS (M.T.S.)

Introduction
In light of the mission statement of the Institute, the M.T.S. Biotechnology and Ethics program prepares students for further academic study in higher degree programs as well as for professional engagement in a variety of contexts such as teaching, research, policy development, and clinical consultation work related to bioethics. The program also offers continuing education for professionals in the medical, legal, and other fields.

Admissions Requirements
Applicants must possess an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution in the United States or from its equivalent in foreign countries. While it is advisable that applicants for admission have a previous background in philosophy and theology, students without a background in philosophy and theology are strongly encouraged to apply. Further requirements are enumerated in the application for the program.

Degree Requirements
M.T.S. students are subject to the degree requirements of the academic catalog of the year in which they were first enrolled as degree-seeking students.
M.T.S. students must complete 48 credits of course work, in addition to a certain number of audits, as announced during the course of the school year, with a grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0-point scale. Additionally, students must pass a comprehensive examination administered in the final semester of study.
As part of the M.T.S. curriculum, master’s program students are expected to attend the Book Forum during the second and third semesters of their degree program.

Comprehensive Examination
The comprehensive examination is based on the areas of study in the M.T.S. curriculum, including the areas of Sacred Scripture, biotechnology, fundamental and systematic theology, philosophy, moral theology, law, and science. Each of the M.T.S. specializations (see above for a description of the Marriage and Family specialization) has its own examination, in accordance with the differences in the two curricula. In either case, the purpose of the comprehensive examination is to assist the candidate in synthesizing and integrating his or her knowledge in the specialization.
The examination consists in three two-hour written examinations. All components are graded on a pass-fail basis. If a student should fail any one of the questions, he or she may be required to retake the examination in whole or in part. If a student fails the second time, he or she will cease to be a candidate for the degree.
In the examination, the student must demonstrate a mastery of the material covered in the program commensurate with graduate study, including concrete historical and theoretical bases, and offer substantive interpretations, pertinent interrelationships between fields, and relevant concluding judgments.

Book Forum
The Book Forum consists of a series of evening lectures followed by discussion on selected works of literature. The purpose of the Book Forum is to promote common reflection and conversation around the themes of person, God, love, marriage, and family as these have been articulated especially within the great tradition of twentieth century Catholic/Christian authors in fiction, poetry, drama, essays, and the like. The authors to be read may include Bernanos, Chesterton, Claudel, O’Connor, Pégy, Berry, Eliot, Waugh, Percy, and others. In the words of Joseph Ratzinger, “Culture at its core means an opening to the divine.” At the heart of every culture is an implicit understanding of ultimacy, of the meaning of our existence in relation to God. It is this relation to God that endows all of the activities of a culture—raising and educating children, marriage, music, dance, architecture, economy, etc.—with their deepest significance. Reciprocally, in order to discern how a culture conceives the human being’s relation to God, all the...
aspects of that culture should be considered. Reflection on great works of literature is integral to cultural discernment, and thus integral to the educational mission of the Institute.

Students receive a “pass” or “fail” grade for the Book Forum based on attendance and participation in the discussion and on a short paper, to be submitted the day before the meeting.

**Residency**

This degree program requires four semesters of full-time study in residence. In certain cases, the Dean will consider requests to fulfill course requirements on a part-time basis. In all cases, total tuition payments for the degree must equal at least the cost of four full-time semesters.
The Licentiate in Sacred Theology of Marriage and Family (S.T.L.)

Introduction
The S.T.L. program prepares the graduate for teaching posts, especially in Roman Catholic seminaries, colleges, and universities, as well as for further studies at the doctoral level. This is a post-S.T.B. program offering further academic development and research skills in accordance with the mission statement of the Institute. As an ecclesiastical degree, the licentiate is granted by the authority of and in the name of the Holy See.

The S.T.L. program conforms in its specifications to the requirements set forth in Veritatis Gaudium.

Admissions Requirements
Admission to the S.T.L. program requires the pontifical Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.). Further requirements are enumerated in the application for the program.

Degree Requirements
S.T.L. students must complete 48 credits of prescribed three-credit courses, in addition to selected seminars as announced during the course of the school year, with a grade-point average of at least 3.3 on a 4.0-point scale. S.T.L. students must write and defend a thesis and satisfactorily present a lectio coram in order to receive the degree.

Languages
Students are required to demonstrate reading proficiency in scholastic Latin by successful completion of a written examination administered by Institute faculty. This requirement is to be fulfilled during the first semester of residency.

Students must also demonstrate reading proficiency in a modern language from the following list: French, Spanish, Italian, or German. Proficiency can be demonstrated by successful completion of a written examination administered by Institute faculty. To satisfy the language requirement in German or French, the following CUA language courses may be substituted for the proficiency exam: TRS 501 Theological German; GER 500 Reading for Comprehension; or FREN 500 Reading for Comprehension. These courses must be completed with a grade of at least B+ (in a course with letter grades) or Pass (in a Pass/Fail course). Students wishing to register for a language course at CUA should follow the usual cross-registration procedures. This requirement must be fulfilled by the end of the third semester, but students are urged to fulfill it by the end of the first year.

Lectio Coram
S.T.L. students must satisfactorily present a lectio coram – a twenty-minute public lecture – during the final semester of study, to be presented on the same day as the thesis defense. Before a panel of examiners, consisting in the thesis director and two readers of the thesis, the lectio coram should demonstrate the candidate’s competence in theology and as a teacher. It must be clearly and logically organized, manifest the candidate’s familiarity with a wide range of relevant literature, and exhibit soundness of theological judgment. As the name implies, the lectio coram is open to the public.

The thesis director will propose a topic for the lecture unrelated to the thesis. The candidate is notified of the selected topic 48 hours prior to the lectio coram. The candidate may present the lecture using a one-page written outline. The lecture may not be delivered from a written text. If an outline is used by the candidate, copies must be submitted to the board prior to the lecture. At the conclusion of the lecture, the board poses questions on the presentation for 25 minutes. After the lectio coram each examiner gives a secret grade, and the final grade is the average of those grades. If the candidate fails this examination, he or she is not permitted to defend the thesis, which otherwise occurs immediately following the lectio coram. The Dean, in consultation with the chairman of the panel of examiners, will determine whether the examination may be repeated. Should a student fail a second time, he or she ceases to be a candidate for the licentiate degree.
**Thesis**

The thesis is an integral part of the S.T.L. curriculum, requiring several months’ planning, research, analysis, exposition, revision, and discussion. It entails both the independent investigation of some significant question arising from the work of the program and a defense of the conclusions reached. It should give evidence of training in research and make a contribution to theological and/or philosophical knowledge involving a limited yet significant issue. It must demonstrate the student’s familiarity with basic methods and techniques of research, mastery of a limited topic, and ability to exercise sound theological judgment and to formulate accurate conclusions. The thesis director, more a critic than a teacher, provides assistance in defining the question to be examined. The student alone is responsible for working out the question and its resolution.

**Schedule of Production of the Thesis**

By the end of the first semester, and in consultation with the S.T.L. Program Advisor, the student asks a faculty member to direct his thesis. Once a faculty member agrees to direct the thesis, the Program Advisor, in consultation with the thesis director, appoints two other faculty members to a thesis board. One of the two faculty members is designated the first reader of the thesis.

By midterm of the second semester, and in consultation with the thesis director, the student prepares and submits to the Program Advisor a five-page proposal, including the title; a detailed statement of the proposed topic, its background and its purpose; the methodology; and a proposed table of contents. In addition, a preliminary bibliography is submitted at this time.

Within two weeks, the thesis board meets with the candidate to discuss the proposal. The thesis director, other board members, and the Program Advisor may accept or reject the proposal, or they may specify required modifications to it (acceptance sub conditione). If substantial revision is required, the board meets again with the student, either accepting or rejecting the proposal or requiring further modifications. The proposal is deemed to be approved when it has been signed by the thesis director, the other two board members, and the Program Advisor. The proposal, with original signatures, is held in the student’s official file.

Once the proposal has been approved, the student is free to commence writing the thesis in consultation with the thesis director and the other board members.

At least six weeks prior to the expected date of defense, and on or before the due date listed in the academic calendar, the student must submit five copies of the completed thesis to the Program Advisor. The copies must be bound with a black plastic comb or spiral binding, a black vinyl back cover, and a clear plastic front cover. The copies of the thesis are distributed to the thesis director and the other board members.

The thesis must be 60 to 70 pages in length, excluding the bibliography (page limits are strictly enforced), and written according to the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Details regarding formatting and print layout may be requested from the Assistant to the Program Advisors in Room 313.

Upon completion of the thesis, the thesis director and first reader signify their approval in writing. (The thesis director and first reader may judge the thesis substantively complete and worthy of defense, while noting some mandatory corrections to be made prior to final acceptance.) The date for the *lectio coram* and the thesis defense cannot be set prior to this written approval; approval must be received at least 30 days in advance of the defense. Also, the defense of the thesis cannot be scheduled until all language requirements have been met.

**Defense of the Thesis**

After successful completion of the *lectio coram*, the student must defend the thesis by oral examination, to be conducted by the thesis board (the thesis director and the two readers). The student begins with a 5-minute presentation of his thesis. The student may speak from notes but should not read from a prepared text. This presentation is followed by a 25-minute questioning period by the panel. At the end
of the defense, the written thesis and the oral examination are graded separately by the members of the defense board. The votes are taken in secret and supervised by the chairman of the examination. The final grade is the average of the grades submitted by each board member. If a candidate fails this examination, he must obtain permission from the Dean to schedule another defense. A candidate will not be permitted to retake the examination until at least one semester, or an equivalent period of time, has elapsed since the date of the failure. If the student fails a second time, he or she ceases to be a candidate for the licentiate degree.

**Residency**

The S.T.L. program requires four semesters of full-time study in residence. In certain cases, the Dean will consider requests to fulfill course requirements on a part-time basis. All the requirements for the S.T.L. degree must be completed within five years of the date the student enters the S.T.L. program at the Institute. If a student does not complete all requirements within five years, the student may petition the Dean for a one-year extension. If a student fails to complete all requirements within this period, he or she ceases to be a candidate for the S.T.L. In all cases, total tuition payments for the degree must equal at least the cost of four full-time semesters and at least one semester of dissertation direction.
THE DOCTORATE IN SACRED THEOLOGY WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY (S.T.D.)

Introduction
The S.T.D. is a post-S.T.L. degree completing academic formation in conformity with the mission statement of the Institute; it qualifies the graduate for teaching posts in Roman Catholic seminaries, colleges, and universities. As an ecclesiastical degree, the S.T.D. is granted by the authority of and in the name of the Holy See.

The S.T.D. conforms in its specifications to the requirements set forth in Veritatis gaudium.

Admissions Requirements
Admission to the S.T.D. program requires the S.T.L. degree (magna cum laude or higher) from a session of the John Paul II Institute. Other requirements are enumerated in the application for the program. While receiving a magna cum laude or higher for the S.T.L. degree is a prerequisite for consideration for admission into the S.T.D. program, possession of this degree with a magna cum laude does not guarantee admission.

Degree Requirements
S.T.D. students are required to complete four doctoral seminars (two per semester) maintaining a grade-point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0-point scale. Competency in four languages must be demonstrated by S.T.D. students before the second year of the program, in preparation for the dissertation research. The dissertation must be defended within five years of the student’s entry into the program.

Languages
Reading proficiency in scholastic Latin is presupposed at admission and must be demonstrated by successful completion of a written examination. This requirement must be fulfilled during the first semester of residency.

Students are required to demonstrate reading proficiency in biblical Greek by successful completion of a written examination. This requirement must be fulfilled during the first year of residency.

Students must demonstrate reading proficiency in two modern languages from the following list: French, Spanish, Italian, or German. Proficiency may be demonstrated by successful completion of a written examination. To satisfy the language requirement in German or French, the following CUA language courses may be substituted for the proficiency exam: TRS 501 Theological German; GER 500 Reading for Comprehension; or FREN 500 Reading for Comprehension. These courses must be completed with a grade of at least B+ (in a course with letter grades) or Pass (in a Pass/Fail course). Students wishing to register for a language course at CUA should follow the usual cross-registration procedures. This requirement must be fulfilled by the end of the third semester, but students are urged to fulfill it by the end of the first year.

S.T.D. Dissertation
The dissertation should demonstrate maturity of theological judgment based on advanced graduate study. It should give evidence of research skills commensurate with doctoral level study, the ability to perform independent scientific work, and mastery of the candidate’s chosen field of study. The dissertation should be of sufficient quality to constitute a genuine contribution to that field of study and to warrant publication. The dissertation should be at least 175 and no more than 300 pages in length, exclusive of bibliography.

Schedule of Production of S.T.D. Dissertation
By the end of the first semester, and in consultation with the S.T.D. Program Advisor, the student asks a faculty member to direct his or her dissertation. The Program Advisor, in consultation with the dissertation director, appoints two other faculty members to a board under the chairmanship of the dissertation director.

By midterm of the second semester, and in consultation with the dissertation director, the student prepares and submits to the Program Advisor a ten-page dissertation proposal, including the title;
a brief presentation of the background of the topic and the current state of relevant research; a concise statement of the proposed thesis of the dissertation; a statement of the contribution and originality of the thesis; a detailed statement describing the methodology and argument of the dissertation; and a proposed table of contents. A preliminary bibliography containing the most important primary and secondary sources must be submitted with the proposal.

Once the thesis director deems the proposal acceptable, it is circulated among the entire faculty. Every member of the faculty is expected to submit his or her approval, comments, objections, and questions to the thesis director and Program Advisor within two weeks of receiving the proposal.

Within two weeks of the end of this review, the student meets with the board, comprised of the director and two readers, for a formal evaluation of the proposal. The dissertation director, the other board members, and the Program Advisor may accept or reject the proposal, or they may specify required modifications to it (acceptance sub conditione). If substantial revision is required, the board and Program Advisor meet again with the student, either accepting or rejecting the proposal or requiring further modifications.

The proposal is deemed to be finally approved when it has been signed by the dissertation director, the first and second readers, and the Program Advisor. The proposal, with original signatures, is held in the student’s official file.

Once the proposal has been finally approved, the student may begin to write his or her dissertation.

**Preparation for the Defense of S.T.D. Dissertation**

At least eight weeks prior to the expected date of defense, and on or before the due date listed in the academic calendar, the student must submit six copies of the completed dissertation and six copies of an abstract of 350 words to the Program Advisor. The dissertation copies must be bound with a black plastic comb or spiral binding, a black vinyl back cover, and a clear plastic front cover. The dissertation should be prepared according to *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Details regarding formatting and print layout may be requested from the Assistant to the Program Advisors in Room 313.

At this time the S.T.D. Program Advisor, in consultation with the dissertation director, selects a reader who is not a member of the Institute faculty to participate at the defense. The Assistant to the S.T.D. Program Advisor distributes the copies of the dissertation to the dissertation director and the other board members.

The date for defense cannot be confirmed prior to approval by the dissertation director and the board members who are Institute faculty; approval must be given at least 4 weeks before the expected date of the defense. Also, the defense of the dissertation cannot be scheduled until all language and course-work requirements have been met.

The completed dissertation must be defended within five years of the date the student enters the S.T.D. program at the Institute. If the student is not able to defend the thesis within five years, the student may petition the Dean for a one-year extension. If a student fails to defend the thesis within this period, he or she ceases to be a candidate for the S.T.D.

**Defense of the Dissertation**

After acceptance of the dissertation by the dissertation director and readers, the student must defend the dissertation in an oral examination of two hours. The student will begin with a fifteen-minute presentation of his dissertation. (The student may speak from notes of no more than one page but should not read a prepared text.) At the end of the defense, both the written dissertation and the oral examination will be graded. A vote will be taken in secret and supervised by the chairman of the examining committee. The final grade is the average of the grades submitted by each board member. If a candidate fails the oral examination, he must obtain permission from the Dean to repeat the examination. A candidate will not be permitted to retake the examination until at least one semester, or an equivalent
period of time, has elapsed since the date of the failure. If the student fails a second time, he or she ceases to be a candidate for the S.T.D. degree.

Dissertation Publication

A portion of the approved dissertation selected by the board at the time of the defense must be published through the Rome Session of the Institute in order for the diploma to be issued. The publication form, approval form, and cost details can be obtained from the Assistant to the Program Advisors in Room 313.

Residency

This degree program requires two semesters of full-time study in residence. The completed dissertation must be defended within five years of the date the student enters the S.T.D. program at the Institute. If a student is unable to defend the dissertation within five years, the student may petition the Dean for a one-year extension. If a student fails to defend the dissertation within this period, he or she ceases to be a candidate for the S.T.D. In all cases, total tuition payments for the degree must equal at least the cost of two full-time semesters and at least one semester of dissertation direction.
THE DOCTORATE OF PHILOSOPHY IN THEOLOGY WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN PERSON, MARRIAGE, AND FAMILY (Ph.D.)

Introduction
The purpose of the Ph.D. program is the formation of students toward an understanding of person, marriage, and family, in accord with the mission statement of the Institute. The program prepares students to carry out significant research and publication and qualifies students for academic positions in universities, colleges, and seminaries.

Admissions Requirements
Admission to the Ph.D. program requires the successful completion of a master’s degree in theology or a related field and the completion of the application process as outlined on the appropriate admissions form. Prior to acceptance, an on-site interview is normally required.

Degree Requirements
The Ph.D. program is a 45-credit program (15 courses); course work is to be completed over three years. Ph.D. students must be in residence for full-time study during the first three years of the program, and ordinarily for the two years of dissertation writing. Full-time study is defined as taking three courses per semester and fulfilling the requirements of the Symposium, which meets four times each semester.

Proficiency in four languages is required of all Ph.D. students: scholastic-ecclesiastical Latin, New Testament Greek, and two modern languages, as delineated below.

Additionally, students are expected to complete successfully the two foundational works examinations at the start of the second and third years of study and qualifying examinations by the end of January of the sixth term of study. (More precise guidelines are given below.)

Following completion of coursework, language requirements, foundational works examinations, and qualifying examinations, Ph.D. students must successfully defend the dissertation prospectus by the end of November of the 7th term of study. After the prospectus has been approved, students are expected to complete their dissertations in two years.

Courses
Ph.D. courses are generally offered on a three-year cycle, and students may choose any 15 courses of those offered at the Institute during the first five semesters.

Ph.D. students who are new to the Institute are typically required to take additional courses at the masters or licentiate level. With the permission of the Ph.D. Program Advisor and the fulfillment of an additional writing requirement, one of these courses may be substituted for a Ph.D.-level course. A maximum of two additional non-Ph.D. courses may be audited during the years of course work.

Languages
Students are required to demonstrate reading proficiency in scholastic-ecclesiastical Latin, New Testament Greek, and two modern languages (French, Spanish, Italian, or German). Proficiency is ordinarily demonstrated by successful completion of a written examination administered by Institute faculty.

One ancient and one modern language examination must be taken before the end of the first semester. The remaining language examinations must be taken by the end of the third semester.

To satisfy the language requirement in German or French, the following CUA language courses may be substituted for the proficiency exam: TRS 501 Theological German; GER 500 Reading for Comprehension; or FREN 500 Reading for Comprehension. These courses must be completed with a grade of at least B+ (in a course with letter grades) or Pass (in a Pass/Fail course). Students wishing to register for a language course at CUA should follow the usual cross-registration procedures.

An additional language may be required, depending on the dissertation topic. A second component of the language requirement involves the use of original-language sources in research. In two research papers prepared for doctoral
seminars, students will demonstrate substantial use of primary or secondary sources in a foreign language.

**Symposium**

The Symposium consists in monthly evening seminars on selected “Great Books” (and occasionally works of art or music), for the purpose of developing a community of conversation among all Ph.D. students and the faculty around the themes of God, person, love, marriage, and family as these have been articulated by, and shape, the tradition of Christianity and the West. This community of conversation is integral to both the method and the substance of the educational mission of the Institute. An overarching concern of the conversation is to explore the sense in which the meaning and dignity of human life are recognized and can finally be sustained only within a culture of gratitude. John Paul II wrote often of a “civilization of love” or again a “culture of life.” The Symposium examines civilization, love, and life as matters above all of what the Greeks termed “morphosis,” or “morphe,” of being formed, hence of “form.” Literature and art (along with the theology and philosophy comprising the rest of the curriculum) constitute a primary mode of this fully human formation.

**Foundational Works**

The two foundational works reading lists cultivate both the breadth and depth of students’ knowledge of theology, philosophy, and of the Catholic intellectual tradition. The two examinations based on these lists require students to demonstrate a profound grasp of the main concepts, issues, and themes contained in each of the works constituting the reading lists.

The foundational works reading list is available in the administrative offices of the Institute. Although some of these books appear on course bibliographies, each student is expected to read and prepare on his or her own all the books for the foundational works examinations.

**Qualifying Examinations**

The Qualifying Examinations consist of both written and oral components. The written component is divided into three sections, and the student’s responses in these three sections are treated in the oral component. The qualifying examinations take place in the second week of the sixth semester of study.

The written component is comprised of the following sections.

**Section 1:** This section treats what is termed “the quarrel between the ancients and the moderns.” The examination should indicate the student’s capacity for synthesis as well as his or her grasp of the thread that, where pertinent, manifests the unity in the development of doctrine. These questions will be examined through the following authors:

1. **Ancient writers:** Plato, Aristotle
2. **Medieval writers:** Aquinas, Bonaventure, Ockham
3. **Modern writers:** Machiavelli, Hobbes, Bacon, Descartes, Locke, Kant
4. **Recent Christian authors and the Second Vatican Council:** Balthasar, De Lubac, Rahner, Selected Documents of Vatican II
5. **American authors:** I. Hecker, J.C. Murray, J. Rawls, L. Strauss

A list of the selected works by each of these authors is available in the administrative offices of the Institute.

**Section 2:** This section requires critical elucidations of the fundamental anthropological-ontological, theological, and moral teaching of Karol Wojtyla/John Paul II and Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI. Students will answer questions regarding such topics as the meaning of person, being as gift, nuptiality, action and freedom.

**Section 3:** This section requires students to take up currently vexed issues in theology and philosophy pertinent to marriage, family, and the person. Questions will be drawn from such areas as sexual ethics, bioethics, sacramental theology, feminism, gender, and their social, cultural, and political/juridical contexts, requiring students to discuss the current status of an issue in contemporary literature.

Once a student has received a grade of “pass” for all qualifying examinations, he or she may submit the dissertation prospectus for formal evaluation.
**Dissertation Prospectus**

The dissertation prospectus is prepared under the guidance of the dissertation director, who must be selected by registration week of the fifth semester. The key elements of the dissertation prospectus are the production of the dissertation prospectus and the collegial process of guidance by the dissertation director and the first and second readers of the dissertation.

**Dissertation Prospectus Evaluation**

The student must have passed the qualifying examinations before the prospectus may be submitted for formal evaluation.

Once the thesis director deems the prospectus acceptable, it is circulated among the entire faculty. The prospectus may be submitted by April 1 of the sixth semester, if possible, but no later than November 1 of the seventh semester. Faculty members have two weeks to submit comments, objections, and/or questions to the thesis director and Program Advisor.

After this review, the student may meet with his or her board, comprised of the director and two readers, for the evaluation of the prospectus.

The prospectus is deemed to be finally approved when it has been signed by the dissertation director, the first and second readers, and the Program Advisor. The prospectus, with original signatures, is held in the student's official file.

Once the prospectus has been approved, the student may begin to write his or her dissertation.

**Ph.D. Dissertation**

The Ph.D. degree is awarded after the successful completion of the doctoral dissertation and a defense of the dissertation before the dissertation board. The dissertation should not exceed 300 pages (bibliography excluded) and should demonstrate maturity of theological judgment based on advanced graduate study. It should give evidence of capacity for research and reflection commensurate with advanced study, an ability to perform independent intellectual work, and a profound comprehension of the candidate's chosen field of study. The dissertation should be of sufficient quality to constitute a genuine contribution to that field of study.

**Defense of the Ph.D. Dissertation**

After acceptance of the dissertation by the director and readers, the student must defend the dissertation in a public defense of at least two hours. The student will begin with a fifteen-minute presentation of the dissertation, which will be followed by a period of questions from each member of the dissertation board. In the opening presentation, the student may speak from notes of no more than one page but should not read from a prepared text.

**Advising**

Ph.D. students have two types of advisors: the Ph.D. Program Advisor and the dissertation advisor. The Program Advisor orients the student to the degree program, guides the student through questions regarding the degree requirements, assists the student in selecting the dissertation advisor, and gives final approval to course selection. The dissertation director, normally selected by registration week of the fifth semester, guides the student in preparing the dissertation prospectus, and serves as mentor during the dissertation writing process.

**Residency**

The Ph.D. program normally requires six semesters of full-time study in residence, plus two years of dissertation writing. The completed dissertation must be defended within seven years of the date the student enrolls in the Ph.D. program. If a student is unable to defend the dissertation within seven years, the student may petition the Dean for a one-year extension. If a student fails to defend the dissertation within this period, he or she ceases to be a candidate for the Ph.D. degree.

**Assistantships**

Ph.D. students are required to serve in research or teaching assistantships during the fourth and fifth years of study, as available. The assistantships may entail ten
to fifteen hours of work per week assisting a designated professor or teaching a course or part of a course, depending on availability. Acceptance of assistantships is required for continued receipt of any scholarships or stipends.

**Ph.D. Handbook**

Further details of the Ph.D. program requirements are elaborated in the Ph.D. Handbook, distributed to Ph.D. students at orientation and available from the Institute’s Reception Office (Room 313).
**JPI 510/729**  
*Theological Anthropology: History and Method*  
Beginning with an examination of the problem of anthropology in modernity, this course will examine the main themes of a theological anthropology. They are: the predestination of Jesus Christ and of men in Jesus Christ, creation (in Christ), man as *imago Dei (ad Imaginem)*, human nature in relation to grace, the meaning of person, the meaning of sexual difference, original sin, and justification.  
3 credits

**JPI 511/731**  
*Faith and American Culture*  
This course proposes a theological-ontological reading of American culture. Its purpose is to frame the fundamental terms of a Catholic’s engagement with modernity and liberalism as expressed in the history of America. Readings for the course are drawn from authors influential in the founding and history of American culture, as well as from recent Catholic interpretations of the culture.  
3 credits

**JPI 517/817**  
*Jesus Christ: Revealer of God and Man*  
This course seeks to present students with an introduction to Christology that will help them to deepen their understanding of the Christocentric approach to anthropology, as it is expressed by Vatican II in *Gaudium et spes* 22 and developed by John Paul II, e.g., in *Redemptor hominis* 8-10. The development of key ideas in Christology will be studied by tracing the documents and the historical background of Scripture and of the ecumenical Councils in the Patristic era. The course will also focus on some contemporary debates surrounding the person of Christ, e.g. concerning his human psychology. The course’s goal is to provide students with a sense of Christ’s indissoluble bond with the life of the Trinity and of the revelation and communication of this life through Scripture and the life of the Church.  
3 credits

**JPI 518/757**  
*Theology of Mary*  
This course deals with the theological significance of the Virgin Mary, which can only be understood if presented in the wide horizon of God’s plan to recapitulate all things in Christ. That means that we will consider Mary, following the guidelines traced by the Second Vatican Council, in relation to the mystery of Christ and the Church. In her unique relationship with Christ, she appears as the fulfillment of the nuptial covenant of God with the people of Israel and, at the same time, as the living and concrete image of the pilgrim Church. The structure of the course follows an historical thread: the mysteries of the life of Mary. All the traditional topics of Mariology (Immaculate Conception, Virginity, Divine Motherhood, Assumption, collaboration in the redemption, etc.) will be covered as we consider Mary’s course of existence (from her Old Testament roots to the final Parousia). Her pilgrimage in faith will give us the key to contemplating the whole life of Jesus as a mystery, that is, as the revelation and action of the Triune God in the midst of human history.  
3 credits

**JPI 532/707**  
*Biblical Theology of Marriage and Family: Old Testament*  
The purpose of this course is to help the student discover the Biblical vision of the person, marriage, and family as presented in the Old Testament. Consequently, this is a text-oriented course which will examine key biblical texts which provide the foundation for these fundamental human realities. The course begins by providing the student with an adequate understanding of the nature of God’s Word and of the process of appropriate exegesis.
This is accomplished by an examination of the key magisterial documents which deal with hermeneutics. In the extended examination of the creation narrative of Gen 1-3, we will uncover the ground for all Biblical anthropology. For the Hebrew mind, the narrative and legal texts are also critically important because they give a concrete vision of the value and purpose of marriage and family. Thus, we will study the patriarchal narratives, the legal texts, and the familial rituals in the cult of Israel to understand how the person (imago Dei) and family (carrier of the covenant) functioned in the Old Testament. Within the Prophetic period there is an intensification of marital imagery for the covenant, and in the Wisdom Literature we find the ideal vision of marriage which re-establishes the divine vision. The final part of the course is a brief survey of the theological understanding of marriage in the Intertestamental period. We will conclude by an examination of how the trajectory of the Old Testament reaches its conclusion in Jesus’ teaching on marriage (Mt 19). This study will take an integrative approach which will situate the texts within the Jewish context but also allude to their appropriation in the Christian community. We will see how a balanced theological perspective developed based on the legal / cultic prescriptions along with the 'lived theology' found in the patriarchal and prophetic experiences.

3 credits

JPI 548/748
Fundamental Moral Theology: Freedom and Human Action
This course takes up themes arising within fundamental moral theology. In what sense is moral theology really a theology? What constitutes morality? What role do desire, fulfillment, love, truth, beauty, and the invitation to communion (cf. Veritatis splendor, ch. I) play in our grounding of moral theology? The course takes up the question of freedom, the foundation and meaning of natural law, and the structure and character of moral action. Readings include Veritatis splendor and texts drawn from J. Ratzinger, St. Thomas Aquinas, Kant, H. U. von Balthasar, S. Pinckaers, M. Rhonheimer, and L. Melina.

3 credits

JPI 549/752
Marriage and Virginity as States of Life
This course considers the concept of a “state of life” as a specification of the human vocation to love (Familiaris consortio, 11). The tradition has often stated that marriage and virginity are complementary rather than fundamentally opposed to each other. At the center of this complementarity is each state's analogous realization of the interior “form” of the vocation of human nature itself as revealed in the life and mission of Christ. The course explores the foundation of the two states in creation and their eschatological destiny, whether and in what sense we might call marriage “a state of perfection,” and the relation of the two states to the human person’s most fundamental and interior level of freedom. Readings include texts drawn from John Paul II, H. U. von Balthasar, St. Thomas Aquinas, D. Crawford, and M. Ouellet.

3 credits

JPI 546/762
The Nuptial Mystery according to St. John
This course is an introduction to the theological doctrine of love (agape) offered by the Fourth Gospel. It imparts familiarity with the key words and concepts necessary to deepen John’s understanding of Jesus Christ as the Revealer and Giver of God’s Trinitarian Love by exploring the different dimensions of the rich Johannine doctrine on love: Christological, Trinitarian, sacramental, ecclesiological. Finally the course wants to initiate the students to the still little-explored study of John’s highly theological usage of symbolism. The course focuses particularly the nuptial symbolism as a fitting key to grasp the very core of John’s gaze upon the flesh of Jesus. Jesus’ flesh is the true temple where those who believe in Him can finally arrive to see (Jn 1:14, 18; 14:9; 17:24) and to participate in the glory of God’s Trinitarian Love (Jn 17:26).

3 credits
**COURSES OF INSTRUCTION**

**JPI 550/850**  
**Gender/ The Sexual Difference**  
This course considers the question of gender/the sexual difference in terms of its theological and anthropological foundations, and in light of issues raised regarding this question in the current cultural situation. Readings are drawn from Aristotle and Aquinas, St. John Paul II, various Church documents, and a variety of contemporary authors (e.g., biologists, social scientists, theologians, gender theorists, cultural critics).

3 credits

**JPI 553/763**  
**Being as Gift: Philosophical Foundations**  
This course elucidates the constitutive elements of a metaphysics of love necessary to undergird John Paul II’s nuptial anthropology. John Paul II’s anthropology, to which his interpretation of *Gaudium et spes* 22 and 24 in terms of nuptial mystery witnesses, is rooted in the recognition that being (both God and man) is gift. Through readings of Plato, Aristotle, Dionysius, Aquinas, Heidegger, Jean-Luc Marion, Ferdinand Ulrich, Balthasar, and John Paul II, the course revisits main philosophical themes—wonder, form, nature, substance, relation, the transcendentals, and causality—in light of an ontology of gift. In so doing, the course seeks to illustrate the intrinsic relation between theology and philosophy as presented in John Paul II’s *Fides et ratio*.

3 credits

**JPI 554/764**  
**Catechesis on Human Love**  
This course examines John Paul II’s *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body* through a sequential reading of the text and a discussion of its scriptural, theological, and philosophical methodology. The course seeks to elucidate the spousal meaning of the body as it is revealed by Christ. Christ reveals this spousal meaning through his deepening of the historical condition of married love in two directions: towards the beginning, when Christ confirms marriage’s absolute indissolubility (Mt 19:3-9), and towards the eschaton, when he states that man and woman “neither marry nor are given in marriage” (Mt 22:30). According to John Paul II, the beginning consists of three original experiences (solitude, unity, nakedness) to which we have a certain access in our fallen condition. The eschaton, on the other hand, reveals the final virginal form of the spousal meaning of the body. Both the virginal state and the sacramental economy offer men and women a certain participation in the final form of love revealed by Christ. Christ further reveals the spousal meaning of the body, and hence of human existence, through the sacrificial gift of himself for the Church on the Cross. This redemptive act that brings man the gift of divine sonship is, at the same time, a nuptial act: the forgiveness of man’s sins is at the service of the nuptial union of the Church, the immaculate Bride, with Christ, the Bridegroom. Participating in a real and sacramental way in Christ’s love for the Church, the sacrament of marriage acquires a depth that both transforms and super-abundantly confirms natural marriage and the created order. This participation in Christ’s total, indissoluble, and fruitful love grounds the adequate anthropology that, according to John Paul II, undergirds *Humanae vitae’s* defense of the inseparability of the unitive and procreative dimensions of the conjugal embrace as well as the Christian understanding of the goods of marriage.

3 credits

**JPI 555/716**  
**Encyclicals of John Paul II**  
The aim of this course is to familiarize students with the theological vision of John Paul II as embodied in his Encyclical Letters. The course begins with an overview of the life and thought of Karol Wojtyla / John Paul II. The second, and longest, part of the course consists of close reading of eleven of John Paul II’s Encyclical Letters from *Redemptor Hominis* (1979) through *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (2003). The unifying theme for our interpretation of the thought of John Paul
II is the intersection of theology and anthropology as set forth in the great text of *Gaudium et spes*, 22: “In reality it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man becomes clear. . . Christ the new Adam, in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and His love, fully reveals man to himself and brings to light his high calling.” In order to deepen our understanding of John Paul II’s contribution to Catholic theology and philosophy, we will situate his writings in the context of the development of Catholic Social Doctrine from *Rerum novarum* through the Second Vatican Council. The course concludes with a reflection on Pope Benedict XVI’s interpretation and development of John Paul II’s theology in light of contemporary challenges.

3 credits

**JPI 568/768**

*Revelation, Scripture, and the Nature of Exegesis*

*Dei verbum* teaches that Scripture is the “soul of theology,” thus showing its fundamental importance to the theological endeavor. This course will operate along two major thematic lines: the text as sacred text and the development of an exegetical approach congruent with the text. The lectures will examine the phenomenon of divine self-disclosure within the created order and the specific form this communication takes within the community of God’s people. Included in this study will be an examination of a) the nature of revelation; b) the nature of the Word of God as Scripture; c) the relationship between eternal Word and human event; d) the categories by which truth is conveyed, including Semitic categories of thought, the actualizing power of the word, vows, covenantal reality, etc.; and e) the relationship of the two testaments. Central to this investigation will be the insight of John Paul II and his linking of the Incarnation to the Scriptural text itself. The second theme is centered on the interpretation of the text and the appropriation of an exegetical model which enables the truth of the text to emerge. Here, an examination of the modern methodological crisis will be made (re Bultmann *et al*) along with the response of Ratzinger (*Biblical Interpretation in Crisis*). Included here will be an examination of how the Early Church Fathers read the Scriptures, a thorough investigation of the magisterial documents on biblical interpretation (especially *Providentissimus deus*, *Divino afflante spiritu*, and *Dei verbum*) and a review of the different methodologies informing today’s exegesis, with reference to the Pontifical Biblical Commission’s *Interpretation of the Bible*.) The importance of the re-discovery of symbolic realism (which allows for the typological structure of Scripture to be operative) will be discussed. The work of John Paul II, Cardinal Ratzinger (Benedict XVI), Henri de Lubac, von Balthasar, Childs, Cassuto, Eichrodt, and Fishbane (among others) will be central to this study.

3 credits

**JPI 569/866**

*Dominion and Technē*

This course is essentially an exploration of the philosophical and theological meaning of work. In order to illuminate the meaning of work, we ponder the philosophical roots of dominion (God’s command to “subdue the earth”) and of technē (the root of technique, technology). The first part of the course attempts to unfold the classical understanding of work, beginning with the Jewish and Greek conceptions and then following their integration and transformation in Christian culture through a metaphysics of creation. The second half of the course considers the radical changes the nature and the practice of work undergo in modernity and above all in the twentieth century, and seeks to form a judgment about the current state of the matter from a Catholic perspective.

3 credits

**JPI 570/770**

*Sexual Ethics and the Person*

This course will study the personal character and meaning of the body as a
foundation for sexual ethics. Starting with the specificity of the moral point of view, the course will develop the main lines of an ethics of sexuality in which the human person as a created whole, corpore et anima unus, is "the subject of his own moral acts" (Veritatis splendor, 48). As John Paul II said, we find in the body "the anticipatory signs, the expression and the promise of the gift of self, in conformity with the wise plan of the Creator" (ibid.). Particular issues will include the ethics of conjugal relations, contraception, homosexuality, and the use of condoms to prevent HIV/AIDS. (Fundamental Moral Theology: Freedom and Human Action is highly recommended as a background.)

3 credits

**JPI 605/839**

**Issues in Psychological and Neurological Science: Gender, Marriage and Family**

Pope John Paul II stated, “Only a Christian anthropology, enriched by the contribution of indisputable scientific data, including that of modern psychology and psychiatry, can offer a complete and thus realistic vision of humans.” This vision will guide the exploration of the neurological and psychological discoveries regarding male and female gender. Topics to be covered also include divorce, sexual and physical abuse, homosexuality, abortion, psychotherapy, marriage counseling, family therapy, and pastoral responses to these issues.

3 credits

**JPI 611**

**The Soul of Medicine**

The course considers the meaning of health and the nature of medicine in the light of their historical development, the Church’s understanding of the human person, and the state of modern medicine. Special attention will be paid to the meaning of the body and human suffering and to the challenges faced by physicians and other health care workers in a contemporary setting.

3 credits

**JPI 613/848**

**History of the Church**

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with the historical unfolding of the life and mission of Church. The Church is both “in history, but at the same time she transcends it. It is only ‘with the eyes of faith’ that one can see her in her visible reality and at the same time in her spiritual reality as bearer of divine life” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 770). Following an introductory reflection on the nature of the Church and the relationship between time and eternity, the course will consider some of the key events in the life of Church such as the apostolic witness and the development of the canon of Scripture, the Trinitarian and Christological controversies of the fourth and fifth centuries, the development of monasticism, the tragic split between East and West, medieval theology and the rise of universities, the Protestant reformation, the Church’s encounter with the Enlightenment, and the First and Second Vatican Councils. Readings include primary sources from the Church Fathers, conciliar documents, Robert Louis Wilken, The First Thousand Years: A Global History of Christianity, Alexander Schmemann, The Historical Road of Eastern Orthodoxy, and Christopher Dawson, The Dividing of Christendom.

3 credits

**JPI 615**

**Biotechnical Anthropology**

Technology is not merely an instrument to be used licitly or illicitly, but the all-embracing milieu in which we moderns live. This milieu embeds fundamental assumptions about being and the nature of the human person, and these in turn, lie at the root of bioethical dilemmas, made possible by our biotechnical prowess, which seem to grow exponentially by the day. Drawing on a wide range of sources including C.S. Lewis, Hans Jonas, John Dewey, and Hannah Arendt, this course will consider the philosophical foundations and fundamental anthropological assumptions of the biotechnical revolution as well as its practical implications.

3 credits
JPI 617
Bioethics I: Biology, Medicine, and the Contours of Human Life
This course develops foundations for bioethical inquiry in view of the doctrine of creation, the nuptial anthropology proposed by John Paul II, and seminal documents from the recent magisterium of the Church. Bioethics I provides theological, historical-cultural, and biological context for reflection on particular issues, drawing also on the contributions of recent thinkers including Robert Spaemann, Hans Jonas, and Stephen Talbott, whose work exposes the dualism and materialism that have shaped modern science and medicine, and points the way to a more adequate vision of the embodied person amid the vicissitudes of birth, illness, and death. Specific bioethical issues are treated in Bioethics II. (Fundamental Moral Theology: Freedom and Human Action is highly recommended as a background.)

3 credits

JPI 619
Bioethics II: Life, Death, and the Human Person
This course treats questions concerning illness, medical treatments, and death within the ambit of the anthropological foundations developed in Bioethics I. Study of the virtue of prudence aids in developing an adequate method for ethical discernment. Issues such as stem cell research and artificial reproductive technologies are considered in light of magisterial teaching and current theological and philosophical reflection. End-of-life issues are also treated, including questions concerning life support and its withdrawal, the use of ordinary/proportionate and extraordinary/disproportionate means, and criteria for determining death, including the neurological standard, commonly referred to as “brain death.”

3 credits

JPI 620/813
Communio Personarum: The Triune God
The purpose of this course is to ponder with the help of the theological tradition the sense in which the Triune God can be understood as a mystery of communion of persons and how this account of the Deus Trinitas grounds the way man’s being images God. John Paul II wrote that “being a person in the image and likeness of God thus also involves existing in a relationship, in relation to the other ‘I.’ This is a prelude to the definitive self-revelation of the Triune God: a living unity in the communion of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit” (Mulieris dignitatem 7). At the same time, he also said that “the primordial model of the family is to be sought in God himself, in the trinitarian mystery of his life” (Letter to Families 6). The trinitarian reflection carried out in the course is therefore at the service of laying out the theological basis for the anthropology and metaphysics of love as well as the sacramentality of marriage and soteriology elaborated by St. John Paul II.

3 credits

JPI 623/853
Mystery of the Church
This course looks at the grand themes of the Church – One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic – through the themes of the “communio ecclesiology” of Lumen Gentium, understood to be the fullest development of a tradition. Some of those themes are: “Sacrament,” “Mystery,” “body of Christ,” “people of God,” the relation between the universal Church and the local Church, hierarchical communion (collegiality and papal primacy), the nature and mission of the laity, the relation between the Catholic Church and other Churches and ecclesiastical communities, and between other religions (and those not professing one), and finally, between the Church and the world as such.

3 credits
**Courses of Instruction**

**JPI 628/854
Philosophical Anthropology**
The philosophical study of human nature is as old as philosophy itself; nevertheless, a distinct field known as “philosophical anthropology” was explicitly delineated in the early 20th Century, above all in the work of Max Scheler. One of the hallmarks of the thought of John Paul II, himself influenced by Scheler, was the central significance he gave to anthropology in his approach to problems in both philosophy and theology. The first half of this course will be a careful study of the classical interpretation of human nature, above all the understanding of the relation between the body and the soul, through a reading of Plato, Aristotle, and the “Treatise on Man” in Aquinas’s *Summa Theologiae*. The second half will be a reading of programmatic texts by Max Scheler and an exploration of Karol Wojtyła’s/Pope John Paul II’s integration of the modern philosophical anthropology with the classical interpretation of man inside of a theological vision of the nature and destiny of the human being. Some of the main themes explored are the nature of the human soul, the relationship between the soul and body, the relationship between self and other as expressed in the structure of the acts of intellect and will, the relationship between human nature and nature more generally, man’s place in the cosmos, and man’s fundamental relationship to God in all of this.

3 credits

**JPI 634/826
Sacramentality of Marriage**
This course offers a systematic reflection on the sacrament of matrimony, addressing both the concept of sacramentality generally and its relationship to marriage in particular. The Sacrament of Marriage is a privileged point of contact between nature and grace. Christ did not establish a new “outward sign” or a new form for entering into marriage. Instead, he recalled the original truth of creation: “He who made them from the beginning made them male and female . . . ’For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one . . . therefore what God has joined together let no man put asunder” (Mt 19:4-6). Rather than “adding” something to marriage from outside, Christ reveals the fullness of God’s original plan for marriage and accomplishes this plan through his death and Resurrection. Henceforth, marriage between baptized persons represents and participates in Christ’s spousal love for the Church. In order to gain a deeper understanding of this mystery, the course consists of three parts. Part One provides an overview of the nature and sacramentality of Christian marriage. The second part of the course explores the history of the doctrine of marriage within the Catholic tradition from Augustine through the Second Vatican Council. We will also consider the understanding of marriage in Protestant theology and in the Orthodox Churches. The last part of the course explores some disputed questions and controversies regarding the nature and sacramentality of marriage in light of the theology of John Paul II theology of John Paul II and in the context of questions surrounding the interpretation of Pope Francis’s *Amoris laetitia*.

3 credits

**JPI 635/846
Marriage and Canon Law**
The purpose of this course is to explore the canonical profile of marriage articulated in the 1983 Code of Canon Law in light of a nuptial sacramental theology and the ecclesiology of the Second Vatican Council. To this end, the first part of the course addresses the basic historical and methodological issues necessary for discerning the relationship between canon law and theology, and for understanding correctly the nature of canon law’s mission in the life of the Church. The second part of the course specifically considers the canonical principles and issues relevant to the pastoral care of marriage, especially the implications of the sacrament’s theological and juridical elements for annulments, dissolutions, and convalidations. In this regard, special attention is given to the
adequacy of matrimonial jurisprudence in American tribunals.

3 credits

**JPI 646/865**  
*Sacramentality in the Fathers*  
As we can see in the writings of the New Testament and of the Fathers, the person of Christ was considered to be the fulfillment of the law and of the prophecies given in the Old Testament. Christ’s excessive and unexpected fulfillment of the Old Testament’s expectation of salvation, which is only seen with the eyes of faith, brought forth a typological and symbolical reading of Scripture over against reductionist (e.g. Marcion) and gnostic interpretations of Christ. The Church Fathers’ approach to Scripture and to reality as such aspired to do justice to the historical and bodily dimension of salvation history and the deeply mysterious way in which God’s revelation takes place within history. Importantly, for the Fathers, revelation did not simply mean an intellectual transmission of information, but most of all God’s mysterious and sacramental self-gift to human beings, as it can be experienced and participated in the Church’s liturgy. We can even speak of a sacramental ontology in the Fathers, as this is what their philosophy and theology in the end point to. In the 20th century, Henri De Lubac and Hans Urs von Balthasar, among others, made it their goal to recover and develop this sacramental thought of the Fathers and discover its fruitfulness, which is still relevant today. This course aims at enabling students to understand the Fathers’ thought on the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, but alsomatrimony, within the larger framework of their thought. Readings will include Irenaeus of Lyon, Origen, Augustine, and Maximus, as well as Henri de Lubac and Hans Urs von Balthasar.

3 credits

**JPI 659/860**  
*Biblical Theology of Marriage and Family: Synoptics and Paul*  
This course builds on the Old Testament course and provides an introduction to the New Testament’s teaching on marriage, family, and the nature of the human person. The core of the course concerns how the event of Christ and the Person of Jesus, mediated through baptism, transform the human person and the fundamental relationships of marriage and family. The course begins with lectures on hermeneutics which are particularly pertinent to the study of the New Testament including the use of the Old Testament scripture in the New, the concept of fulfillment, and the ecclesial nature of truth. The course is text oriented and thus will concentrate on the exegesis of key New Testament passages which are essential in constructing a New Testament theology of marriage and family. We will deal primarily with the Synoptics and the Pauline corpus. Key questions that will be explored include the nature of the messianic family, the iconic structure and meaning of marriage in Paul, the role of grace and healing, the transformation of the family in Christ as a place of eschatological activity, the importance of baptism for this theology, the role and meaning of celibacy which now emerges as a novelty, and the ecclesial nature of the family (the “domestic church”). The course will explore in depth Pauline anthropology, i.e., how Paul understands the nature of the person redeemed in Christ, the meaning of redeemed sexuality, and the implication of redemption for the moral life including the issue of family structure, the meaning of sexuality, divorce, ordered and disordered sexual activity, etc. These soteriological themes will be studied in terms of the present time *(kronos)* and in terms of the eschatological future *(kairos)*.

3 credits

**JPI 662/862**  
*Modernity and Humanism*  
This course examines, from a philosophical perspective, the dynamics of the process of modernization that has continued from the late Middle Ages to today in Western culture and is making its impact felt throughout the world. The course’s focal point is upon the impact of the
Enlightenment, which summed up and crystallized the shape of modernity in Europe and elsewhere.

3 credits

**JPI 665**

*Beginning / End of Life Issues*

This course examines the ethical problems raised when dealing with human life at its beginning. The different biological and medical techniques that manipulate human subjects and genetic materials in order to obtain some positive outcome will be described and the social and moral aspects of its use will be discussed. The second part of the course will consider the ethical problems concerning the end of life of a person.

3 credits

**JPI 666**

*Creation: Nature and Life*

This course will deal with the philosophical foundations needed for a correct understanding of the phenomenon of life. What is organic life and how can we recognize its presence? In what does its novelty consist with respect to the material world? How does an organism differ from a machine? How essential are theology and the doctrine of creation to the adjudication of these questions? By analyzing these and similar questions, the course will provide the adequate philosophical basis needed for dealing with the ethical problems posed by biotechnology.

3 credits

**JPI 668/868**

*Law, Family, and the Person*

This course closely examines the treatment of marriage, family, and the person, as well as the related issues of sexual difference, procreation, and bio-technology, under civil law. The course will be divided into three parts. The first part will offer a philosophical and historical context by examining a number of ancient, modern, and post-modern thinkers, as well as a few legal cases and Church documents, in relation to the nature of law, the questions of natural law, law and the body, and so forth. The second part of the course will draw on this philosophical/anthropological foundation to examine the developing treatment of marriage and sexuality under the law, as present in important judicial opinions and other legal materials. Topics will include the so-called "fundamental right" to marriage, contraception, the "right to privacy" in the area of sexuality, "gay adoption," and "same-sex marriage." The third part of the course, also focusing on court cases and other legal materials, will address the treatment of the person in the developing context of biotechnology. Topics will include abortion, surrogate motherhood, artificial "reproduction," cloning, and end-of-life issues.

3 credits

**JPI 669/769**

*Science, Theology, and Ethics*

The relationship between science and theology is a preoccupation of modern scientific and political culture, and a great deal is at stake. Virtually everyone agrees that there is an essential difference between them and that each has a proper, relative autonomy, but in what does this autonomy consist? Is scientific integrity, for instance, constituted by science's independence from metaphysical and theological considerations? Must metaphysical or theological criticism of science confine itself to morality, and is such criticism possible without lapsing into fideism or violating scientific autonomy? Beginning with a philosophical inquiry into the nature of scientific knowledge, exploring the historical relationship between science, philosophy, and theology and the effect of this relationship on our fundamental conceptions of nature, this course will address these and other such questions. It will contend that science is internally constituted by its relationship to metaphysics and theology and that science's proper integrity and autonomy follow from a deeper understanding of that relationship. This then opens up largely ignored possibilities for thinking of the relationship between scientific knowledge and ethics.

3 credits
Environment and the Cosmological Order
In calling the human being to subdue the earth and have dominion over it, the Book of Genesis reveals an intimate relationship between human making and the natural world. But how are we to understand this relationship in light of an environmental crisis brought about largely by human technology? And how does this relationship help us to understand the nature of the ecological crisis? Developing the foundations that underlie this mission entrusted to the human person, this course will examine the destructive transformation of this relationship and explore the relevance of the doctrine of creation and a corresponding theological anthropology for thinking about the ecological crisis and our technological age.

3 credits

Issues in Science: Genetics & Embryology
Modern bioethics encompasses numerous new scientific and medical techniques, and requires an understanding of the scientific basics in order to frame knowledgeable bioethical questions and answers. This course will survey basic bioscience with particular emphasis on new genetic and embryological techniques, including stem cells, cloning, genetic engineering, and other new biotechnologies. The science as well as the ethical questions raised by new biotechnologies will be discussed.

3 credits

Covenantal Reality: Biblical Foundations
Covenant is at the heart of God’s relationship to his people. This course will examine the numerous covenants within the Scriptures, their constitutive structure, and the relationship they have to each other. Within the Old Testament, the meaning of covenant, its development within the canon, its relationship to its ancient Near Eastern context, and the trajectory it takes within the prophetic and messianic texts will be explored. Fundamental here are the critical questions of a) creation as a covenant; and b) the role of human response and freedom. The experience of divine revelation and of covenant profoundly affected Israel’s view of the human person, marriage, and family. As the covenant is fulfilled in Christ, at the heart of our study will be how the Paschal mystery effects a re-constitution of the covenant such that it becomes “new.” Here, we will examine the Marian, Eucharistic, and somatic dimensions of the Christological form of the covenant. Critical to our study is the complex question of how the Old and New Covenants are related. Key Pauline texts will be studied and will include a critique of the modern proposal of covenantal nomism.

3 credits

Issues in the Gospel of John
This course deals with the Gospel of John and the critical themes that form its architectural structure. This course will closely examine the Biblical text with special reference to the original Greek. We will identify those themes that are central to the Johannine proclamation of the Gospel and identify and examine the specifics of John’s anthropology and how it affects his understanding of soteriology, ecclesiology, and pneumatology. We will examine the various exegetical approaches that have evolved, including the Patristic, medieval, and modern periods. Critical to this study is the examination of John’s use of specific words (faith, light, sent, believe, life, glory, etc.) and his use of parallelisms and chiastic structures. This course will investigate the critical theological themes in John, particularly the role of the Spirit, the relationship of the Son to the Father, the realism of the Eucharistic discourse, the pneumatic and Mariological dimensions of ecclesiology, and the underlying sacramental nature of reality. All of these elements become critical components in the anthropological vision that John presents, which will be unpacked.

3 credits
JP1 725
**Eros and Agape: The Meaning of Love**

While most people intuit what love is – recognizing it when they see it – it is not always easy to say what it is. Moreover, while everyone experiences love as dramatic and often problematic, most do not think of love as a philosophical and theological problem. Our very word “love” witnesses to the problem, in its resistance to the perennial attempts to tie it down to one of its many elements. The tendency to partiality is instantiated well in the so-called “problem of love” where ascending *eros* (now taken to be “need love,” “interested love,” “egoism”) is understood to be incompatible with the Christian descending *agape* (now taken to be self-abnegation, “disinterested” or “altruistic” concern for the other alone).

It is evident that persons, chiefly God, ought to be loved “for their own sakes,” as ends, not as means. It is also evident that as a creature one cannot but desire one’s own happiness or fulfillment. What is not clear, however, is how these two loves are united. This course attempts to give an account of that unity, with an eye to the question about the novelty of Christian love.

It does so by considering the various polarities of love: love as an inclination (*amor naturalis* and *passio*) and love as an act (*amor rationalis*); “love of concupiscence” and “love of friendship;” ascending “eros” and descending “agape.” It also considers the various “objects” of love (self, neighbor, and God) and the order between them (the *ordo amoris*). All of this is done with an eye to the novelty of Christian love and the claims made on account of it (Nygren) and against it (Comte).

The course follows an historical trajectory, beginning with Plato (*eros*), Aristotle (the three friendships) St. Augustine (the *uti-frui* distinction), the Cistercians and Victorines (the “stages” of the love of God), St. Thomas (the natural desire for happiness, love as a passion, the two-fold distinction, and the order of love), and, finally, modern and post-modern altruism (Comte, Mill, Derrida). The course will end with a consideration of the nature of the Christian novelty with respect to love (Richard of St. Victor, Balthasar, John Paul II, Scola).

3 credits

JP1 743
**The Church in the Acts of the Apostles**

The Book of Acts is the historical narrative of the events of early Christianity. Here the earliest Christians experienced what salvation was and had to grapple with articulating its meaning. With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit the life of the Church began with its claims upon the whole of humanity. Acts shows how the abiding power of the Holy Spirit guided the first community of believers and how that same Spirit developed the institutional structures that guided the Church’s life, mission, and decisions. Several key questions emerge in the study of Acts: what is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the individual Christian and the Church corporate? What is the relationship of the individual believer to the organic Church? How is truth determined as the Church faces difficult questions that must be resolved for the very life of the Church to continue? How were differing visions of the Church to be resolved? The struggle for the authentic nature of the Church to emerge is at the heart of the dynamic of Acts and will be the central focus of our study. Key to understanding this dynamic is found in the person and apostleship of Paul.

This is a highly intensive seminar in which the student has to make extensive preparations for each session and produce an in-depth paper for each session which deals with the assigned topic in a critical and incisive manner.

3 credits

JP1 809/928
**Anthropology of Karol Wojtyła/ John Paul II**

This course examines, in its first half, the philosophical sources used by Karol...
Wojtyła, in particular, Kant, Schelling, and Hume. The course’s second part is given over to an analysis of Wojtyła’s philosophical writings, especially the Lublin Lectures, Person and Act, and several articles.

3 credits

**JPI 816**

**Domestic Church: Biblical Foundations**

John Paul II stated that the future of humanity “passes by way of the family.” The purpose of this course is to construct a theology of the Domestic Church. This task requires the development of a hermeneutic for the recovery of a Scriptural view of reality, an analysis of the biblical basis for this doctrine from both the Old and New Testaments, and an examination of how these biblical categories were developed through the Early Church and the Fathers up to the Middle Ages. This course will examine the sudden reappearance of the term “domestic church” at Vatican II and its further development in modern times, particularly in magisterial teaching. Thematically, the course examines the structure of creation, the role of the family within the Abrahamic covenant, the importance of fatherhood and its link to memory of the faith, the family as the locus of the Hebraic cult, and the educative role of the family in the Scriptures. The course concludes with an analysis of the problems of the modern appropriation of the concept of family as domestic church.

3 credits

**JPI 837**

**Knowledge of God in the Fathers**

This course will address important questions: While Catholic dogma affirms that man can see God, in what does this ‘vision of God’ precisely consist; what is its real object; what are its limits? Does this vision deal only with eschatology, or is it an experience “inchoately” possible for man here and now, even if only through the speculum (mirror) of faith? What have “mystery” and “mysticism” meant from the very beginning of the Christian tradition? Does man desire to see God? Is this vision necessary in order to become a perfect human person? The goal of the seminar is to show: 1) that the affirmative answers to the questions above have deep roots lying in both the Old and New Testaments of Scripture itself and 2) how the Fathers achieved – more or less successfully – a creative synthesis of the genuine biblical inheritance with the contemplative ideal of Greek tradition. Focus will include study of biblical theophanies, especially of the Exodus; the complex origins of Christian mysticism, paying attention to both the platonic and the biblical understanding of “mystery”; Philo of Alexandria’s exegesis of the biblical passages studied, as well as insights drawn from Origen and Gregory of Nyssa.

3 credits

**JPI 844**

**Christ: Icon of the Father’s Love**

What exactly does it mean that in Christ the “Word became flesh,” and therefore in Him we can really see the invisible God? This seminar follows the theological debate concerning the mystery of Jesus Christ until Nicaea II (787 AD), the Council that proclaimed the legitimacy and importance of the Icons for Christian religion and devotion. Far from being a “marginal appendix,” this Council has to be understood as an important integration of the previous ones more directly concerning the ontology of Christ’s divine and human Person. Only with the iconoclastic debate, in a sense, did the new understanding of the human being’s mysterious dignity as an inseparable unity of body and spirit fully emerge, brought about by and through the Incarnation of the Logos in Jesus Christ (GS II).

3 credits

**JPI 847**

**Credo ut intellegam, Intellegam ut credam: Faith and Knowledge in the Catholic Tradition**

In the words of Benedict XVI, faith is the “fundamental act of Christian existence.”
The seminar explores the main dimensions and questions concerning the act of “faith.” The approach will be both historical (diachronic) and thematic (synchronic): we will focus on the constitutive dimensions of the act of faith, in the order in which they concretely emerged throughout the people of God’s experience of divine Revelation and in and through the development of the Church’s history. The course will be therefore divided in five sections that follow the historical development of Catholic doctrine and theological debate on faith:

1. Scripture, from the Old to the New Testament
2. Pillars of the Tradition: St. Augustine, St. Thomas, and St. John of the Cross
3. Re-reading the Tradition: Rousselot, Pieper, Ratzinger, von Balthasar
4. Specific questions, including the measure of Jesus’ knowledge and the role of Mary’s faith in the Church
5. The recent Magisterium of the Church, especially Lumen fidei by Pope Francis.

3 credits

**JPI 851/950 Feminism in Theology and Culture**

With an eye to the “New Feminism” of John Paul II, this course examines the key elements of contemporary feminism in what has come to be its two main radical manifestations: “equality feminism” and “difference feminism”: its critique of patriarchy, its central concern about women and work, its appeal to “experience” as norm, and its understanding of gender as either a social construct or an essential (post-modern) difference. The course will, moreover, consider these elements at work in the feminist critique and re-formulation (if not rejection) of the main theological *locri* (Trinity, Christology, Ecclesiology, Mariology). Students will become familiar with the key figures in and the essential features of feminism (theological and otherwise).

Key texts representing feminist thought (e.g. Beauvoir, Irigaray, Butler), its theoretical background (e.g. Mill, Hegel, Foucault), its theological manifestation (e.g. Johnson, Hampson, Schüssler-Fiorenza, Coakley) as well as its critique (John Paul II, Ong, Stern, Hans Urs von Balthasar) will be read.

3 credits

**JPI 869 Bonaventure: Wisdom and Trinitarian Theology**

Over against the Dominican Thomas Aquinas, who was Bonaventure’s most important contemporary and proceeded according to a more Aristotelian methodological framework, the Franciscan Bonaventure further developed a contemplative and symbolical (one could say Platonic) way of thinking similar to the Fathers. Concretely, Bonaventure took up Trinitarian Theology from Alexander of Hales and others, then very much developed it by integrating this theology into his philosophical thinking via the transcendentals of the one, the true, and the good. This method brings to light aspects of theology as well as philosophy that the Greek Fathers were perhaps hesitant to make explicit. In his work entitled *A Mind’s Itinerary to God*, Bonaventure demands from his reader a ruminative reading, thereby highlighting the depth of reflection and the wealth of content we may find in the relatively short treatise, which engages the whole person in the ascent towards God. In this seminar, we will read and ruminate on several of Bonaventure’s writings without leaving aside their historical context and discover how fruitful the dialogue between theology and philosophy can be for Christian life in the Church.

3 credits

**JPI 870 The Desire to See God in Gregory of Nyssa**

For Gregory of Nyssa man desires to see God, because he is made for God. The fact that this desire for God can be fulfilled constitutes a long tradition in the history of the Church and serves as a key with which to read and select writings of the
Fathers. In this seminar, we will start by focusing on Gregory of Nyssa’s understanding of the beatific state as developed in his seminal text *The Making of Man*. Instead of a statement simply about possible future events, the beatific vision for Gregory implies a comprehensive theological anthropology that is well worth considering for our times, in light of John Paul II’s thought. In addition to Gregory of Nyssa, we will read his fellow bishop Gregory of Nazianzen and Gregory’s sources in Origen and elsewhere. We will also study the effect that Gregory’s view of eternal motion-in-rest had on later writers like Pseudo-Dionysius and Maximus the Confessor. We will tackle questions such as what relation the final state of the human being has with its beginnings, how grace relates to nature, and how ultimate fulfillment is understood in the Christian tradition.

3 credits

**JPI 871**

*Technology and Life*

In view of the Cartesian separation between *res extensa* and *rex cogitans* that continues to shape our civilization, philosopher Robert Spaemann diagnosed a blind spot in modern science. “What gets lost in this separation, what cannot be thought anymore,” Spaemann observes, “is: life. Life is essentially withinness and withoutness, both interiority and exteriority, at once being-for-itself and being-in-relation-to another.” This course seeks to reclaim some of the best recent and contemporary thought concerning the meaning of “life” and its relation to personhood, particularly in the face of the encroachments of technology. Readings by Spaemann, John Paul II, Benedict XVI/ Joseph Ratzinger, Angelo Scola, Hans Jonas, Stephen Talbott, and others will serve as a foundation for elucidating the theological and anthropological significance of being alive in conversation with recent philosophy of biology. On the basis of this groundwork, several bioethical questions will be considered at the end of the course.

3 credits

**JPI 872**

*Sexual Difference*

“Sexual difference is one of the important questions of our age, if not in fact the burning issue. . . . each age is preoccupied with one thing, and one alone.” This statement made decades ago by the French Philosopher Luce Irigaray, has not lost any of its relevance. On the contrary. With the emergence of “gender” as something other than “sex,” and the revolutionary goal to “eliminate the sex distinction itself” (Firestone), the question about its nature becomes ever more urgent. This course will examine the nature of sexual difference, considering both the difference in itself and the male and female difference. We will examine the metaphysical discussion of the difference in Plato and Aristotle, then Thomas Aquinas. Ultimately, we will consider this in the light of the “Christian Difference” (Sokolowski, Balthasar, Fortin, Hadjadj, among others). The course will also examine the biological account of sexual difference, including the emergence of it in organic life, in the life of an individual, and the way it manifests itself in and between the two sexes (Darwin, Beauvoir, Portman, among others). Finally, the course will take up the modern distinction between (a “merely biological”) “sex” and “gender identity” either as a “social construct” or a “self-identification” (Money, Rubin, Butler, Trueman, among others), while considering the goals behind what is in effect a revolt against the created order itself (Del Noce).

3 credits

**JPI 921**

*Thomism, Ressourcement, and Vatican II*

This course aims to familiarize students with the key debates of twentieth-century theology which form the backdrop to the Second Vatican Council and still significantly influence its interpretation today. Particular attention will be given to the relation between nature and grace, as well as the relation between being and love, in light of a renewed interpretation of
Thomas Aquinas. Authors studied include Maurice Blondel, Henri de Lubac, Etienne Gilson, Joseph Ratzinger, and Yves Congar.

3 credits

**JPI 922**

*God the Giver of Life*

This doctoral seminar is dedicated to the elucidation of two key pneumatological questions: (1) the Father—Son relation in the Holy Spirit and (2) the generation of the Son in the Holy Spirit. The goal is to ponder more deeply the person of the Holy Spirit in God and examine both his active and passive “roles” in the Godhead. This reflection serves as grounds to approaching the issue of reciprocity in the Triune mystery and the meaning of divine order and hierarchy—issues upon whose satisfactory articulation hinges the elaboration of an adequate theological anthropology. The seminar will follow a historical path and examine some of the main pneumatological texts of the Christian tradition as well as some contemporary authors.

3 credits

**JPI 927**

*Spousal Love and the Relationship between Eros and Agape*

While most people intuit what love is—recognizing it when they see it—it is not always easy to say what it is. Moreover, while everyone experiences love as dramatic and often problematic, most do not think of love as a philosophical and theological problem. Our very word “love” witnesses to the problem, in its resistance to the perennial attempts to tie it down to one of its many elements. The tendency to partiality is instantiated well in the so-called “problem of love” where ascending eros (now taken to be “need love,” “interested love,” “egoism”) is understood to be incompatible with the Christian descending agape (now taken to be self-abnegation, “disinterested” or “altruistic” concern for the other alone).

It is evident that persons ought to be loved “for their own sakes,” as ends, not as means. It is also evident that one cannot but desire one’s own happiness and fulfillment, which desire stands at the heart of the most basic natural inclinations. What is not clear, however, is how these two loves are to be held together in unity. This course attempts to give an account of that unity. It does so by considering the various polarities of love: love as an inclination (*amor naturalis*) and love as an act (*amor rationalis*); “love of concupiscence” and “love of friendship;” and ascending “eros” and descending “agape.” It also considers also the various “objects” of love (self, neighbor, and God) and the order between them (the *ordo amoris*). All of this is done with an eye to the novelty of Christian love and the claims made on account of it (Nygren) and against it (Comte).

The course follows an historical trajectory, beginning with Plato (*eros*), Aristotle (the three friendships) St. Augustine (the *uti-frui* distinction), the Cistercians and Victorines (the “stages” of the love of God), St. Thomas (the natural desire for happiness, love as a passion, the two-fold distinction, and the order of love), and, finally, modern and post-modern altruism (Comte, Mill, Derrida). The course will end with a consideration of the nature of the Christian novelty with respect to love (Richard of St. Victor, Balthasar, John Paul II, Scola).

3 credits

**JPI 931**

*Action and Destiny: Constituting Human Action in Blondel, Merleau-Ponty, and Wojtyła*

This course will consider how action is constituted, focusing on the work of three authors: Blondel, Merleau-Ponty, and Wojtyła. Each of these thinkers sought to understand human action’s relationship with the world. Each thought that action is simultaneously a taking up and disclosure of that world, both from within and from without the actor. As Blondel puts it, action “on the way to realizing itself . . . descends to the terrain of brute phenomena only to find there, and only by finding there
already, an echo, a complicity, a cooperation.” Likewise, Wojtyła stresses that action reveals both the world and the actor: “The experience of everything located outside man is always connected with some experience of man himself. Man never experiences anything outside of himself without in some way experiencing himself in this experience.” While Merleau-Ponty’s work is not so explicitly centered on action, he also argues for a “subjectivity of the body” in its engagement with its environment, by which both the acting subject and his world are disclosed. This course will take up the place and possibilities for action in this mutual disclosure. Readings will include Blondel’s Action (1893), Merleau-Ponty’s Phenomenology of Perception, and Wojtyła’s Person and Act (new translation).

3 credits

**JPI 937**

*Causality and Retrieval of Interiority*

The course is dedicated to the recovery of a philosophical sense of interiority. It will begin by distinguishing other forms and modes of inwardness: physical dissection, psychological introspection, artistic and literary character depiction, religious mysticism. The appreciation of a properly philosophical interiority has tended to fade out of contemporary consciousness, both in the popular as well as the learned culture, with important consequences for the culture at large. Readings will include texts from Avicenna, Matthew of Aquasparta, Duns Scotus, Aquinas, Descartes, Kant, Husserl, and Marcel.

3 credits

**JPI 942**

*Nature, Common Good, and the Language of Heterosexuality*

Emerging conceptions of sexuality and gender are often criticized as failing to acknowledge or give an account of the vital links between what is typically called “heterosexual” marriage and family and broader civil society. From ancient times and in all cultures, marriage’s integral relationship with childbearing has made its relevance to the common good obvious. Because emerging conceptions have clearly challenged this anthropological/metaphysical starting point, it is natural to blame the new sexuality for being radically anti- or non-communitarian. Yet, it may be more accurate to say that the new sexuality expresses perfectly modern, liberal conceptions of common good, reason, and human community.

This seminar will ask how our changing assumptions concerning what constitutes common good (*bonum commune*) might give rise to forms of reason and sexuality whose clearest expression is summed up in the concept and language of “sexual orientation” and its correlates, such as “homosexuality” or “heterosexuality.” The seminar will be both historical and speculative in nature. Readings will include: Aristotle, St. Thomas, I. Kant, J. Maritain, Ch. de Koninck, L. Strauss, B. Tierney, J. Rawls, M. Foucault, and St. John Paul II.

3 credits

**JPI 946**

*Domestic Church: Water and the Mystery of Baptism*

The family in the Old Testament became a special sphere of holiness, inextricably tied to the covenant. Critically, the purity/holiness of the family was determined by a series of water rituals. In the Hebrew worldview, people were believed to have contracted impurity by way of different events, objects, or states in life which rendered a person clean or unclean. To remove impurity, ablutions or immersions were required. In certain cases, the penalty for continuing in impurity was death. Thus, water rituals were at the heart of the identity of Israel, negotiating between the four states of being and regulating the individual’s and community’s status before God, maintaining family purity.

Our study will consist of two themes. First, we will develop a hermeneutic which can adequately provide a fuller exegesis of Scriptures. In urging the recovery of a
symbolic reading of reality we will investigate the psychological underpinnings of symbolic archetypes. The second part will investigate the meaning and use of water in the OT by examining critical events and practices.

3 credits

**JPI 949**  
*The Problem of Liberalism in America: Religious Freedom and Truth*

This course considers the question of religious freedom and truth against the background of political liberalism in America, and in light of recent discussions regarding “integralism.” The course frames its question primarily within the context of *Dignitatis humanae* (and also the International Theological Commission document, “Religious Freedom for All”).

3 credits

**JPI 954**  
*God, Modern Biology, and the Metaphysics of the Person*

Modern evolutionary biology, it is often assumed, has rendered God irrelevant for our understanding of the natural and particularly biological world. But what sort of God is excluded by this theory, what are the effects of this exclusion on our understanding of nature and persons, and what are its practical and existential consequences? This course will examine the development of modern biology from Darwin to the present and the ways that this discipline determines the status of God and the human person for contemporary culture, with particular attention given to the theological, metaphysical, and anthropological assumptions of this discipline. Along the way, we will also discuss the proper relationship between science, theology, and metaphysics more generally and the implications of a proper understanding of creation *ex nihilo* for this relationship and for the truth claims of modern biology. We will consider how modern biology is affected by modern culture and capitalist economics and how these in turn are affected by modern biology. And we will consider the tragic relationship between modern biology, classical eugenics, and contemporary developments in biotechnology, asking in what ways it can be attributed to the failure of modern biology to acknowledge its own metaphysical and theological debts and to embrace an adequate theological anthropology.

3 credits

**JPI 956**  
*Covenant, Nuptiality, and the Biblical Vision of Reality*

At the heart of Biblical revelation is a vision of creation that is relational and covenantal. It is the reality of covenant that grounds creation. This course will follow a critical analysis of the development trajectory that the theology of covenant takes as it appears in the various moments of Israelite history reaching its fulfillment in Christ. While the theme is adumbrated in the earlier strata of Scripture, it is with the prophets that the nuptial nature of the covenant is explicitly announced and orient us towards its fulfillment in the Messiah, whom the New Testament presents as the Bridegroom. This ‘ontological’ turn is reinforced by the nuptial dimensions in the Eucharistic and Marian dimensions of the covenant in the New Testament. At the heart of this study is the relationship of the Old to the New Testament. In examining Pauline theology, the critical issue will be the relationship of law to grace within a covenantal framework. The answer here determines the relationship between law (and of obedient behavior) and salvation. Is salvation predicated on being a member of the covenantal community or is faithful following of the Law essential? Within the Old Testament there is the crucial witness of the prophets who raise a devastating critique against covenantal presumptuousness (“the temple, the temple”) while in the New Testament there is the struggle within the early Church over the issue of faith vs. works. In particular, the question of antinomism vs. covenantal nomism which deals with the question of legal observance, free will, and grace will be examined. Authors will include...

3 credits

**JPI 957**  
**Cosmological Community: Man’s Place in the Cosmos**  
The modern ‘displacement’ of humanity from its ‘home’ in the ‘center’ of the cosmos is an epochal event—even a celebrated fact in some quarters—that continues to reverberate through virtually every facet of contemporary life: from the ‘bifurcation’ of nature, to the separation of the humanities and the sciences, to the reductive and accidental character of human being posited by modern biology, to the atomization of liberal society. These developments betoken not just a change in humanity’s ‘place’ in the universe, but the very abolition of ‘place’ (topos) and perhaps the very unity or wholeness which led Platonic, Aristotelian, and Medieval Christian cosmology to the idea of a universe in the first place. This provokes the question: in what does the unity of the universe consist? In what sense is it a single order at all, and how are we to understand our place in it? Where does the communio personarum fit in this order? We will examine ancient and modern attempts to address this question from Aristotle and Plotinus, to Maximus, Dionysius the Areopagite, and Aquinas, to Descartes, Newton and beyond. We will argue that only a theology that has recovered its metaphysical and cosmological ambitions can finally countenance and sustain the modern concept of freedom, both authors seek to develop a renewed understanding of freedom’s “essential and constitutive relationship to truth” (Veritatis splendor, 4). The key to this development is an ontological and ultimately trinitarian conception of the personal or dramatic meaning of truth. Readings include: J. Ratzinger/Benedict XVI, Introduction to Christianity; Truth and Tolerance; Without Roots; Deus caritas est; Spe salvi; H.U. von Balthasar, Theo-Logic, I-III; Theo-Drama, II; Epilogue; “On the Tasks of Catholic Philosophy in Our Time.”

3 credits

**JPI 960**  
**Truth & Freedom in the Theology of Benedict XVI and Balthasar**  
This course aims to familiarize students with the theological anthropology of Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI and Hans Urs von Balthasar. In dialogue with the modern concept of freedom, both authors seek to develop a renewed understanding of freedom’s “essential and constitutive relationship to truth” (Veritatis splendor, 4). The key to this development is an ontological and ultimately trinitarian conception of the personal or dramatic meaning of truth. Readings include: J. Ratzinger/Benedict XVI, Introduction to Christianity; Truth and Tolerance; Without Roots; Deus caritas est; Spe salvi; H.U. von Balthasar, Theo-Logic, I-III; Theo-Drama, II; Epilogue; “On the Tasks of Catholic Philosophy in Our Time.”

3 credits

**JPI 961**  
**Early Modern Thought**  
This course will seek to assess ‘the meaning of modernity’ by examining its founding ontological commitments, by considering how these commitments are operative in modern conceptions of nature and scientific knowledge, politics and the state, and freedom and anthropology, and by evaluating their theological significance, especially in light of developments at the Second Vatican Council and in the pontificates of John Paul II and Benedict XVI regarding the meaning of the human person. The course will center largely on primary sources which may include Machiavelli, Bacon, Hobbes, Descartes, Locke, Rousseau, Vico, and Newton.

3 credits

**JPI 962**  
**Natural Law and Order**  
The seminar will ask about the nature of natural law. It would seem that “natural law” would have to be both a kind of “law” and in some way “natural.” But how are we to understand these two terms? Thomas tells us that natural law is the participation of the rational creature in God’s eternal law. He also tells us that any law is a dictate or ordination of reason and that it is ordered to a common good. What is meant by reason and common good here? Does natural law appeal to an order contained objectively in creation? Does natural law depend on belief in creation and hence a
Creator, at least implicitly? Does it at least require a doctrine of nature? If law in any of its analogous senses necessarily implies some idea of “order,” what sort of order is natural law and what is the source of that order? Many different answers have been given to these questions. Readings will include both classical and modern texts: St. Thomas, H. Veatch, J. Finnis, and others.

3 credits

**JPI 963**
*Christian States of Life and the Vocation of the Laity*
Vatican II called upon the lay faithful to work for the coming of God’s kingdom within the structures of the *saeculum*, of the world. How is this vocation specified and mediated by a Christian state of life? According to John Paul II, “Christian revelation recognizes two specific ways of realizing the vocation of the human person in its entirety, to love: marriage and virginity or celibacy. Either one is, in its own proper form, an actuation of the most profound truth of man, of his being ‘created in the image of God.’” This course seeks to show how Christian marriage and consecrated life each reveal something essential about the meaning of love as a total and irrevocable gift of one’s life in response to Christ, and as such provide the basis for the Church’s mission in the world. Readings include: Vatican II, *Lumen gentium*; *Gaudium et spes*; John Paul II, *Christifideles laici*; *Vita consecrata*; H.U. von Balthasar, *The Christian State of Life; The Laity and the Life of the Counsels*; D. Crawford, *Marriage and the Sequela Christi*.

3 credits

**JPI 964**
*Issues in Biology and Bioethics*
A great deal of the confusion that results from contemporary biotechnological ‘advances’ and attends contemporary bioethical deliberation can be attributed to the unsatisfactory answers often (tacitly) given by biology and bio-philosophy to more fundamental questions: What is life? What is an organism, and how does it differ from a machine? What is the principle of organic unity, and how are we to understand the relation between parts and wholes in living things? In what sense is the world of living things hierarchical? This course will draw on important texts in natural philosophy and biology from Aristotle to the twenty-first century in order to address these questions and will ponder various issues raised in modern and contemporary bioscience and bioethics in light of the answers. Readings may include Aristotle, C. Darwin, C. Barnard, Goethe, H. Driesch, H. Jonas, R. Dawkins, B. Goodwin, and R. George.

3 credits

**JPI 966**
*Symbolic Ontology and Practical Reason*
This course will take a close look at the constitution of practical reason and its relationship to physicality and, in particular, the body. This will require a review of texts dealing with a cluster of knotty themes: the constitution of practical reason; the role/meaning of form and matter; the real and the symbolic; the relation between cosmos and person; personal and biological aspects of physicality and the body; subjectivity and objectivity. Readings drawn from Plato, Aristotle (*De Anima, Nicomachean Ethics*), Thomas, Hume, Kant (*Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals, Critique of Practical Reason*), de Lubac (*Corpus Mysticum*), Balthasar, John Paul II (*Theology of the Body*).

3 credits

**JPI 967**
*The Pauline Vision of Marriage and Family*
For St. Paul, marriage and family become radically redefined in Christ. This course examines how Paul develops his Christological vision, showing how both realize their divinely ordained purpose in the Paschal mystery. We will examine key texts on the body, gender differentiation, sexuality; and celibacy; their functional/symbolic meaning in
creation/salvation; and the nature of marriage/divorce/family within the Paschal mystery. A proper understanding of Paul requires a careful exegesis of key texts (in Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians, etc.) and locating his specific teachings within the wider context of his theology of creation and justification in Christ, as well as his appropriation of Semitic categories of thought operative in the Old Testament. In discussing texts, we will examine the different ways these texts have been appropriated and the critical theological controversies that developed because of them (especially in the Reformation and modern eras e.g., New Pauline Perspective and Covenantal Nomism). Readings include Pauline letters, Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Barth, von Balthasar, N. T. Wright, Sanders, Dunn, Fitzmeyer, and Watson.

3 credits

**JPI 969**

**Recovering Origins: Hegel's Trinitarian Claim**

This seminar approaches Hegel's understanding of absolute spirit with an eye to examining his account of the Triune Mystery as the exact opposite of an elucidation of the Triune God in terms of love and gift. The seminar studies how, thanks to its absolute negativity, the absolute spirit generates itself (immanent Trinity) and reaches its concreteness in the Holy Spirit and spiritual community by necessarily passing through the divine diremption (creation) and reconciliation. Hegel's thought will be studied through a close reading of the following texts: Lectures of the Philosophy of Religion, vol. 3: The Consummate Religion (years 1824 and 1827); Science of Logic (selections); Encyclopedia (sections of Logic and of Philosophy of Spirit); Phenomenology of Spirit (selections).

3 credits

**JPI 969**

**Recovering Origins: Fatherlessness**

The purpose of the seminar is to examine three forms of modern nihilism that condition our understanding of finitude and its original positivity. They represent, in different ways, the antithesis of a metaphysics and a theology of gift called forth by the Second Vatican Council (Gaudium et spes, nos. 22-24). The seminar examines the absorption of the finite by the infinite in Hegel's elucidation of the absolute spirit (classes 1-6); it then studies Nietzsche's anthropology (Classes 7-10); and concludes with an approach to Heidegger's perception of finitude as man's encompassing horizon (classes 11-13).

3 credits

**JPI 973**

**Dionysius on Beauty and His Tradition**

The goal of this seminar is to give an account of the fruitfulness of the platonic doctrine of Beauty and Eros in Dionysius's theology and mystical doctrine.
This account will follow the process of metamorphosis that this doctrine undergoes thanks to the creative dialogue of the Fathers with the writings of Plato, Plotinus, and the Neoplatonists. The seminar also studies the influence of Dionysius on the subsequent tradition, with a particular focus on medieval authors (St. Thomas, Richard of St. Victor, etc.).

3 credits

**JPI 974**

**Americanism: A Theological-Ontological Inquiry in Light of Vatican II**

This course reflects on the problem historically identified as “Americanism” (cf. Leo XIII, *Testem benevolentiae*, 1899). The purpose of the course is to assess the presuppositions that have shaped the dominant self-understanding of Catholics in their relation to America. The course will focus primarily on the writings of Isaac Hecker (d. 1888) and John Courtney Murray (d. 1967), arguably the two most important Catholic figures for the constellation of issues linked with “Americanism” and the encounter between Catholicism and America’s liberal tradition. The method of the course is theological and ontological; among the main issues to be pondered are: the integrity of reason/nature relative to faith/the supernatural; human individuality and freedom; the “worldly” (cultural) mission of the Church; the nature and distinct roles of laity, religious, and priests relative to this “worldly” mission; rights, religious freedom, and truth. The terms of reflection are set by the ancient-medieval view of human being and action as developed in light of the Second Vatican Council (and authors associated with the pontificates of John Paul II and Benedict XVI), on the one hand, and the historical patterns of life, thought, and action in America, on the other. The course concludes by considering the distinct American (personalist-distributist) approach to cultural problems expressed in the work of Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin.


Other readings will include several articles by Murray reflecting the range of his concerns over the span of his career; and selections from Walter Elliott, biographer of Hecker, and from contemporary interpreters and critics of Murray such as Hermínio Rico; Joseph Komonchak, and David L. Schindler.

3 credits

**JPI 975**

**Scriptural Exegesis of the Fathers and John Paul II/Benedict XVI**

This seminar aims to familiarize students with the guiding principles and the concrete results of the Scriptural exegesis of some of the most significant doctors of the early Church. At the same time, it also seeks to introduce students to the contemporary debate about the actuality of the exegesis of the Fathers, focusing especially on the similar but different approach of two theologians: Henri de Lubac and Jean Daniélou. Benedict XVI will be often taken as an example of a creative representation of spiritual exegesis in the contemporary milieu. The main goal of the seminar is in this sense not so much an historical or philological exploration of the Fathers’ exegesis, but an effort to appropriate a method of approach to the Scripture in the light of Christ, able to inspire us here and now. The students will be invited in this way to risk a personal work of “spiritual” interpretation of the studied Scriptural passages, “boldly” interacting with the tradition.

3 credits
**JPI 976**  
*Adam/Eve Typology in Scripture: The Fathers and John Paul II*  
It is evident to any reader of John Paul II’s Theology of the Body how much this teaching is grounded on the Pope’s reading and exegesis of some crucial passages of Scripture. As is well known, of foundational importance in this context is, on the one hand, John Paul II’s reading of chapters 2 and 3 of Genesis (cycles I & II); and on the other hand, his broad reflection on Ephesians 5:22-32, the most important passage of the New Testament regarding Adam/Eve Christ/Church typology (cycle V), and on one of the most debated books of Scripture: the Song of Songs (cycle V). The intention of the seminar is to study the biblical texts, taking into consideration the perspective of the history of their interpretation, in order to enable the student to appreciate simultaneously the continuity and the creative originality of John Paul II’s exegesis—both in its relationship to the tradition of the Church and considering the positive contribution of contemporary exegetes and theologians regarding his exegetical essays.

3 credits

**JPI 977**  
*Anarchy, Causality, and the Gift of Self*  
Through key philosophical and theological texts, this seminar seeks to ponder in what sense the perception of being as gift is able to retrieve and deepen an adequate account of causality. This reflection is also at the service of the clarification of what it means to give of oneself. The contemporary conception of causality as extrinsic imposition of (normally topographic) movement by means of force has silenced the classic conception of causality as the communication of *esse as act* (Aquinas, *De principiis naturae*). It has also established anarchy, lack of principle, as a fundamental contemporary axiom. Since one of the main reasons for this radical shift was the corresponding change in the perception of the transcendental good—from perceiving the good in terms of generosity to those of power (dominance, ruling, and ordering)—it is crucial to elucidate in what sense perceiving the communication of *esse* in light of gift, thus retrieving generosity, may yield an adequate understanding of causality. Pondering the meaning of causality, therefore, is a twofold task. First, it necessitates a philosophical reflection on the specificity and interconnectedness of the fourfold causality. Second, it requires a theological reflection on the divine communication of *esse*; that is, to ask what it means for God to give in and to himself and to give in such a radical way that it allows the concrete singular both the possibility of being and the capacity to give. The seminar approaches the speculative issue of causality from a historical perspective. The seminar is divided into three parts. The first revisits the Greek understanding of causality and the good (Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus). The second examines the understanding of causality within the framework of the Triune God (Dionysius, Aquinas, Ockham). The third approaches the modern shift that reads causality in terms of power (Hume, Hegel, Heidegger).

3 credits

**JPI 979**  
*The “American Way of Life”: Historical and Theological-Ontological Roots*  
This course reflects on what may be termed America’s vision of reality, as expressed in its “way of life”: the “logic” of its institutions and patterns of thinking and acting. An abiding question is whether/in what sense we can rightly identify a unity of vision within America’s characteristic claim of pluralism. The reflection will be carried out in dialogue with the “classical” vision found especially in the metaphysics of Thomas Aquinas: regarding the intrinsic truth, goodness, and beauty of things (the “transcendentals”), in relation to the first and final cause/end of things (God). The course will ponder the meaning of America as set forth in the classic study of Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*; and as recently articulated and defended in political-philosophical terms in Robert Reilly’s *America on Trial: A Defense of the Founding*. Readings from these books will be engaged against the
backdrop of America’s Founding Documents and in light of the metaphysics of St. Thomas (Summa Theologiae, I, De Veritate, and the collection of texts gathered by Thomas F. Anderson, An Introduction to the Metaphysics of St. Thomas Aquinas). We will also read D.C. Schindler’s Love and the Postmodern Predicament: Rediscovering the Real in Beauty, Goodness, and Truth. The purpose of the course is to understand America’s vision of reality vis-à-vis that of the classical-Catholic tradition.

3 credits

**JPI 981 Technology and Truth**
The advent of modern science and technological society generated not only a new method for ascertaining the truth of nature, but new conceptions of nature, reason, and truth. This seminar will consider the ‘fate of truth’ in the light of this transformation. Reflecting philosophically and theologically on the meaning and history of truth, we will take special care to consider how a mechanistic ontology alters our understanding of truth, the means of attaining it, and our desire to seek it. Reading for the course will draw from such thinkers as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Balthasar, Ratzinger, Descartes, Bacon, Locke, Hume, Kant, Nietzsche, James, Dewey, and Heidegger.

3 credits

**JPI 982 Themes in Metaphysics**
Hans Urs von Balthasar says that the Christian is called to be the “guardian of metaphysics in our age.” While metaphysics has been central to the Catholic intellectual tradition, it has recently been dismissed as a foreign intrusion into the faith, if not attacked outright as threatening to human freedom and cultural diversity. This course intends to introduce the students into the metaphysical tradition of classical Christian thought by taking up some contemporary question or particular book. Previous iterations of the course have studied Ferdinand Ulrich’s Homo Abyssus, a systematic metaphysics of creation in the light of the data of faith and the insights of (and challenges posed by) modern thinkers such as Hegel and Heidegger; or have explored the metaphysical aspects of the relation between divine and human freedom as they have unfolded from the classical and patristic era to the late middle ages.

3 credits

**JPI 983 Happiness, Law, and the Christian Basis for Moral Action**
This course will consider the perennial division between eudaimonistic and law-centered theories of the moral life. Is reconciliation possible for these seemingly diverse avenues for understanding the meaning of human action and goodness? Can revelation and an adequate sense of creation and the Christian state(s) of life help to arrive at a higher synthesis? Readings will be drawn from Aristotle, Aquinas, Kant, Spaemann, de Lubac, and von Balthasar.

3 credits

**JPI 984 The Memory of God**
How do we arrive at the idea of God, at the awareness of his existence? The course ponders this question in terms of such issues as whether knowledge of God is immediate (“a priori”) or inferential (“a posteriori”); whether affirmation of God’s existence is a function primarily of some (non-cognitive) human need (e.g., for security); whether the act by which we reach God is a matter of freedom or intelligence (or affectivity), of supernatural faith or man’s natural capacities. The course considers the sense in which the idea of God operates in every act of human consciousness, and in which the memory of God is necessary for the integrity of human experience (human being, thinking, and acting). Readings for the course will be drawn from among the following: Plato; Aristotle; Augustine; Aquinas; Hume; Locke; Kant; de Lubac; Balthasar; Ratzinger; Polanyi.

3 credits
**JPI 985**  
**The Mystery of Christ: Questions of Revelation and Soteriology**  
This seminar seeks to study the two most important questions of Christology (the Hypostatic Union and Soteriology, Incarnation and Paschal Mystery) in light of the guiding principle formulated in *Gaudium et spe* 22: “Christ the new Adam, in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of His love, fully reveals man to himself and brings to light his most high calling.” Jesus is the One who simultaneously makes visible the Truth of God and the perfection of man. How to understand this double claim? The first part of the course tries to face this question, through an in-depth study of the classical problem of the communication of properties between the two natures of Christ’s person, revisited through the lens of the theology of Revelation: is the classical doctrine of *communicatio idiomatum* just a linguistic paradox? If we can legitimately say, because of the unity of the Hypostasis, that One of the Trinity has suffered (Constantinople II), is it truly possible to maintain an absolute opposition between the participation of his divine (impassible) and his human (passible) nature in this suffering without threatening the unity of Christ’s Person? And again: How can we reconcile this tenet of patristic and medieval Christology, with the bold claim of the Johannine theology of Revelation, according to which in the Word made flesh we can truly—although of course analogically—see the Father (Jn 1:18; 15:9)? This is nothing but a new way of framing the perennial question of ontological Christology: how can the hypostatic union be possible? How can a divine Person be man without ceasing to be God and how can a human being be God preserving intact the infinite difference (Lateran IV) between his humanity and His divinity? To face these questions is tantamount to unpacking the meaning of the above quotes statement of GS 22, according to which Jesus Christ reveals simultaneously the Truth of God and the perfection of man.

3 credits

**JPI 986**  
**Christian Marriage as Nature and Sacrament**  
“The Eucharist, as the sacrament of charity, has a particular relationship with the love of man and woman united in marriage” (*Sacramentum caritatis*, 27). This course will consider the reciprocal relationship between the Eucharist and marriage in light of the supreme revelation of love in the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This means, on the one hand, showing that the Eucharist itself is a nuptial mystery; it is the Sacrament of God’s espousal to the world—a mystery announced by the prophets of the Old Testament and fulfilled on Golgotha. On the other hand, we will consider how Christian marriage is interiorly ordered to the Eucharistic sacrifice as “the source from which their own marriage covenant flows, is interiorly structured and continuously renewed” (*Familias consortio*, 57).


3 credits

**JPI 987**  
**Themes in Phenomenology**  
Phenomenology has been one of the main philosophical movements of the 20th and 21st Centuries and has occupied the attention of Catholic thinkers from the beginning. The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with some aspect of this tradition, and to form a judgment of the tradition from a Catholic perspective. Previous iterations of the course have looked at the “Roots of Catholic Phenomenology,” tracing out a lesser-known current of phenomenological reflection from its original founder Edmund Husserl through Max Scheler and some of his followers, both faithful and critical. Another iteration has explored the
work of Martin Heidegger, especially his later essays, and considered the reception of that work in Catholic/Christian theology, both in its positive and its negative assessments.

3 credits

**JPI 988**

*Themes in Philosophical Anthropology*

From the Catholic perspective, one of the great tasks for philosophy in the contemporary world is to articulate and defend the truth of human nature. This course accordingly seeks to help students both recover some aspect of the classical Christian tradition and to grapple with the contributions and challenges of modern thought in this particular area. A previous iteration of the course, “Body - Soul - Spirit in the Ancient and Modern World,” studied in depth two instances of a Christian appropriation of Aristotle’s theory of human nature, namely, that of Aquinas and that of Hegel, in order to compare their interpretations and consider their broader implications.

3 credits

**JPI 989**

*Aquinas: Creation, Truth, Goodness*

The course considers the idea of being as gift in light especially of the philosophy of St. Thomas. Reflecting on the discussion of this point among some contemporary authors, the course focuses on selected texts from Aquinas on the metaphysics of creation and the transcendentals (truth, goodness, beauty), against the background of John Paul II’s understanding of gift.

3 credits

**JPI 990**

*Augustine*

This doctoral seminar will reflect on major themes in the thought of St. Augustine, his anthropology, his ecclesiology, his theology of history and of grace, as well as his historical importance, by concentrating on principal works such as the *Confessions* and the *City of God*. Additional works and secondary sources may be assigned by the professor.

3 credits

**JPI 991**

*Biblical Foundations of Ecclesiology: People, Kingdom, & Body*

The aim of this course is to explore at a critical level the foundations for ecclesiology in the Scriptures. Little work has been done on providing the OT foundation to the ecclesiology that emerges in the NT. It is possible (but incorrect) to think of the Church as a new phenomenon that comes only with Jesus. While there is a novelty about the Church, its grounding is clearly in the הַקָּה / qahal of Israel.

This course will examine the emergence of the Church using the Book of Acts as the primary historical background text against which various ideas of the Church, its meaning and structure, will be examined.

Traditionally, the Church has been understood through the paradigm of the four marks: oneness, holiness, catholicity and apostolicity. This course will endeavor not to simply describe these marks or identify them in various texts but will seek to explain why these four are essential to the nature of the Church particularly flowing from the experience of Israel and her covenant as well as the act of Creation.

Finally, this course will use Kung’s book, *The Church*, as a foil against which the discussion will take place. We will critically engage this work seeing it against the Biblical background which will be developed in the course.

3 credits

**JPI 1001**

*The Liturgical Theology of Joseph Ratzinger*

“In the crisis of faith through which we are going,” writes Joseph Ratzinger / Benedict XVI, “again and again the focal point proves to be the correct celebration and correct understanding of the Eucharist.”
The aim of this course is to gain a deeper understanding of Joseph Ratzinger’s theology of the Eucharist. The themes to be studied include the meaning of “liturgy,” the mode of Christ’s presence in the Eucharist, the Liturgical Movement and the post-conciliar liturgical reform, liturgy and architecture, liturgy and music, and the relationship between the Eucharist and the Church.

3 credits

**JPI 1002**

Maximus Confessor: God and Man as Mutual Paradigms

Maximus the Confessor reflected deeply on Christology as well as the metaphysical question of the relation between God and his creation and shaped his thoughts in a way that takes the Triune God as he is manifested in Christ as the paradigm for all further thought. Over against the compartmentalization of the fields of theology in the name of a political attempt to mediate between all groups within the Church, Maximus was intent on offering a coherent coordination of Trinitarian thought, Christology, and Anthropology. This coordination allowed him to take both Christ’s humanity and his divinity fully into account according to a union that does not compromise either of the two natures of Christ. Only in and through Christ’s complete and perfect actualization of human nature does it become clear who the human being is in truth. In the hypostatic union that Christ is, God manifests himself as the guarantor and safeguard of true humanity and becomes as it were identical with his human nature. The question of this seminar is: How is Christ’s divine nature revealed in and through his humanity, when God fully guarantees and safeguards the human aspect precisely within this divine revelation? This seminar will study the foundational texts of Maximus and trace answers to this question, which will then allow us to grasp how Maximus conceives of the synergetic union of human and divine activity.

3 credits

**JPI 1003**

Natural Law, Common Good, and the Body

It would seem that “natural law” must be both a kind of “law” and in some way “natural.” Yet, there is little agreement about how natural law relates to nature. Moreover, many treatments seem to underplay the idea that natural law is a kind of law. For example, according to the classical formulation of St. Thomas, law is an ordination of practical reason toward common good. However, the relation of natural law to common good is often not very thematic. For its part, the “common good” (bonum commune) has lately become a frequent topic of discussion. Yet its precise meaning remains a bit obscure. In part this is because the primary sources from the tradition—e.g. Aristotle, Augustine, and Aquinas—did little by way of offering us explicit or entirely unambiguous definitions. Subsequent authors have generally failed to bring uncontroverted light to the question. They have argued about whether it is simply the individual goods offered to a community’s members, or the aggregation of those goods, or a common goal of a community, or the ongoing formation and dialogue about the goods of a community, or the virtues of the members of a community, or the goods that are intrinsic to the proper order of a community, or some other such configuration. As one scholar put it, the only constituents that seem certain are also definitional, even tautological: the “common good” must be both “good” and “common.” Little agreement can be found however concerning the content of these two elements as they pertain to the concept.

Finally, a result of modern tendencies toward materialism and mechanism has been, perhaps paradoxically, a loss of the body. These and other tendencies of course are also closely related to modern skepticism concerning natural law and common good. If the correlation of natural law and common good may seem clear, the relationship to the body may seem less so. Yet it is only the body that places us within nature and community. The body both
represents our nature visibly and expresses our natural relations. Can an adequate theory of natural law and common good be had without a prior adequate theory of body?

Readings will include: St. Thomas (Summa Contra Gentiles), I. Kant, J. Maritain, Ch. de Koninck, B. Tierney, J. Rawls, and St. John Paul II.

3 credits

JPI 1004
Origen: Theologian of the Logos
Origen of Alexandria lived from c. 180AD - c. 254AD and was one of the most influential theologians of the Patristic era and beyond. His speculative prowess of spiritual exegesis, his dogmatic work On First Principles, his powerful apologetic work Against Celsus and deep desire to be a man of the Church ensured him a lasting influence in the Church. In all the disciplines of theology he was concerned with finding the divine Logos within all of His expressions: Scripture, creation, tradition, and the Church. Although he was declared a heretic in 553, there is no doubt that he held properly orthodox views besides the more experimental teachings he offered for consideration while probing the depths of philosophy and theology. To expect of him to be perfectly orthodox at his time when the finer aspects of Church teaching had not been defined yet is a tragically anachronistic demand. This seminar will study the most important works of Origen (On First Principles, Commentary on the Gospel of John, Against Celsus, On Prayer, Homilies on the Song of Songs, and others) that have been transmitted with the goal to gain insight into this deeply original and lively thinker of the early Church and his profound influence on and relevance for the Church today. Areas of concentration will include: exegesis, dogmatics, spirituality and apologetics.

3 credits

JPI 1005
Boethius: Mediator between Antiquity & the Middle Ages
Boethius is considered to be the most important mediator between classical antiquity and the philosophy and theology of the middle age. According to K. Flasch, his Consolation of Philosophy is the most important work for medieval thought. Among other things, Boethius is famous for the definition of the person as an individual substance of a rational nature that he provides in his Contra Eutychen et Nestorium. Furthermore, Boethius is known for bringing up and formulating the issue of the ontological status of universals, which then becomes a hotly debated topic in medieval times, represented in the opposite intellectual camps that favor nominalism or realism respectively. Having gained a sense of Boethius’ thought in the first part of the course, we will compare him with important figures of scholasticism like Aquinas and Richard of St. Victor. This comparison will give the students a better sense of the historical process of the reception of the ancients: what was inherited from the tradition and what was the genuinely creative contribution of the generation of the scholastics. We will selectively study this reception of Boethius especially in the fields of metaphysics, Christology and Trinitarian Theology by looking more closely at, among other texts, Aquinas’ commentary on Boethius’ On the Trinity and the sections on Christology in the Summa Theologiae.

3 credits
Carl A. Anderson
Vice President
Professor of Family Law
B.A., Philosophy, Seattle University
J.D., University of Denver

Professor Anderson has served as Vice President of the Washington Session of the Institute since its founding in 1988, and was its Dean until 1998. Since 1983, he has also taught as a visiting professor at the Institute’s Rome Session at the Pontifical Lateran University. As Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus from 2000 until his retirement in February 2021, he led the world’s largest lay Catholic organization with more than 2 million members worldwide. From 1983 to 1987, he worked in the White House of President Ronald Reagan. For nearly a decade, Professor Anderson served on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He has been a frequent participant in international congresses on the family organized by the Holy See. In 1998, he was appointed by Pope John Paul II to the Pontifical Academy for Life. He was appointed an auditor to three Synods of Bishops. He also served as a member of the Pontifical Councils for the Laity and for the Family, and as a consultor to the Pontifical Councils for Justice and Peace and Social Communications. He is the author of A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World and co-author of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love, both New York Times bestsellers. He was also the editor with Msgr. Livio Melina of The Way of Love: Reflections on Pope Benedict XVI’s Encyclical Deus Caritas Est and co-author with Rev. José Granados of Called to Love: Approaching John Paul II’s Theology of the Body. His most recent book is These Liberties We Hold Sacred: Essays on Faith and Citizenship in the 21st Century.

Joseph C. Atkinson
Associate Professor of Sacred Scripture
Registrar
B.A., English, Kings College
B.Ed., Acadia University
B.Th., McGill University
M.Div., Montreal Diocesan Theological College

Dr. Atkinson’s work has included foundational research in developing the Biblical and theological foundation of the family. He is a primary authority on the concept of the Domestic Church, which explores the ecclesial structure and meaning of the family. The Domestic Church is an ancient idea that has achieved critical prominence since Vatican II. He teaches on the Biblical structure and meaning of marriage and the family, on their Jewish background, on the nature and role of covenant, and on hermeneutics and the role of symbol. He has produced a 13-part series with EWTN on the Domestic Church and has authored numerous articles on Scriptural exegesis and the Biblical vision of the family including “Ratzinger’s ‘Crisis in Biblical Interpretation’: 20th Anniversary Assessment,” “Nuptiality as a Paradigmatic Structure of Biblical Revelation,” and “Paternity in Crisis: Biblical and Philosophical Roots of Fatherhood,” and presented the research report, “Primordial Biblical Triptych: The Symbolic Structure of Water in the OT,” at the Catholic Biblical Association. His work also includes “The Revelation of Love in the Song of Songs” in The Way of Love (Ignatius Press) and “Family as Domestic Church: Developmental Trajectory, Legitimacy and Problems of Appropriation” (Theological Studies). His book The Biblical and Theological Foundations of the Family: The Domestic Church is published by CUA Press. He is the Executive Director of the Catholic Biblical Association and is founder of the Theology of the Family Project which promotes the recovery of the Biblical vision of marriage and family.
Jonathan Bieler  
Assistant Professor of Patrology and Systematic Theology  
B.A. (Propädeutikum), Theology, University of Zürich  
M.A., Thomistic Theology, Dominican House of Studies, Washington D.C.  
M.Th., University of Zürich  
Dr. Theol., University of Zürich  

Jonathan Bieler received his doctoral degree in theology at the University of Zürich (2017), with a dissertation in Patristics on the coherence of Maximus the Confessor’s thought, which is available from Brill (2019). He taught in the theological faculty at the University of Zürich and assisted the chair of Patristics with teaching and research. He collaborated in the production of a new critical edition of Theodoret of Cyrus’ Compendium haereticarum fabularum. He also works on the production of a new critical edition of Theodoret of Cyrus’ Compendium haereticarum fabularum. He also works on the Scholastic period, especially Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure and published articles on Thomas Aquinas, Maximus the Confessor, and Origen. In his work he is striving to combine the usage of historical-critical methods with faithfulness to the Church’s living tradition. He is currently engaged in research concerning sacramentality in the Church Fathers, especially Origen.

David S. Crawford  
Associate Professor of Moral Theology and Family Law  
B.A., English, University of Iowa  
M.A., Writing, University of Iowa  
J.D., University of Michigan Law School  

Dr. Crawford teaches and writes in the areas of fundamental moral theology, bio- and sexual ethics, marriage and family, and law. Recent articles have addressed issues such as gender, sexuality, “gay marriage,” human action, natural law, and the anthropological implications of modern civil law. He is currently engaged in research concerning morality and nature, as well as the theological and anthropological issues arising under modern legal theory, particularly as they concern marriage, family, and the person. He is the author of Marriage and the Sequela Christi, published by the Lateran University Press.

Michael Hanby  
Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy of Science  
B.S., University of Colorado  
M.Div., Duke University  
Ph.D., University of Virginia  

Professor Hanby came to the Institute in 2007 from Baylor University where he was Assistant Professor of Theology in the Honors College and Associate Director of the Baylor Institute for Faith and Learning. Before that he was Arthur J. Ennis Fellow in the Humanities at Villanova University. Professor Hanby is author of the 2013 monograph from Wiley-Blackwell, No God, No Science? Theology, Cosmology, Biology which reassesses the relationship between the doctrine of creation, Darwinian evolutionary biology, and science more generally. He is also author of Augustine and Modernity (Routledge 2003), a re-reading of Augustine’s Trinitarian theology and a protest against the contemporary argument for continuity between Augustine and Descartes. He has contributed chapters to a number of volumes and is also author of articles appearing in Communio, Modern Theology, Pro Ecclesia, Theology Today, and First Things.

Nicholas J. Healy  
Associate Professor of Philosophy and Culture  
M.T.S. Program Advisor  
B.A., History, M.A. Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville  
D.Phil., Theology, Oxford University  

Professor Healy received his doctorate from Oxford University, with a dissertation on the theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar. Since 2002 he has served as an Editor of the North American edition of Communio: International Catholic Review. He is the author of The Eschatology of Hans Urs von Balthasar: Being as Communion (Oxford University Press, 2005) and the co-author of Freedom, Truth, and Human Dignity:
The Second Vatican Council’s Declaration on Religious Freedom (Eerdmans, 2015). Recent articles have addressed the development of doctrine, the question of “Christian philosophy,” the sacramentality of marriage, and the theological anthropology of Thomas Aquinas and Henri de Lubac. Currently he is working on the theology of the Eucharist and Christian states of life.

Antonio López, F.S.C.B.
Provost
Associate Professor of Theology
Phil.L., Universidad Complutense (Madrid, Spain)
S.T.B., Gregorian University
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Ph.D., Boston College


Margaret Harper McCarthy
Associate Professor of Theological Anthropology
B.A., Religion/French, Grove City College
M.A., Theology, University of St. Thomas
S.T.L., S.T.D., Pontifical John Paul II Institute, Pontifical Lateran University

Professor Margaret Harper McCarthy received her doctoral degree in theology at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute at the Lateran University in Rome (1994), with a dissertation on the contemporary theology of predestination. Since then her teaching and writing has focused on various themes belonging to theological anthropology: creation, predestination, christocentrism, the relation between nature and grace, the “imago Dei,” person, the nature of love and sexual difference (feminism, equality, fertility, courtship, work, divorce and “gender”). She is the editor of Torn Asunder – Children, the Myth of the Good Divorce, and the Recovery of Origins, published by Eerdmans Publishing Co. in 2017. She is also the editor of the quarterly review of books Humanum, and serves on the editorial board of the English edition of Communio: International Catholic Review, where she publishes regularly. Professor McCarthy is a member of the Academy of Catholic Theology. Professor McCarthy is a wife and mother of three children.

Lesley Rice
Assistant Professor of Bioethics
B.A., Theology and German, University of Dallas
M.T.S., Pontifical John Paul II Institute, Washington, D.C.
Ph.D., Pontifical John Paul II Institute, Washington, D.C.

Lesley Rice received her doctorate in theology from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute with a dissertation on contemporary Catholic thought concerning biotechnology and the beginning of life. Her research concerns the history and philosophy of biology, the character of biological knowing, and the cultural and anthropological significance of biotechnologies. Her work has been published in Communio: International Catholic Review, Anthropotes: Rivista di Studi sulla Persona e la Famiglia, and Humanum: Issues in Family, Culture & Science.

D.C. Schindler
Professor of Metaphysics and Anthropology
Ph.D. Program Advisor
B.A., Program of Liberal Studies, The University of Notre Dame
M.T.S., Pontifical John Paul II Institute, Washington, D.C.
M.A., Ph.D., Philosophy, The Catholic University of America
Professor Schindler received his Ph.D. from The Catholic University of America in 2001, writing his dissertation on the philosophy of Hans Urs von Balthasar. Before coming to the Institute, he taught at Villanova University from 2001-2013, first as a teaching fellow in the Philosophy Department, and then in the Department of Humanities, where he received tenure in 2007. Professor Schindler is the author of seven books, most recently Freedom from Reality: On the Diabolical Character of Modern Liberty (Notre Dame, 2017), Love and the Postmodern Predicament: Rediscovering the Real in Beauty, Goodness, and Truth (Cascade, 2018), and A Companion to Ferdinand Ulrich’s Homo Abyssus (Humanum Academic, 2019).

He is a translator, from French and German, of numerous articles and books, including The Robert Spaemann Reader (Oxford, 2016) and Ferdinand Ulrich’s Homo Abyssus: The Drama of the Question of Being (Humanum Academic, 2018). Since 2002 he has served as one of the editors of Communio: International Review.

David L. Schindler
Dean Emeritus
Edouard Cardinal Gagnon Professor of Fundamental Theology
B.A., M.A., Philosophy, Gonzaga University (1967; 1970)
Ph.D., Religion, Claremont Graduate School (1976)

Formerly a Weaver Fellow (1972-73) and a Fulbright Scholar (1974-75, Austria), Professor Schindler taught in the Program of Liberal Studies at the University of Notre Dame (1979-92), where he received tenure in 1985, and in Philosophy at Mount St. Mary’s University (1976-79), where he received tenure in 1978. Since 1982 he has been editor-in-chief of the North American edition of Communio: International Catholic Review, a federation of journals founded in 1972 by Hans Urs von Balthasar, Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI), Henri de Lubac, and other European theologians. Professor Schindler has published over one hundred articles (translated into ten languages) in metaphysics and fundamental theology and on cultural issues. He is the author of The Generosity of Creation (Humanum Academic Press, 2018); of Freedom, Truth, and Human Dignity: The Second Vatican Council’s Declaration on Religious Freedom (with Nicholas Healy) (Eerdmans, 2015); Ordering Love: Liberal Societies and the Memory of God (Eerdmans, 2011); and Heart of the World, Center of the Church: Communio Ecclesiology, Liberalism, and Liberation (T&T Clark and Eerdmans, 1996). He is editor (with Doug Bandow) and contributor to Wealth, Poverty, and Human Destiny (ISI, 2003). His edited collections include Love Alone is Credible: Hans Urs Von Balthasar as Interpreter of the Catholic Tradition (Eerdmans, 2008); Joseph Ratzinger in Communio, Vol. 1, The Unity of the Church (Eerdmans, 2010); Joseph Ratzinger in Communio, Vol. 2, Anthropology and Culture (Eerdmans, 2013); Beyond Mechanism: The Universe in Recent Physics and Catholic Thought (1986); Act and Agent: Philosophical Foundations of Moral Education (with Jesse Mann and Frederick Ellrod) (1986); Catholicism and Secularism in America (1990); and Hans Urs Von Balthasar: His Life and Work (1991). Professor Schindler was appointed by Pope John Paul II as a Consultor to the Pontifical Council for the Laity from 2002 to 2007.

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Allen J. Aksamit
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Your Eminences, Esteemed Brothers in the Episcopate, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen. I am glad to welcome all of you who are taking part in the International Study Week organized by the Pontifical Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. In the first place I would like to greet Bishop Angelo Scola, Rector of the Pontifical Lateran University and President of the Institute, and to thank him for his words to me at the beginning of our meeting. Along with Bishop Scola, I also greet his predecessor, Bishop Carlo Caffara, now the Archbishop of Ferrara, the Cardinal Vicar of Rome, Camillo Ruini, Cardinal Alfonso López Trujillo, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family, the Prelates present here, the professors whose interesting presentations I have just heard, and all those who, in various ways, are helping to make this gathering a success. My greetings to you, dear members of the teaching staff of the many sessions of the Institute, who have gathered in Rome for an organic reflection on the foundation of God’s plan for marriage and the family ([il disegno divino sul matrimonio e la famiglia]).

REMEMBERING MY EXPERIENCE WITH YOUTH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KRAKOW.

Since its inception eighteen years ago, the Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family has made it a special task to delve more deeply into God’s plan for the person, marriage, and the family, joining theological, philosophical, and scientific reflection with an unflagging concern for the cura animarum.

This relation between thought and life, between theology and pastoral care, is truly decisive. Looking back on my own experience, I can see to what extent my work with young people as a student chaplain at the University of Krakow has been an aid to my meditation on certain fundamental aspects of Christian life. The fact of sharing daily life with the students, the opportunity to be with them in their joys and difficulties, their own desire to live to the full the vocation to which the Lord was calling them—all of this helped me to understand more and more deeply the truth that man grows and matures in love, that is, in self-gift, and that precisely in giving himself he is enabled in turn to attain his own fulfillment. One of the highest expressions of this principle is marriage, “which God the Creator, in his wisdom and providence, instituted in order to realize in humanity his plan of love. By means of their exclusive mutual self-giving as persons, spouses tend towards the communion of their persons, whereby they perfect one another, thus collaborating with God in the generation and education of new lives” ([Humanae vitae], 8).

THE PRAISeworthy SERVICE OF THE INSTITUTE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Inspired by this profound unity between the truth proclaimed by the Church and concrete life options and experiences, your Institute has performed a praiseworthy service in the years since its founding. With the sessions located in Rome (at the Lateran University), Washington, Mexico City, and Valencia, the academic centers in Cotonou (Benin) and Changanacherry (India), which are already on their way to full incorporation, and the soon-to-be-inaugurated center in Melbourne (Australia), the Institute will have seats on the five continents. This is a development for which we want to give thanks to the Lord, while expressing the gratitude that we owe to those who have contributed, and continue to contribute, to making this work a reality.

THE URGENT CHALLENGES THAT THE CHURCH’S MISSION MUST FACE.

I would now like to turn our gaze towards the future, beginning with a careful
look at the urgent challenges in this area that the Church’s mission and, therefore, your Institute, must face.

The challenge posed by the secularist mentality to the truth about the person, marriage, and the family has in a certain sense become even more radical than what it was when you set out on your academic venture eighteen years ago. It is no longer a matter simply of calling into question individual moral norms regarding sexual and family ethics. An alternative anthropology is being offered in place of the image of man/woman belonging to natural reason and, in particular, Christianity. This anthropology refuses to acknowledge the basic given that the sexual difference constitutes the very identity of the person. As a result, the idea that the family, grounded in the indissoluble marriage between a man and a woman, is the natural and basic cell of society, is in a state of crisis. Fatherhood and motherhood are conceived merely as a private project to be realized, if necessary, by using biomedical techniques that can bypass the exercise of conjugal sexuality. Presupposed, then, is an unacceptable “division between freedom and nature,” which in reality “are harmoniously joined and intimately allied” (*Veritatis splendor*, 50).

The truth is that the sexual configuration of bodiliness is an integral part of God’s original plan, in which man and woman are created in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:27) and are called to enact a faithful and free, indissoluble and fruitful communion that is a reflection of the richness of trinitarian love (cf. Col. 1:15-16).

Fatherhood and motherhood, then, before being a project of human freedom, constitute a vocation inscribed in conjugal love. This vocation is meant to be lived as a unique responsibility before God by welcoming children as his gift (cf. Gen. 4:1) in the worship of that divine fatherhood “from whom all fatherhood in the heavens and on earth takes its name” (Eph. 3:15).

To eliminate the mediation of the body in the conjugal act as the enabling locus of the origination of new life means, at the same time, to degrade procreation from a collaboration with God the Creator to a technically controlled “re-production” of another specimen of a species and, therefore, to lose the child’s unique personal dignity (cf. *Donum vitae*, II B/5). In fact, only integral respect for the essential characteristics of the conjugal act as a personal gift of the spouses that is at once bodily and spiritual also ensures respect for the person of the child and enables a manifestation of his origin from God, the source of every gift.

By contrast, when one treats one’s own body, the sexual difference inscribed in it, and one’s procreative powers themselves as nothing but inferior biological items that are susceptible to manipulation, one ends up denying the limit and the vocation in bodiliness. At the same time, one displays a presumption that, beyond one’s subjective intentions, fails to acknowledge one’s own being as a gift from God. In the light of these most pressing issues, I want to reaffirm with even greater conviction what I taught in the Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris consortio*: “The destiny of humanity passes through the family” (86).

**Deeper reflection on God’s plan for the person, marriage, and the family.**

Faced with these challenges, the Church has no other recourse than to turn her eyes to Christ, the Redeemer of man, the fullness of revelation. As I stated in the Encyclical *Fides et ratio*, “Christian revelation is the true lodestar of man as he makes his way amidst the pressures of an immanentist habit of mind and the constrictions of a technocratic logic” (15). We are offered this guidance precisely through the revelation of the foundation of reality, that is, of the Father who created it and keeps it in being from moment to moment.
Deeper reflection on God’s plan for the person, marriage, and the family is the task in which you must be engaged, with renewed vigor, at the beginning of the third millennium.

**In the light of the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity.**

I would now like to suggest some perspectives for this deeper reflection. The first concerns the foundation in the strict sense: the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, the very source of being and, therefore, the ultimate key to anthropology. In the light of the mystery of the Trinity, the sexual difference fully reveals its nature as an expressive sign of the whole person.

**The vocation of man and woman to communion.**

The second perspective that I would like to recommend to your study regards the vocation of man and woman to communion. This vocation likewise sinks its roots in the mystery of the Trinity; it is fully revealed to us in the incarnation of the Son of God—in whom human nature and divine nature are united in the Person of the Word—and it enters historically into the sacramental dynamism of the Christian economy. In fact, the nuptial mystery of Christ, the Church’s Bridegroom, finds a unique expression through sacramental marriage, which is a fruitful community of life and love.

**In the sacramental reality of the Church.**

In this way, the theology of marriage and the family—and this is my third suggestion for further reflection—is inscribed in the mystery of the triune God who invites all human beings to the wedding feast of the Lamb that is celebrated in the Lord’s Passover and offered to man’s freedom in the sacramental reality of the Church.

**Special attention to the relation between the person and society.**

Furthermore, reflection on the person, marriage, and the family can be deepened by devoting special attention to the relationship between person and society. The Christian response to the failure of individualist and collectivist anthropology calls for an ontological personalism rooted in the analysis of the primary family relations. The rationality and relationality of the human person, unity and difference in communion, and the constitutive polarities of man and woman, spirit and body, and individual and community are co-essential and inseparable dimensions. In this way, reflection on the person, marriage, and the family can be integrated into the Church’s social teaching and become one of its most solid roots.

**Interactive dialogue with the findings of philosophical reason and the human sciences.**

These and other perspectives for the future work of the Institute require development in line with the twofold methodological dimension that is also displayed in your meeting.

On the one hand, it is a sine qua non to begin with the unity of God’s plan for the person, marriage, and the family. Only this unitary starting-point can ensure that the teaching offered by the Institute does not become the simple juxtaposition of what theology, philosophy, and the human sciences have to tell us about these matters. Christian revelation is the source of an adequate anthropology and a sacramental vision of marriage that can engage in interactive dialogue with the findings of philosophical reason and the human sciences. This original unity also forms the basis of collaboration among teachers of various subjects and enables an interdisciplinary research and teaching whose object is the “unum” of the person,
John Paul II Speaks to the Institute

August 27, 1999

John Paul II

The Institute: Model of the dual unity of the Roman and the universal.

The novelty of the Pontifical Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family does not have to do only with the content and method of research, but is also expressed in its specific juridical and institutional figure. The Institute is in a certain sense an “unicum” among the Ecclesiastical Academies. In fact, the Institute is one (with one Chancellor and one President) and, at the same time, it is structured on each continent by means of the juridical figure known as the session.

The Institute thus translates, in juridical and institutional terms, the normal dynamism of communion that flows between the universal Church and the particular Churches. The Institute is thus a model of the dual unity of the Roman and the universal that characterizes the universities of the Urbe, especially the Pontifical Lateran University, where the central session is located and which article 1 of the Statutes defines as “the university of the Supreme Pontiff par excellence.”

If we consider the Institute and its history, we see the fruitfulness of the principle of unity in pluriiformity! This principle finds concrete expression not only in a doctrinal unity vitalizing research and teaching, but in actual communion among teachers, students, and staff. This is true, moreover, both within each session and in the reciprocal exchange among sessions that are otherwise so different. In this way, you collaborate in the enrichment of the life of the Churches and, in the final analysis, of the Catholica itself.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH: A PRIVILEGED GUIDE FOR YOUR WORK.

The Son of God chose to become a member of a human family so that human beings might participate, as members of the Church, in his very life. For this reason, the Holy Family of Nazareth, which is the “primordial domestic Church” (Redemptoris custos, 7), is a privileged guide for the work of the Institute. The Holy Family shows clearly the family’s role within the mission of the incarnate, redeeming Word, and sheds light on the mission of the Church itself.

May Mary, Virgin, Spouse, and Mother, protect the teachers, students, and staff of your Institute. May she accompany and sustain your reflection and your work so that the Church of God may find in you an assiduous and invaluable help in her task of proclaiming to all men the truth of God about the person, marriage, and the family.

To all of you my thanks and my blessing.

Translated by Adrian Walker
Papal Address to the Faculty on the Twentieth Anniversary of the Founding of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, Vatican City (May 31, 2001)

Eminent Cardinals, Venerable Brothers in the Episcopate, Brothers and Sisters,

1. I am very happy to celebrate with you, teachers, students, and staff, the twentieth anniversary of your, or rather our, Institute for Studies of Marriage and Family. Thank you for your welcome presence.

I cordially greet all of you, and I wish to greet in a special way the Chancellor, Cardinal Camillo Ruini; the President of the Superior Council of the Institute, Cardinal Alfonso López Trujillo; and Archbishop Carlo Caffarra of Ferrara, who launched the Institute. Finally, let me offer a special greeting to Bishop Angelo Scola, President of the Institute, the teachers and students, the staff and all those who in any way cooperate in the activity of the academic center.

This anniversary is an obvious sign of the Church’s involvement in marriage and the family, which are among the greatest goods of humanity, as I said in the Apostolic Exhortation Familiaris consortio, written 20 years ago this year.

From the moment that the Institute has been present with different sessions on all continents, the original intuition behind the founding of the Institute has become fruitful, coming into contact as it does with new situations and facing today’s radical challenges.

2. Taking up the themes dealt with in previous talks to the Institute, I want to draw your attention to the great need of an adequate anthropology that intends to understand and interpret the human person in what makes him or her essentially human.

In fact, the forgetfulness of the principle of God’s creation of the human person as male and female represents one of the major critical problems of contemporary society, and it brings with it a sweeping decline in respect for the human person in cultural expressions, moral sensitivity, and legal enactments. When the principle gets lost, the perception of the singular dignity of the human person is lost, and the way is open for an invasive “culture of death.”

However, the experience of love, properly understood, remains a simple and universal gateway through which everyone can pass in order to gain an awareness of what makes a person a human being: reason, affection, and freedom. Within the continuously raised questions about the meaning of the person, and moving from the principle of the human person’s being created male and female in the image and likeness of God, the believer can recognize the mystery of the Trinitarian face of God, who creates a human being by placing on him the seal of his reality of love and communion.

3. The sacrament of marriage and the family that proceeds from it represents a valid way through which the grace of Christ grants to the children of the Church a real participation in Trinitarian communion.

The Risen Lord’s spousal love for his Church, offered in the sacrament of marriage, also raises up in the Church the gift of virginity for the kingdom. In its turn, virginity indicates the final destiny of conjugal love. In this way, the nuptial mystery helps us to discover that the Church is the family of God. In this connection, see how, by exploring the nature of the sacrament of matrimony, the Institute contributes to the renewal of ecclesiology.

4. The whole question of the origin of human life and methods of procreation is another burning issue that affects the prospects for marriage and family. With growing insistence, plans are devised that place the beginnings of human life in situations that are completely divorced from the marital union of husband and wife.
These plans are often supported by purported medical and scientific reasons. In fact, with the pretext of ensuring a better quality of life through genetic control, or of progress in medical and scientific research, experiments on human embryos and methods for their production are proposed that open the door to the use of the person as an object and run the risk of abuse by those who arrogate to themselves an arbitrary and limitless power over the human being.

The full truth on marriage and family, revealed in Christ, is a light that allows us to discern what constitutes the authentically human elements in procreation. As the Second Vatican Council taught, “the spouses joined by the marriage bond are called to express by means of acts that are moral and worthy of marriage” (Gaudium et spes, n. 49) their mutual self-giving and to accept with responsibility and gratitude children, “the most precious gift of marriage” (ibid., n. 50). They become collaborators in their physical self-giving with the love of God the Creator. Participating in the gift of life and love, they receive the capacity of corresponding to it and transmitting it in turn.

The union of the spouses in matrimonial love and the corporal mediation of the conjugal act are the only place in which the singular value of the new human being called to life is fully recognized and respected. Man cannot be reduced to his genetic and biological components, which certainly also form a part of his personal dignity. Every person who comes into the world is called from eternity to participate in Christ, through the Spirit, in the fullness of life in God. That is why, from the mysterious instant of his conception, he must be accepted and treated as a person created in the image and likeness of God himself (cf. Gn 1:26).

5. Another set of challenges that await an adequate response from the research and activity of the Institute are of a legal and social nature.

In some countries in recent years, permissive legislation, founded on partial or erroneous concepts of freedom, have favored what are called alternative models of family, which are not founded on the irrevocable commitment of a man and a woman to form a “lifetime community.” The specific rights recognized up until now for the family, the primary cell of society, have been extended to forms of association, de facto unions, civil pacts of solidarity (PAC), tailored only to personal needs and desires, to the struggle for juridical and legal recognition of options unjustly considered as the vanguard of freedom. Who cannot see that the misleading promotion of such juridical and institutional models creates yet another trend to dissolve the primary right of the family to be recognized as the chief subject of social rights and obligations?

I want to repeat forcefully that the institution of the family, created to allow the human person to attain in an adequate way a sense of his own dignity, offers him a place to grow in conformity with his natural dignity and his vocation as a human person. Family bonds come first and pave the way for other forms of solidarity in society. By promoting an in-depth awareness of the family in conformity with its academic statutes and mission, the Institute contributes to developing the culture of life that I have often advocated.

6. Twenty years ago in Familiaris consortio, I affirmed that “the future of humanity passes by way of the family” (n. 86). I repeat it again today with greater conviction and increasing concern. I repeat it with full confidence, entrusting you and your work to Our Lady of Fatima, in these years the kind and strong Patroness of your Institute. To her, as Queen of the Family, I entrust all your plans and the course that opens before you at the beginning of the third millennium. In assuring you of my prayers, I cordially impart my blessing.
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