

May 17, 2015

GENERAL INFORMATION

New DLSC Members include (The Very Rev.) Sylvia Sweeney, President and Dean of Bloy House - the Episcopal Theological School at Claremont, California; David D. Kadue, Presbyterian elder and partner in the law firm Seyfarth Shaw in Los Angeles; and Matthew Brosamer, associate professor of English at Mount St. Mary's University, Los Angeles.

Ethikon Book on Dissent: Cambridge University Press has just published *Dissent on Core Beliefs: Religious and Secular Perspectives*, the 17th book produced by the Ethikon Institute, a non-profit research organization administered by DLSC coordinator Philip Valera to explore and compare influential moral traditions. The new book was co-edited by Simone Chambers and Peter Nosco, and its contributors include: William A. Galston (Liberalism), Andrew Levine (Marxism), Tom Angier (Natural Law), Alan Mittleman (Judaism), Peter Steinfels (Christianity), Meena Sharify-Funk (Islam), Anne Murphy (South Asian Religions), Richard Madsen (Confucianism), Peter Nosco (Buddhism), and Michael Walzer (Afterword).

Islamic and Christian Relations: The Institut Dominicaine d'Etudes Orientales, founded in Cairo 62 years ago (1953), is home to one of the most extensive collections of works on Arabic culture and Islam. Based in Cairo, the Institut's purpose is to work toward better knowledge and understanding of the Arab-Muslim cultural heritage and toward the improvement of Islamic and Christian relations. The IDEO team is comprised of approximately twelve scholars, mainly Dominican friars.

Dominican Jubilee: Founded in 1216 in Languedoc by Domingo de Guzman, the Order of Preachers will celebrate its 800 year jubilee next year. Preparations for the jubilee are presently underway at many venues throughout the world. A major venue will be the Patriarchal Basilica of San Domenico in Bologna where St. Dominic is buried.

GROUP MEETINGS

Over the past year, DLSC groups held 15 quarterly discussion meetings focused on the following topics and readings:

Prayer - Thomas Aquinas - ST 2a2ae Q.83, Articles 2 and 9

Petitionary Prayer – Eleonore Stump – APQ (1979)

Divine Providence: The Molinist Account (excerpts) - Thomas R. Flint

The Eschatological Significance of Chalcedonian Christology – Metropolitan John Zizioulis of Pergamum from *Communion and Otherness*.

Christ Actually: The Son of God for the Secular Age by James Carroll

An Introduction to the Philosophy of Lonergan – Maury Schepers, O.P.

Toward a Post-Colonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible – Musa W. Dobe – from *Hope Abundant: Third World and Indigenous Women's Theology*

Spirituality of Saint Married Couples in the Catholic Church – Kevin Kraft, O.P.

A Theology of Higher Education (excerpts) – Mike Higon

In God's Shadow: Politics in the Hebrew Bible – Michael Walzer - Two chapters on prophecy

Adjectival Secondary Predicates in Supyire Language – Robert Carlson

Seeing God: Trinitarian Thought through Iconography – Sarah Coakley – *from God Sexuality, and the Self*

Culture and the Death of God – Terry Eagleton – chapters 3, 5, and 6

BRIEF UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES OF SOME DLSC MEMBERS

Tom Angier edited a volume for Routledge on *The History of Evil* (in the ancient period); published the article "Happiness: Overcoming the Skill Model" in the *International Philosophical Quarterly*; an essay in a collection on Nietzsche's political philosophy; and papers on the nature and value of work, and on the political problem of "dirty hands." Tom also volunteers with an asylum outreach organization of the Scalabrini Order dedicated to the welfare of migrants.

Samuel and Abigail Bray are the proud parents of Beatrice Hilda Bray, born on June 16, 2014. Beatrice's namesake is St. Hilda of Whitby, a devout woman of great learning and wisdom, and an important figure in the conversion of Anglo-Saxon England to Christianity.

Gavin Colvert received an award from the American Maritain Association for his service as their Vice President. On leave from Assumption College where he chaired the philosophy dept. and directed the Ecumenical Institute, Gavin is now serving as principal of St. Martin of Tours school in Los Angeles. His wife Danielle holds the same position at Good Shepherd school in Beverly Hills. Their son Brendan, a Renaissance Scholar at USC where he is working on his doctorate in aerospace, was recently awarded a Dept. of Defense Research Fellowship. His younger sister Gabrielle, a third-year biomedical engineering undergraduate at USC, will conduct research in her major field of study this summer at Trinity College, Dublin and Oxford.

Fr. Michael Dodds, OP, has recently given lectures dealing with theology and science, divine action, and divine impassibility at Franciscan University (Steubenville); Notre Dame Seminary (New Orleans); the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas – the Angelicum (Rome), Mount Saint Mary's College (Newburgh, NY), and at the colloquium, "What Has Athens to Do with Jerusalem?", the first of the *"Colloquia Series: Philosophers & Theologians in Conversation"*, at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (Berkeley, CA). He has also published "The God of Life, the Science of Life, and the Problem of Language," in *God: Reason and Reality*, edited by Anselm Ramelow, O.P. (Munich: Philosophia Verlag, 2014), 197-231.

Steve Munzer presented a paper on "Temptation in James 1 and 1 Cor.10" to a meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and a paper on "Kierkegaard on Purity of Heart" to a meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers – both in spring 2015. His article on the German circumcision controversy of 2012 has been accepted by the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Law*. In May 2015, he co-led a retreat at Westwood Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles. In January 2015, Steve was also re-elected chair of the Ethikon Institute's Board of Directors.

Colville Smythe is happy to be the current host for meetings of the Pasadena area DLSC chapter. This spring he will complete 8 years of teaching “Literature of the Bible” at Citrus Community College in Glendora. Much as he loves teaching, he will take the fall semester off to preach and teach a little more at his home parish, St. Edmund’s in San Marino. Out from under the tyranny of the academic calendar, he and his wife Sylvia will travel more, and he plans to begin writing his novel on the Christian movement in the first century.

Eleonore Stump is presently directing (with John Greco) a project on “The Philosophy and Theology of Intellectual Humility” for which The John Templeton Foundation has provided a \$3.3 million dollar grant. Eleonore’s 2014 publications include: *The Cambridge Companion to Augustine*, expanded revised edition (ed. with David Meconi); Aquinas’s *On the Principles of Nature*, transl. by Eleonore Stump and Stephen Chanderbhan, in *Thomas Aquinas, Basic Works*, ed. Jeffrey Hause and Robert Pasnau; *Faith, Wisdom, and the Transmission of Knowledge through Testimony*, in *Religious Faith and Intellectual Virtue*, Timothy O’Connor and Laura Frances Goins, eds. In addition, Eleonore lectured in 2104 at more than eleven universities and colleges on topics including: *The Problem of Evil in Our Culture*; *Eckhart and Aquinas on the Problem of Suffering*; *The Problem of Suffering: A Thomistic Approach*; *Incarnation, Union, and the Cry of Dereliction from the Cross*; *Metaphysics, Morality, and the Common Good*; *Aquinas’s Normative Ethics: The Second-Personal*; the annual Simone Weil Lecture on “Is Justice Enough?”; *Aquinas on Justice and Care*; *Love and Forgiveness: Swinburne on Atonement*; *Natural Law, Metaphysics, and Creation*; *Matteo Ricci and the True Meaning of the Lord of Heaven*; *Natural Law, Science and Creation*; and *The Nature of the Atonement*.

William Sullivan has a contract for a new book with Stylus Publishing, entitled, *The Power of Integrated Learning*, an extended report on the undergraduate educational models developed by the consortium of New American Colleges and Universities. The book should be published in early 2016. Another of Bill’s book manuscripts, *Exploring Identity, World, and Purpose* is currently under review. This manuscript is based on a several year study that Bill carried out on the “Theological Exploration of Vocation,” a program funded by the Lilly Endowment.

Sylvia Sweeney reports that her big commitment beyond normal life as President/Dean of Bloy House has been to serve on the Episcopal Church’s Task Force on Marriage - for which she wrote two papers in the Task Force’s report to the Episcopal Church General Convention 2015. She also wrote an article for the “Anglican and Episcopal History Journal” in 2014 as part of the 40th anniversary commemorations of the Ordination of Women in the Episcopal Church.

Philip Valera has been re-elected president of the Ethikon Institute - a role in which he is responsible for the design and management of Ethikon projects. His program responsibilities include the refinement of board-approved topics into specific thematic questions for cross-tradition comparison; the identification and recruitment of authors for book chapters; the engagement of volume editors; the overall management of publisher relations; and the organization of multi-tradition dialogue conferences. On program design issues he consults with an editorial advisory board whose members include Asli Bali, Gavin Colvert, Sohail Hashmi, Peter Hoffenberg, M. Cathleen Kaveny, Will Kymlicka, David Miller, Alan Mittleman, Jeremy Waldron, and Michael Walzer.