

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### THE AMERICAN MARITAIN ASSOCIATION

40TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING,

THURSDAY — SATURDAY, MARCH 2nd – 4th, 2017, IN NEW ORLEANS

**“METAPHYSICS AND POLITICS: JACQUES MARITAIN’S *EXISTENCE AND THE EXISTENT AND THE PERSON AND THE COMMON GOOD*”**

SPONSORED BY NOTRE DAME SEMINARY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Program Committee: James G. Hanink (President), James M. Jacobs (Vice-President and Program Chair), Joshua W. Schulz (Secretary and Web Editor), Heather M. Erb (Treasurer), Giuseppe Butera (General Editor)

This year’s conference title is “**Metaphysics and Politics.**” 2017 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jacques Maritain’s enduring works *Existence and the Existent* and *The Person and the Common Good*. In *Existence and the Existent* Maritain sets out the key themes and arguments of an existential Thomism. In doing so he critically engages the currents of thought that Jean-Paul Sartre had set in motion. In *The Person and the Common Good* Maritain trenchantly analyzes Nazi and Marxist ideologies. In doing so he exposes their relation to liberal and bourgeois individualism. The alternative that Maritain proposes is a personalist communitarian vision that seeks the common good and draws on Christian inspiration.

Jacques Maritain’s paired concerns of metaphysics and politics, and their sometimes surprising interconnections, is illuminating. To be sure, it is not without precedent. We need only think of Plato and Aristotle for classical antecedents, of Suarez and Locke and Kant for early modern antecedents, of Hegel and Marx in the nineteenth century, or of Buber and Arendt in the twentieth century. This list is no more than a sampler.

The conference invites proposals on metaphysics or politics and especially those that explore the interplay of metaphysics and politics, whether for better or for worse. It welcomes proposals that call attention to the metaphysical commitments of political thought or that highlight the political implications of metaphysical perspectives. We strongly encourage proposals on the sources of conscience in the context of a secular liberal polity that seems unable to recognize them.

In the tradition of our Association, we look forward to proposals that further the understanding of the work of Jacques and Raïssa Maritain and of other Thomists who help to clarify our “interesting times.”