

The Maritain Notebook

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN MARITAIN ASSOCIATION / VOLUME 26, ISSUE 2 / FALL 2018

President's Letter

"Thomism and Theology" is the theme of the American Maritain Association's 42nd International Meeting. DeSales University, in Center Valley, Pennsylvania, is graciously hosting the event. We are greatly in debt to Joshua Schulz, Associate Professor of Philosophy at DeSales as well as our own Secretary and Webmaster, for his painstaking work of conference preparation. We are pleased, as well, to announce that our confirmed plenary speakers are John Knasas (University of St. Thomas, Houston), Dominic Legge, OP (Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception), Siobhan Nash-Marshall (Manhattanville College), D. C. Schindler (Pontifical John Paul II Institute), and Thomas Weinandy, OFM Cap (International Theological Commission).

Our plenary speakers, and all who answer our Call for Papers, know that we are asking, as we mark the 90th anniversary of Jacques Maritain's *The Angelic Doctor* and the 80th anniversary of his *Twilight of Civilization*, a pair of pressing questions. The first is "What does the Common Doctor offer to those who fear a dark night civilization?" The second is "What can philosophers and theologians say about the signs of our troubled times?" Maritain, who made his own the adage "Go to Thomas" [*It ad Thomam!*], urged us to have a tough spirit and a tender heart [*Il faut avoir l'esprit dur et le cœur tendre.*"] In their life together, and with their friends, Jacques and Raïssa exemplified both. In their time an abyss was always close at hand, as it is now.

The reflections of our annual

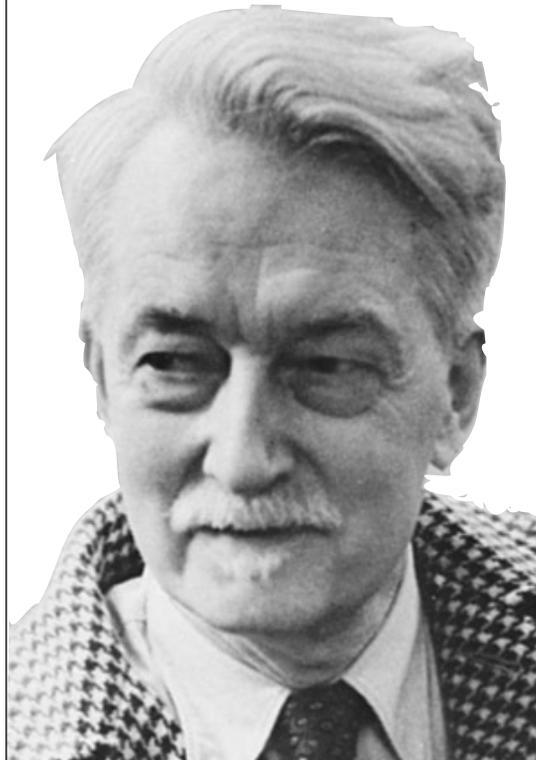
conferences, of course, lead to fresh scholarly volumes in the American Maritain Association Series. The newest, Volume 28, is titled *The Things that Matter: Essays on the Later Works of Jacques Maritain* and expertly edited by Heidi Giebel (University of St. Thomas, Minnesota). Distributed by The Catholic University of America Press, this book will be available, at a discount, at DeSales! The friends of the Maritains, to be sure, are intellectually alive wherever they are to be found. Most recently Rome's *Istituto Internazionale Jacques Maritain* has announced its newest collaborative series of lectures, *Educare alla Pace*, to be held at the Lateran University.

Other news requires, I suspect, some soul-searching on the part of our growing membership. As announced in the last *Notebook*, we will have an election of officers at our upcoming conference. The Executive

Committee continues to canvas for people willing to step forward as candidates for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Series Editor. The AMA circle of leadership, however rough at the edges, must remain unbroken. It needn't, however, go round and round nor spin without reinforcements! For inspiration I encourage you to read our past president Michael Torre's welcome and instructive history of the Association in this issue of the *Maritain Notebook*. Upon visiting, or revisiting, the chronicles of this community of scholars, you might even consider your institution as the host our 2020 Conference.

As always, the Executive Committee seeks your thoughts on our Association. Hesitant? Well, we've renewed our pledge to provide a complementary packet of Powder Milk Biscuits. After all, they give shy people the strength to do what needs to be done—foremost of which is moving from theory to practice!

~James Hanink



The Maritain Notebook

Published Fallish and Springish. Please contact the editor regarding books for review, guest columns, news and announcements.

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Featured Essay

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The American Maritain Association was founded at its first meeting, at Niagara University (New York State), in May 25-28, 1977. (Its venue was in part chosen to be on the border with Canada, for it welcomed Canadians into its organization.) Its first President, Donald A. Gallagher, was instrumental in its foundation. Other AMA members then present were its second President, Raymond Dennehy, and John Deely, who was the main author of its first *Constitution and By-Laws*, duly approved at its second meeting, held in Washington, D.C., on April 28, 1978, as well as John G. Trapani, Jr., who would become its fifth and then eighth President. In addition to Gallagher, Dennehy, and Deely, the drafting committee of that document also included R.J. Henle, SJ, Mary T. Clark, RSCJ, and Ralph Massiello (then at Niagara). Also present at its first meeting, and perhaps more important than anyone else, was Anthony O. (“Tony”) Simon, who would be the Secretary-Treasurer for its first 25 years and who (aided by his wife, “Judy”) would be the principal organizing and driving force of the Association throughout its first years.

The *Istituto Internazionale Jacques Maritain* had been founded in 1974, shortly after the death of Jacques Maritain, and its first Secretary-General (the late-lamented Roberto Papini) was

present at the first gathering of the AMA at Niagara University. As a consequence of his presence and interest, the very first article of the AMA constitution (after giving its name), specified that it was an “affiliate” of the IJIM. While it also indicated that the AMA was “autonomous in its governance, policies, and procedures,” it nevertheless stipulated that it would be “consonant with the *Statuts*” of the IJIM “as far as possible.” This language was retained in a subsequent revision to its *Constitution*, which was unanimously approved on May 28, 2015.

The American Maritain Association: A Summary Account

In truth, despite its cordial relation with the IJIM, its connection to that organization has lessened with time. At the beginning of its life, there was an effort at greater collaboration (as in its 1980 celebration of Maritain and Merton, at his Abbey of Gethsemani). Michael D. Torre has served as one of its Vice-Presidents (1998-2002), and he has been on its Scientific Committee since 2014. And, even in later years, on several

occasions, the IJIM President has been present at an AMA meeting: notably, Ramon Sugranyes de Franch, in 1991, and William Sweet, in 2015. Its most recent Secretary-General, Gennaro Giuseppe Curcio, even gave a paper at its gathering in New York City, in 2016. Nevertheless, while the relation of the AMA to the IJIM is “friendly,” both geography and their differing concerns necessarily have made it somewhat “distant.”

The AMA also has maintained relations with other national associations of “Maritainists.” Its most constant and fruitful one has been with the nearby Canadian Jacques Maritain Association / Association Canadienne Jacques Maritain. It has twice met on Canadian soil (once in Toronto, in 1979, and once in Montreal, in 1987), and occasionally that organization has “co-sponsored” an AMA conference, as in New York City, in 2016. More importantly, Canadians have regularly contributed to AMA conferences, in particular Ralph Nelson, Lawrence Dewan, OP, William Sweet, Nikolaj Zunic, and its presidents, such as Jean-Louis Allard and Walter J. Schultz. AMA members have also themselves participated in some conferences of the Canadian association.

The yearly meetings of the AMA are, in fact, billed as being “international,” and scholars from other lands continuously have

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contributed to its gatherings. Europeans have contributed, especially Henk E.S. Woldring, from the Netherlands, as well as Piotr Jaroszynski from Poland, Vittorio Possenti from Italy, Mariano Artigas from Spain, and, most recently, Florian Michel from France and its *Cercle d'Études Jacques et Raïssa Maritain*. Members from Latin America have also contributed, such as Mario Ramos-Reyes (originally from Paraguay), Manuel Ocampo Ponce (from Mexico), and Gonzalo F. Fernández (from Argentina). There have even been participants from Asia, such as Fr. Joseph de la Torre, who journeyed several times to conferences from Manila. And, at its second gathering, in Washington, D.C. in 1978, it was addressed by Rafael Caldera, the former President of Venezuela (1969-74), who was present at other Maritain meetings, as well.

Participants are usually academics, and usually professors of philosophy (or sometimes theology), but not exclusively. Thus, artists, such as Katherine Anne Osenga, have made valuable contributions, as have statesmen, such as Charles P. O'Donnell, historians, such as John Hellman, and “men of letters,” such as William Bush—a leading expert on Georges Bernanos—and especially both Bernard Doering and John Marston Dunaway—both professors of French literature who

have written books on Maritain (and the later of whom was an AMA Vice President and has been a regular participant at its conferences for at least 30 years).

The association has met once a year every year since its foundation (save 2013, when it switched its yearly meeting from October—having met in 2012—to late February—it next meeting in 2014). Save for rare exceptions, it has spent one day of its conference on the campus of its sponsoring university. Not surprisingly, it has met most frequently at the University of Notre Dame (four times). It has also met twice at Boston College, the Catholic University of America, Fordham University, Princeton University, the University of St. Thomas (Houston), and The University of San Francisco. As that list suggests, meetings have largely been sponsored by Catholic universities, but not exclusively so. In addition to Princeton University, the Association has met at Arizona State University, The University of Chicago, The College of Charleston, Emory University, New York University, and the United States Airforce Academy. It has met all over the United States: the West Coast (Berkeley and San Francisco), the West (Colorado Springs and Phoenix), the Midwest (Chicago, Kansas City, North Canton [Ohio], St. Louis, South Bend), the South (Atlanta, Boca

Raton [Florida], Charleston, Houston, Irving [Texas], Louisville, Nashville, New Orleans), the mid-Atlantic (Philadelphia, Princeton, Washington D.C.), and New York and New England (Boston, New York City, Niagara, Providence). Almost invariably, the choice of venue has been based upon some AMA member then teaching at a given institution.

The President of the Association has had the greatest responsibility for maintaining and guiding it. It has had nine such. Donald A. Gallagher served for 10 years and Raymond Dennehy for 7. Later, John G. Trapani, Jr., would serve for an equal number of years. Deal Hudson, Curtis Hancock, and Alice Ramos each served one 3-year term, Ralph McNerny served for only 2 years, and Michael D. Torre into a 4th year. James G. Hanink is now finishing his third year as President. As befits an association of Maritainists, its president has always been a layman, as have been the majority of its other executive officers (Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and General Editor), although Fr. Justin Gable, OP, has recently served as its Vice-President, and Joseph W. Koterski, SJ, and Christopher Cullen, SJ, have each served for many years as its chaplain.

The first publication of the association was an informally bound “Conference Seminar” on *The Degrees of Knowledge*, from a

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conference held at St. Louis University on May 9-10, 1980. (It is now out-of-print and difficult to locate.) It began publishing its yearly volume in 1988 (on a conference held the year previously). Its first two volumes were the responsibility of the editor tasked with the volume (John F.X. Knasas and Michael D. Torre). Starting in 1990, Tony Simon aided in the book's publication, using his contacts at the University of Notre Dame Press, with he himself acting as its copy-editor. Indeed, the creation of the series was largely at the instigation of Tony, and he served as the series General Editor from 1990 until 2004. Michael D. Torre was its second General Editor, from 2009-2013, and Giuseppe Butera has been its third General Editor, from 2014 to the present. The first volumes were distributed by the University of Notre Dame Press; in 1997, Tony switched the distributor to the Catholic University of America Press, which remains its distributor (with its yearly book being advertised in its catalogue). Almost all of its volumes remain in print. (The first printing of its second volume sold out; but a second printing is still available.) The cost of each book's publication is largely covered by the sale of its copies, together with the yearly dues of the association. (The cost of its yearly conference is largely covered by the conference dues, plus a significant

contribution often made by the host institution.)

The Association ever has underlined that its yearly book is *not* a "proceedings" of its yearly conference. Typically, some 60 papers will be given each year (over a period of two and a half days). The book's editor (who differs from year to year) then issues a "call" for papers to be considered for the book he or she will then "craft." Perhaps some 30 papers will be submitted, from which some 15 to 20 will then be published. The Association likewise stipulated that its book was not necessarily to be made up of "journal publications," but rather of "well-crafted essays." Nevertheless, in 2012, the Association instituted a "peer-review process" for its volumes, with each essay first being approved by the editor and then confirmed by a "blind review" of a 3-member panel made up of past AMA editors. The overall quality of its essays has increasingly improved, and anyone whose essay is now accepted can claim that it is a "peer-reviewed article."

Some idea of the quality of its publications, as well as its conferences in which the addresses were first given, can be gathered from those it has published: Mortimer Adler, George Anastaplo, Benedict Ashley, OP, Otto Bird, David Burrell, CSC, Romanus Cessario, OP, W. Norris Clarke, SJ, John Deely, Jude Dougherty, Alfred Freddoso, J.L.A. Garcia, Thomas

Hibbs, Russell Hittinger, Rabbi Leon Klenicki, Vukan Kuic, Ralph McInerney, Alasdair McIntyre, Michael Novak, Edmund Pellegrino, MD, Robert Royal, John V. Schall, SJ, Richard Schenk, OP, Fr. Robert Sokolowski, Fr. Edward A. Synan, John Van Doren, James A. Weisheipl, OP, Merold Westphal, Frederick Wilhelmsen, and Monsignor John F. Wippel, to name but some of its more well-known contributors (in addition to the various names already mentioned). The presence of Mary T. Clarke, RSCJ, on the drafting committee of its constitution indicates that there have ever been fine women participants in the Association. In addition to its past president, Alice Ramos, one might mention Prudence Allen, RSM, Brooke Williams Deely, Jane Doering, Heather Erb, Laura L. Garcia, Marie George, Catherine Green, Siobhan Nash-Marshall, Mary Catherine Sommers, Judith Suther, Cornelia A. Tsakiridou, and Anne M. Wiles; and, in its last three volumes alone, Karen Chan, Catherine Deavel, Megan Furman, Heidi M. Geibl, Anne Francis Ai Le, OP, Brenna Moore, and Bernadette E. O'Connor. Alice Ramos and Marie George have been editors of past volumes of its series, and Heidi M. Giebel has edited the newest volume. As the above lists also indicate, in addition to many lay men and women, many priests and religious—and a number quite well known—have made and

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continue to make important contributions to its life.

Significant contributors to the life of the Association and to Maritain studies, as well as to the intellectual and spiritual life of America, have been continually honored by the Association, men such as William J. Bennett, Brian Davies, OP, Joseph D. Fessio, SJ, Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, Fr. Matthew Lamb, René and Dominique Mougel, W. David Solomon, or William Schickel,

The theme of the yearly conference has been distributed in a roughly equal way among the major concerns of Maritain's life: art, practical philosophy (ethics and politics), theoretical philosophy (metaphysics, epistemology, science), and the relation between philosophy and culture (contemporary thought and religious faith). Typically, a conference may be expressly dedicated to the anniversary celebration of one of his classic texts: *Art and Faith*, *The Degrees of Knowledge*, *Integral Humanism*, *The Twilight of Civilization*, *Scholasticism and Politics*, *Ransoming the Time*, *St. Thomas and the Problem of Evil*, *Education at the Crossroads*, *The Person and the Common Good*, *Existence and the Existent*, *Man and the State*, *Untrammelled Approaches*. Broadly speaking, its essays have had three different foci: on Maritain's person or work, on Thomas or Thomistic

philosophy, or on some issue of contemporary philosophy (and usually its relation to Thomism or Maritain). While there is no absence of essays on Maritain, their general focus has not been biographical or "hagiographical" (i.e., celebrating his evident virtue or sanctity), but has been on the merits or defense of a philosophical position, or its comparison and contrast to contemporary positions that are friendly to or differ from it. Essays range backwards to Aquinas and forward to issues and debates of our current day. Nor, it is worth noting, has the Association ever forgotten the importance of Raïssa, and it has often devoted some of its presentations to her.

Its founding members were composed of two generations: older men and women, themselves already senior members of the academy, who often had known Maritain personally, such as Donald A. Gallagher; and those who had come of age directly before or after Vatican II, such as Raymond Dennehy or John Deely. Some of its older members ceased coming after 5 or so years: people such as Mary T. Clark, RSCJ, R.J. Henle, SJ, Francis Lescoe, Ralph Massiello, Leo Sweeney, SJ, or Frederick Wilhelmsen. Others, such as Joseph J. Califano, Desmond FitzGerald, or Francis Slade, continued to come to some of its meetings. While its very first conferences not surprisingly concentrated more on Maritain and

his seminal work, increasingly they were willing to range "further afield." Increasingly, as well, they reached out to include younger members, and not just Maritainist philosophers. Again, broadly speaking, the leadership of the Association was successfully passed to a "third generation" (e.g., its last six presidents, save the older Ralph McInerney), and is now being passed to a "fourth generation" (e.g., its present General Editor and the last four editors in its book series). There have ever been men and women who "stepped up" to do the work necessary to maintain such an association, not only its presidents but also its book editors, many of whom could be "counted on" to be present at its conferences and to aid in its work: men and women such as John P. Hittinger (who, along with Alice Ramos, has edited two volumes of its book series), William Haggerty and Gregory Kerr (past editors of *The Maritain Notebook*, a newsletter in which the Association keeps its members abreast of matters pertinent to its life), Marie George, Gavin Colvert, Heather Erb, James Jacobs, Heidi Giebl, or Joshua Schulz.

From an initial beginning of many fewer members than at present, it rather swiftly grew to its present size of roughly 150 members. Each year, a third to a half of its members can be counted on to gather at its conference, the

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vast majority of whom will be giving a presentation to it. This is a relatively small organization, but one considerably more significant than “circles” of men and women dedicated to a particular philosopher (and which usually are limited to 20 members or less). It could not possibly compete, or want to compete, either with the American Philosophical Association (which is made up of all philosophers of the American academy, most of whom are of the “analytic” or “continental” tradition) or with the American Catholic Philosophical Association (largely made up of philosophers teaching at some Catholic university). In 1990, that latter association changed the name of its journal from *New Scholasticism* to the *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, a change that marked a shift in philosophy departments at Catholic universities from Thomism to a “pot-pourri” of philosophical positions. While members of that association seem to have returned somewhat to a greater identification with Thomistic philosophy, a significant pluralism exists among them. By contrast, the AMA has been and remains committed to furthering the philosophical point of view characteristic of Jacques Maritain: one deeply rooted in that of Aquinas, yet equally determined to argue for its rightful place in the firmament of contemporary philosophical discourse, as a

philosophy open to whatever is right and good in that discourse, and as able to offer its insights and wisdom to the problems of our day.

There is a saying that, “if one wants to see God laugh, just start to talk about the future,” and it certainly is hazardous to say what the future holds for the AMA. Nevertheless, three truths stand out regarding the years ahead. First, it has established an impressive legacy from which to build: both in terms of the relatively constant number of its members, and its almost thirty books, which have continued to offer its collective reflection to the contemporary world. Second, while its members are diverse, they are generally united by the philosophical position defined above, and that unity both offers something specific to our world and serves as a magnet to attract young minds to embrace, develop, and advance its spirit. Third, it has from its inception shared in that virtue of intellectual friendship so characteristic of the home of Jacques and Raïssa; they have blessed it with their spirit. Academic organizations can often be rather frigid and offer rather pretentious fare. The AMA, by contrast, has been a very warm place, of men and women who genuinely look forward to their yearly gathering together, where old friendships continue to be renewed, and a place where the excellence and distinction of the intellect is

recognized as less deep than the faith possessed by the most humble and simplest among us. It seems, then, that this “place” and this association will likely continue to “go forward” as it has done now for over 40 years, and will succeed in passing on its élan and vitality to yet further generations of Maritainists.

~ **Michael D. Torre**
University of San Francisco

**Professor Torre was
President of the American
Maritain Association from
2012-2015**



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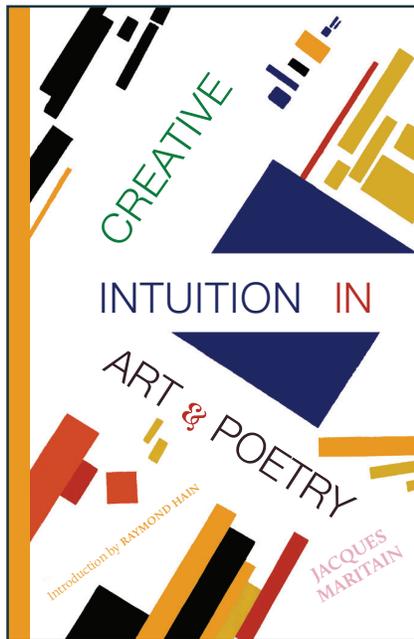
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Creative Intuition in Art & Poetry

By Jacques Maritain



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CREATIVE INTUITION IN ART AND POETRY encompasses the six lectures Jacques Maritain delivered as the inaugural lecturer in the A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts. Maritain focuses his vision on aesthetics, beauty, and the acts of inspiration and creation as they pertain to music, painting, and poetry. Addressing the implications of modernist art movements, the relations between modern poetry, beauty, and the “nonconceptual life of the intellect,” and their surrounding themes, these lectures coalesce to paint a portrait of both Maritain’s own philosophy and the debates surrounding art and meaning in the twentieth century as a whole.

Raymond Hain’s Introduction for the new edition provides an illuminating overview of Maritain’s aesthetic philosophy and its diverse influences, including Humbert Clerissac, Charles Péguy, and Léon Bloy. Profound, difficult, and immensely rewarding, *Creative Intuition in Art and Poetry* belongs on the bookshelf of every true thinker.



JACQUES MARITAIN (1882–1973) was perhaps the greatest Catholic philosopher of the twentieth century. A convert, along with his wife Raïssa, from agnosticism to Catholicism, Maritain wrote extensively on metaphysics, aesthetics, epistemology, ethics, social and political philosophy, and the philosophy of history—all with the guiding inspiration of the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas.

RAYMOND HAIN is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Associate Director of the Humanities Program at Providence College. He has published essays in various academic journals and books, including *Christian Bioethics*, *The Thomist*, and *Human Nature, Contemplation, and the Political Order: Essays Inspired by Jacques Maritain’s Scholasticism and Politics*. He is the editor of *Ethics and Culture: Essays in Honor of W. David Solomon*.

ALSO BY JACQUES MARITAIN, PUBLISHED BY CLUNY MEDIA:

2nd CFP

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THE AMERICAN MARITAIN ASSOCIATION

42nd ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING

THURSDAY— SATURDAY, MARCH 28–30, 2019

AT DeSALES UNIVERSITY, CENTER VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

THOMISM AND 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)

2019 marks the 90th anniversary of Jacques Maritain's *The Angelic Doctor* and the 80th anniversary of his *Twilight of Civilization*. The juxtaposition of titles suggests some pointed questions. What does the Common Doctor offer to those who fear a dark night of civilization? Or if this be its twilight, though given a reprieve, what can philosophers and theologians say about what our civilization means? How we answer such questions leads to a more general question: how might the sometimes-troubled conversation between Thomism and theology contribute to both the shifting present and the uncertain future?

From his early and extraordinary synthesis, *Distinguish to Unite or the Degrees of Knowledge* (4th ed., 1959) to his final and controversial publication *Untrammelled Approaches* (1973), Jacques Maritain proved to be a philosopher engaged with theology as well as a close friend of both philosophers and theologians. He would not shrink from the questions that challenge us, and he would address them in the company of friends.

We invite proposals on topics in philosophical theology and the epistemology of religion, as well as in philosophical and theological anthropology and ethics. We welcome proposals on such figures as Nicholas Berdyaev, Martin Buber, Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, Étienne Gilson, Charles Journet, Louis Massignon, and Emmanuel Mounier. We also encourage proposals on Eastern philosophies and religions.

As always, we look forward to proposals that further the understanding of the work of St. Thomas Aquinas, of Jacques and Raïssa Maritain, and of other thinkers, writers, and artists who help to clarify our chiaroscuro times.

Proposals, of no more than 500 words, should be sent to Dr. James M. Jacobs at jjacobs@nds.edu. **Submissions are due December 15, 2018. There is a \$250 prize AND guaranteed publication for the best graduate student paper;** this paper is to be submitted by January 15, 2019. For more information, visit <https://maritainassociation.com/>

Conference Information

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Hotel Information

Homewood Suites by Hilton Allentown Bethlehem Center Valley

3350 Center Valley Parkway, Center Valley, Pennsylvania, 18034

610-351-6400

Conference Rate: \$129/night if reserved under “DeSales Conference” by March 5th, 2019. Includes Full Breakfast

Airport Travel Information

The closest airport to DeSales is Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE).

The Hotel and DeSales are 20 minutes from the airport by car or cab.

**** Important ****

The entire conference will be held at DeSales University. Though the hotel is only a 5 minute drive from the University, only limited transportation to and from the University will be available. (There is no hotel shuttle.)

We highly recommend a car rental, a carpool, or Uber.

Conference Registration

You may now register at maritainassociation.com!

Conference Registration + Saturday Banquet = \$140

Graduate Student Registration = \$50

Registration includes Thursday evening hors d'oeuvres, buffet-style lunches and beverages/snacks on Friday and Saturday. Friday evening will be open for participants to visit a restaurant within walking distance of the hotel for dinner. The Saturday evening banquet includes a cocktail hour, dinner and desert, and a full bar during dinner.