

## CALL FOR PAPERS

THE AMERICAN MARITAIN ASSOCIATION: 43rd ANNUAL MEETING  
THURSDAY— SATURDAY, MARCH 5—7, 2020, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Hosted by Franciscan University and Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius

### § WHOSE THOMISM? WHICH TRADITION? §

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)

In 2020 we mark the 90th anniversary of *Religion and Culture*, the first volume of the series *Questions Disputées*, edited by Jacques Maritain and Charles Journet. A year earlier, in *The Angelic Doctor*, Maritain issued a call to mobilize the *philosophia perennis*, noting that doing so “is not an easy matter, for the solution to all the new problems...is not to be found ready-made in St. Thomas...a new and original effort is required.” Thomism, he added, “is of its very nature a progressive and assimilative philosophy.”

Alasdair MacIntyre counsels Thomists to appreciate that they are engaged in a tradition-constituted practice of inquiry. Doing so raises a series of questions. Have Thomists understood the links between the intellectual habits of the philosopher and current forms of education? Does an emphasis on tradition-constituted inquiry lead to relativism? Can one tradition establish rational superiority over its rivals? Still other questions are more pointed. What are we to make of the rival traditions within Thomism? Are the divisions between Existential Thomists and Transcendental Thomists justifiable? What of the claim that River Forest and Laval Thomists are the true defenders of natural philosophy? Whither analytic Thomism? These questions pose serious challenges. Can we rise above past divisions and build on diverse insights? How can we collaborate in our search for the truth? Surely we do well to remember the motto of Leo XIII: *Vetera novis augere et perficere*.

Plenary speakers include Matthew Levering (Mundelein), Christopher Lutz (St. Meinrad), and Steven Baldner (St. Francis Xavier University). Heather Erb (Lock Haven University) will lead a plenary session on the relation between St. Thomas and the Great Books. The interchange between the friends of Thomas and of the Great Books can help us to examine the purposes and methods of education and the Common Doctor’s role in our intellectual and affective lives.

Please send proposals of up to 500 words that explore the above and related questions to Dr. James M. Jacobs at [jjacobs@nds.edu](mailto:jjacobs@nds.edu) by December 15, 2019. There is a \$250 prize *and* guaranteed publication for the best graduate student paper; this paper is to be submitted by January 13, 2020. For more information, visit <https://maritainassociation.com/>

The conference registration fee is \$100.00 (\$50.00 for students). Membership in the American Maritain Association is \$75.00 (\$35.00 for students). We encourage online payment by February 24, 2020. Registration at the conference will be \$125.00 (\$60.00 for students).