

The Jacques Maritain Center
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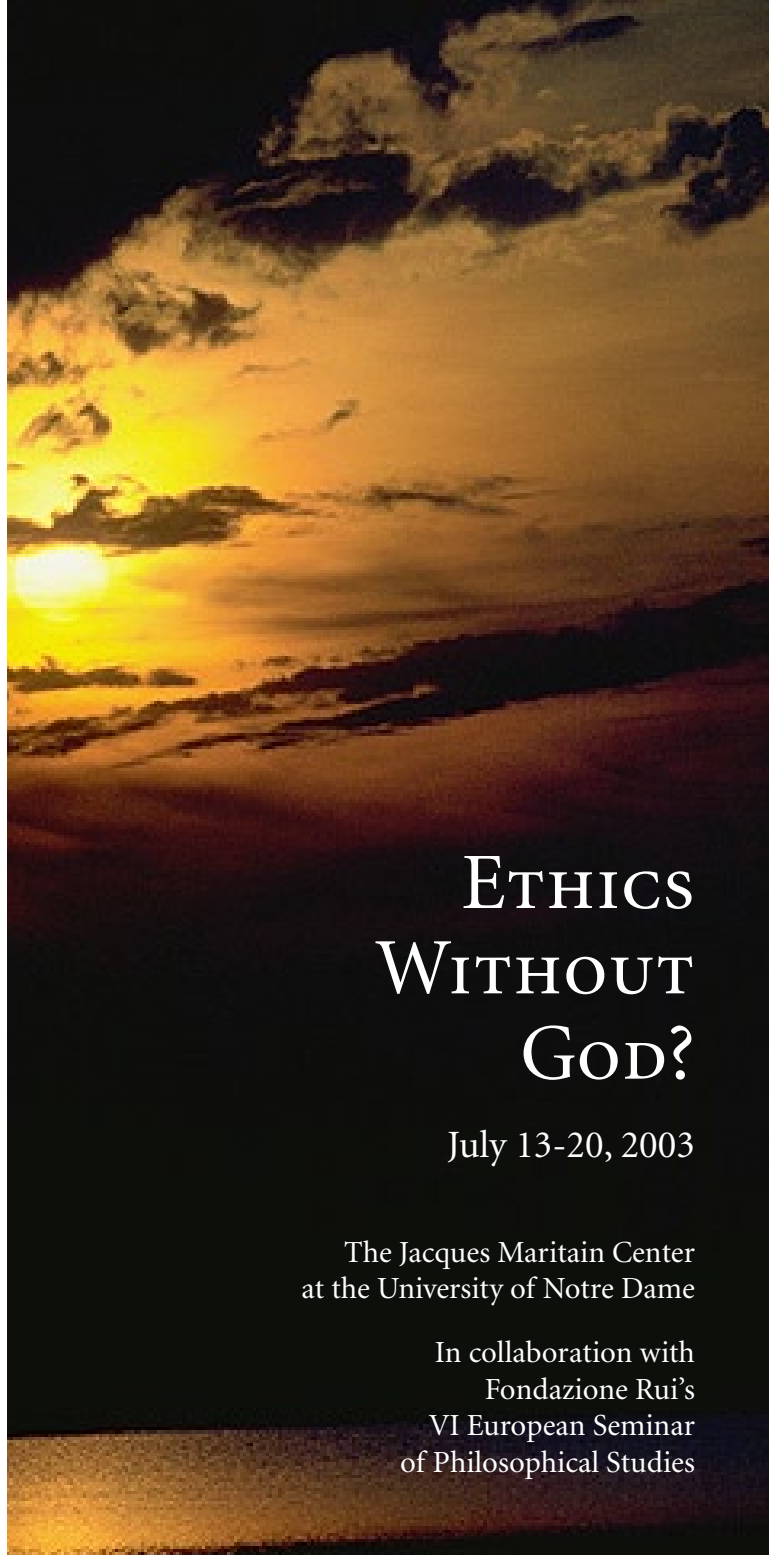
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ETHICS WITHOUT GOD?

July 13-20, 2003

The Jacques Maritain Center
at the University of Notre Dame

In collaboration with
Fondazione Rui's
VI European Seminar
of Philosophical Studies



*Grant me, O merciful God,
that I might ardently love,
prudently ponder,
rightly acknowledge,
and perfectly fulfill
all that is pleasing to you,
for the praise and glory of your name.*

—SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

The development of modern philosophy and human-rights politics were closely connected to the famous hypothesis *etiamsi daremus non esse Deum*—ethics, it was claimed, was grounded on nature and did not need God to be valid. Not long after, nature was strongly challenged too; and skepticism, nihilism, and the will to power joined, in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the strongest movements of practical and theoretical atheism ever seen in human history. This has not produced much good fruit. Today scholars look more and more for new solutions in the past. They have initiated a slow but wise rereading of pre-modern traditions, which confronts two main challenges: namely, to recover the concept of nature, on the one hand, and to examine whether God has any real role to play in moral philosophy, on the other.

Participants to this conference have been asked to address primarily, but not exclusively, the second challenge. The inspiration of the conference is Thomistic and philosophical. This leads to dialogue with other traditions as well as with other branches of human knowledge. The invited speakers include not only prominent philosophers but also theologians and political scientists; and not all of them are, strictly speaking, Thomists. At the same time, several speakers are leading natural law theorists, and so the conference will be of special interest to scholars and students of natural law and related areas.

■ General Information

Abstracts of the papers and more detailed information will be available on The Jacques Maritain Center website.

Attendance of the lectures is free. Law students and graduate students in Philosophy, Theology, and Political Science are especially welcome to participate. Please, contact the Maritain Center for help in finding cheap accommodation during the days of the conference. Except for the speakers, a \$10 registration will be necessary to receive the detailed material of the conference (with copies of the papers) and a certificate of attendance.

The Banquet will cost \$25 and will take place at The Morris Inn on the Notre Dame campus. Dinner is free for the speakers. Both participants and speakers, to assure themselves a place at the dinner, should contact the Maritain Center before July 1, 2003.

Conference Coordinator:

Fulvio Di Blasi
fdiblas@nd.edu

The Jacques Maritain Center

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■ Daily Schedule

(unless otherwise indicated in the detailed schedule)

8:45 am Breakfast
10:00–11:20 am Lecture
12:00 noon Lunch
1:30 pm Lecture
2:50 pm Coffee Break
3:20 pm Quodlibet
4:10–5:00 pm Quodlibet

In addition to the ordinary liturgical schedule on campus, a special Holy Mass will be available every day at 8:15 am for the participants.

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2003

- Evening **Arrival of Participants**
- 7:30 pm **Welcome and Keynote Address:**
Ralph McNerny
*Director of the Jacques Maritain Center,
Notre Dame*

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2003

- Morning Session
Chair: Jeffrey Langan
University of Notre Dame, IN
- 10:00 am **Lecture: Hierarchy and Direction for Choice**
Daniel McNerny, *Liberty Fund, Inc.*

- Afternoon Session
Chair: Marie I. George
St. John's University, NY
- 1:30 pm **Lecture: The Divine in Aquinas's
Commentary on the Ethics:
Can We Be Good without God?**
Christopher Kaczor
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles
- 3:20 pm **Quodlibet: The End of Human Life:
in Aquinas' Sententia libri Ethicorum**
Antonio Donato, *St. Hugh's, Oxford*
- 4:10 pm **Quodlibet: "Lire les mystiques sans Dieu":
Interpersonal Communication,
Mystical Language, and God in the Late
Roland Barthes**
Marco Maggi, *Università Cattolica
del Sacro Cuore, Milano*

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2003

- Morning Session.
Chair: Laura Garcia
Boston College, MA
- 10:00 am **Lecture: Without God: Resentment and
Utopia in Mainstream Fiction**
Paolo Braga, *Università Cattolica del
Sacro Cuore, Milano*

- Afternoon Session
Chair: Alfred J. Freddoso
University of Notre Dame, IN
- 1:30 pm **Lecture: Aristotle vs. the Neo-Darwinians
on Human Nature and the Foundations
of Ethics**
Marie I. George, *St. John's University, NY*
- 3:20 pm **Quodlibet: How God Enters the Ethics that
Didn't Allow for Him: Starting from Kant**
Luciano Sesta, *Università degli Studi
di Palermo*
- 4:10 pm **Quodlibet: The Role of God in the Ethical
Thought of Thomas Aquinas**
Giacomo Samek Lodovici, *Università
Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2003

- Morning Session.
Chair: Anthony J. Lisska
Denison University, Ohio
- 10:00 am **Lecture: God and Natural Law**
Steven Long, *University of St. Paul, MI*
- Afternoon Session
Chair: Ralph McNerny
Jacques Maritain Center, Director
- 1:30 pm **Book Presentation: Real Ethics:
Rethinking the Foundation of Morality**
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002
John M. Rist
- Speakers:**
Michael Dauphinais, *Ave Maria College, MI*
Barry David, *Franciscan University of
Steubenville, OH*
Armando Fumagalli, *Università Cattolica del
Sacro Cuore, Milano*
Daniel McNerny, *Liberty Fund, Inc.*
- 3:10 pm **Break**
- 3:30 pm **Reply by John M. Rist**
*Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Classics
at the University of Toronto*
- 4:10 pm **Free Discussion**

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2003

- Morning Session.
Chair: Matthew Levering
Ave Maria College, MI
- 10:00 pm **Lecture: Knowledge of the Good as
Participation in God's Love**
Fulvio Di Blasi, *Jacques Maritain Center,
Notre Dame*
- Afternoon Session
Chair: Ralph McNerny
Jacques Maritain Center, Director
- 1:30 pm **Book Presentation: The First Grace:
Rediscovering the Natural Law in a
Post-Christian World**
Wilmington, DE: ISI Books, 2003
Russell Hittinger
- Speakers:**
Robert A. Gahl, *Pontificia Università della
Santa Croce, Roma*
Joshua Hochschild, *Wheaton College, IL*
Matthew Levering, *Ave Maria College, MI*
Steven Long, *University of St. Paul, MI*
Michael Zuckert, *University of Notre Dame, IN*
- 3:10 pm **Break**
- 3:30 pm **Reply by Russell Hittinger**
*Chairman of the Department of Philosophy
and Religion at the University of Tulsa*
- 4:10 pm **Free Discussion**
- 6:45 pm **Banquet**

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2003

- Morning Session
Chair: John M. Rist
Emeritus, University of Toronto, Canada
- 10:00 pm **Lecture: Who Made the Law? God,
Ethics, and the Law of Nature**
Robert A. Gahl, *Pontificia Università della
Santa Croce, Roma*

- Afternoon Session
Chair: Michael Zuckert
University of Notre Dame, IN
- 1:30 pm **Lecture: The God of Contemporary
Political Philosophy**
Jeffrey Langan, University of Notre Dame, IN
- 3:20 pm **Quodlibet: Reassessing the Role of
Religious Belief in Democratic
Deliberation: Shifting the Spotlight from
Belief Content to Moral Disposition**
David Thunder, *University of Notre Dame, IN*

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2003

- Morning Session
Chair: Kevin McDonnell
Saint Mary's College, IN
- 10:00 pm **Lecture: Is Ethical Naturalism
Possible in Thomas Aquinas?**
Anthony J. Lisska, *Denison University, Ohio*
- 11:20 pm **Coffee Break**
- 11:40 pm **Lecture: Ethics with One Wing**
Laura Garcia, *Boston College, MA*
- 1:00 pm **Lunch**
- Afternoon Session
Chair: Fulvio Di Blasi
Jacques Maritain Center, Notre Dame
- 3:00 pm **Lecture: Can an Aristotelian be a
Friend of God?**
Kevin Flannery, *Pontificia Università
Gregoriana, Roma*

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2003

- 8:00 am **Holy Mass**
- 8:45 pm **Breakfast**
- 10:00 pm **Departure**