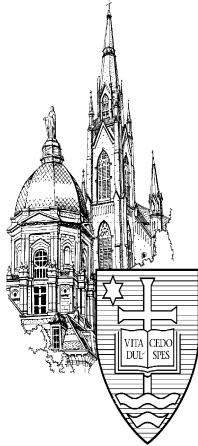


CALL FOR PAPERS

NOTRE DAME CENTER FOR ETHICS & CULTURE

9th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE



The Family: Searching for Fairest Love

November 6-8, 2008

In choosing to focus our 9th annual fall flagship conference on the family, we are mindful of the fundamental role played by the family in civil society, in the political order, and in the life of the Church. We found inspiration for the conference title in Pope John Paul II's 1994 *Letter to Families*, in which he stated that "only the truth will prepare you for a love which can be called 'fairest love.' The contemporary family, like families in every age, is searching for fairest love." Pope Benedict, too, has made the family a central theme of his pontificate. As recently as his message on the World Day of Peace on January 1, 2008, the Holy Father said that "The natural family, as an intimate communion of life and love, based on marriage between a man and a woman, constitutes "the primary place of 'humanization' for the person and society," and a "cradle of life and love." Thus, it is fitting and timely for a reflective and scholarly exploration of the family.

It is widely accepted that the modern family is suffering a multi-dimensional crisis – economic, legal, political, demographic, biological, structural, cultural, and metaphysical. It is no accident that dystopian literature and film in late modernity paints a bleak picture of the family, from the Oscar-winning *American Beauty* to P.D. James' *Children of Men*. Even films such as *Juno* indicate an awareness of the devastations of the sexual revolution and its aftermath. It is, therefore, fitting and timely to gather together scholars to examine the family, its origins, its status in society and under civil law, to discuss the challenges the family faces in the modern world and to offer hope for the future of the family. Our aim, as always, is to bring together a large number of

respected scholars representing all the main academic fields, from Catholic, Christian, and secular institutions, to engage in a spirited discussion of the state of the family from the perspectives of philosophy, theology and religious studies, law, history, the social sciences, literature and the arts, as well as other fields of intellectual inquiry and endeavor.

We welcome the submission of abstracts drawing on a wide range of moral and religious perspectives and academic specialties. Special consideration will be given to submissions of ideas for panel discussions that would bring together several people to discuss a focused theme. Possible issues to be explored are:

- the role of the family in the life of the Church;
- the sexual revolution and its aftermath;
- the demographic crisis in Europe;
- feminism;
- sexual morality;
- gender relations;
- reproductive technologies;
- civil partnership and cohabitation;
- education of children;
- the elderly;
- the effect of pornography on the family;
- immigration and the family;
- the role of the family in the development of society;
- and community life and urban development.

During this conference, we intend to celebrate in a special way the anniversaries of two important papal documents. During 2008, Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter, *Mulieris Dignitatem*, will enjoy its 20th anniversary, and Pope Paul VI's encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, will celebrate its 40th anniversary. A conference devoted to the family is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the importance of these two documents, and paper proposals on these topics are especially welcomed.

Distinguished speakers invited to the conference include:

- Msgr. Charles Brown
- Helen Alvaré
- Janet E. Smith
- Leon & Amy Kass
- Gilbert Meilaender
- Robert Coles
- Stanley Hauerwas
- Philip Bess
- James McKenna

One-page abstracts for individual papers should include name, affiliation, address, and e-mail address (if available). Session presentations will be limited to twenty minutes for individuals, one hour for panels.

Deadline for submissions is **Friday, August 1, 2008**. Notification of acceptance will be mailed by **Friday, August 29, 2008**. One-page abstracts, along with your full contact information, should be emailed to ndethics@nd.edu or mailed to:

Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture
9th Annual Fall Conference – The Family
1047 Flanner Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Up-to-date conference information can be found on our web site:
<http://ethicscenter.nd.edu>