

***The Care of the Soul:
Re-Thinking Virtue in the Contemporary World***

**9th Annual Summer Seminar
July 5 - July 11, 2019**

*All sessions will take place in Pugliese Auditorium, located on the ground floor of Cosmas & Damian, unless otherwise indicated.

Friday July 5: Arrival Day

2:00-5:30pm Check-In

Location: Louis and Elizabeth Dorm

6:00-9:00pm Opening Dinner

Location: Lower Atrium, J.C. Williams Center

*Dinner served at 7:15pm in the Gallery

Sat July 6: Virtue in the Tradition

7:30am-8:30am Breakfast

Location: Antonian Hall

8:40-9:50am Beginning with Socrates

No one before Socrates spoke of the moral life as “caring for one’s soul.” The idea that the life of justice makes the soul sound and healthy while injustice corrupts and defiles was new in Western thought. Socrates is then the father of moral philosophy in the west. Virtue is not posterity nor fame nor possessions but an interior thing of soundness and right order.

Panelists: Josef Seifert and John F. Crosby (chair)

10:00am Mass

Location: Christ the King Chapel

11:10-12:25pm A Look at the Virtue Tradition

We will discuss how the Catholic, classical tradition understands virtue, why it is important to discuss virtue in our times, how virtue is related to human flourishing, and which character traits are virtues, emphasizing prudence, religion, and magnanimity.

Panelists: Mark Spencer (chair), Alex Plato, Susan Waldstein

12:30-1:30pm Lunch

Location: Antonian Hall

2:30-3:45pm The Virtues of the Saints

Is holiness a virtue? Are the saints moral exemplars or do they transcend the realm of morals? Dietrich von Hildebrand speaks about the “new creation” of the baptized Christian. Are Christian virtues reducible to the natural virtues or are they something distinct?

Panelists: Michael Healy, Christopher T. Haley (chair), Josef Seifert

4:00-4:50pm Small Group

Red: Pugliese Auditorium

Green: 1st Floor Lobby

Yellow: 3rd Floor Lobby

Blue: CODA 300

6:00-7:00pm Dinner

Location: Antonian Hall

Sun July 7: What Hildebrand and Personalism add to the Tradition

8:00am-9:00am Breakfast

Location: Antonian Hall

10:00am Sunday Mass

Location: Christ the King Chapel

12:00-1:00pm Lunch

Location: Antonian Hall

2:00-3:15pm Self and Other

Certain problems arise when virtues are understood as being only for one's own happiness or only for that of others. Seeking a more balanced view of virtue, we will discuss the answers provided by Hildebrand's philosophy of *subjectivity* and *transcendence*.

Panelists: John F. Crosby, Mark Spencer (chair)

3:30-4:45pm Further Personalist Contributions to the Tradition on Virtue

Personalists retrieve virtue in a (post-)modern context and thereby uniquely contribute to the virtue tradition. They work from a tradition centered on the human will, freedom, and love, and build on the non-Aristotelian insights, for example, of Augustine, Anselm, and Scotus.

Panelists: Josef Seifert, John Henry Crosby, Alex Plato (chair)

6:00-7:00pm Dinner

Location: Antonian Hall

8:00-10:00pm Evening on the Piazza

Location: Piazza dei Santi

Mon July 8: Virtue Today – Part I

7:30am-8:45am Breakfast

Location: Antonian Hall

9:00-10:15am Authenticity – Part 1

The contemporary period is marked by a keen interest in personal authenticity, in senses both positive and negative. This extended-panel will involve a wide-ranging discussion of the nature, need, and import of personal authenticity with a focus on its intimate relation to moral virtue.

Panelists: John F. Crosby, James Harold, Mark Spencer, Robert McNamara (chair)

10:30-11:45am Authenticity – Part II

Panelists: Robert McNamara, John Henry Crosby, Daniel Schreck, Mark Spencer (chair)

12:05pm Mass

Location: Christ the King Chapel

12:15-1:30pm Lunch

Location: Antonian Hall

Note: Lunch is only **served** until 1:15pm.

2:30-3:45pm Virtue and Gender

In what interrelation do gender and virtue stand? Is gender of significance in the development of virtue? And does virtue bear significance to the living-out of one's gender? If so, are certain virtues particularly related, or even proper, to one or other of the genders?

Panelists: Elizabeth C. Shaw, Mark Spencer, Robert McNamara (chair)

4:00-4:50pm Small Group

Red: Pugliese Auditorium

Green: 1st Floor Lobby

Yellow: 3rd Floor Lobby

Blue: CODA 300

6:00-7:00pm Dinner

Location: Antonian Hall

8:00-10:00pm Great Moral Exemplars

Location: Gentile Gallery

Tues July 9: Virtue Today – Part II

7:30am-8:45am Breakfast

Location: Antonian Hall

9:00-10:15am Is Hope Still Possible Today?

This panel explores hope and despair. Topics we will consider include the definition of hope, Josef Pieper and hope, Gabriel Marcel and hope, hope and subjectivity, hope as a virtue, the nature of despair and responding to deep despair.

Panelists: Michael Healy, Derek Jeffreys (chair), Josef Seifert

10:40-11:30am Small Group

Red: Pugliese Auditorium

Green: 1st Floor Lobby

Yellow: 3rd Floor Lobby

Blue: CODA 300

12:05pm Mass

Location: Christ the King Chapel

12:15-1:30pm Lunch

Location: Antonian Hall

Note: Lunch is only **served** until 1:15pm.

2:00-3:15pm Virtue and the Social Fabric

Communities play a role in both fostering and eroding virtue. What type of political economy, with its view of the common good, fosters the intertwined virtues of independence and dependence? How do we strike a balance between individualism and collectivism?

Panelists: Anne Snyder, Elizabeth C. Shaw, Patrick Hough, Catherine Beigel (chair)

3:30-4:45pm Panel Discussion (issues selected by faculty and submitted by participants)

6:00-7:00pm Dinner

Location: Antonian Hall

Wed July 10: Education and the Virtues

Cosponsored by Thales Academy

7:30am-8:45am Breakfast

Location: Antonian Hall

9:00-10:20am Intellectual Virtues Vices in the Information Age

The distinction between information and wisdom has never been more pronounced than it is today. What advantages and what perils do new technologies and means of communication pose to the pursuit of virtue? How does personalism offer a distinct approach to ethical knowledge in the new information landscape?

Panelists: John F. Crosby, Christopher T. Haley (chair), Mark Spencer, Alex Plato
Thales Academy faculty respondents: Alex Loizos & Brooke Frisch

10:35-11:55am Education that Lasts

Too often contemporary education appears to leave no perceptible and lasting impact on the moral development of its pupils. This need not be the case given the substantial resources the personalist tradition has towards meeting contemporary educational challenges in a decidedly personalistic manner.

Panelists: John Henry Crosby (chair), Timothy Hall, Michael Healy, Robert McNamara.
Thales Academy faculty respondents: Alex Loizos & Wanda Evans

12:05pm Mass

Location: Christ the King Chapel

12:15-1:30pm Lunch

Location: Antonian Hall

Note: Lunch is only **served** until 1:15pm.

2:00-3:20pm Disagreement without Demonization

Barbarians club one another; civilized people converse. But what makes us civilized and not barbaric? Owing to our partial and limited grasp of the truth, we often hold views that are in tension with one another. Is that tension resolvable?

Panelists: John Henry Crosby, Elizabeth C. Shaw (chair), Patrick Hough
Thales Academy faculty respondents: Wanda Evans & Molly Robidoux

5:30-6:30pm Interview with classical school founder, Bob Luddy, on his vision for Thales Academy

Location: Gallery, J.C. Williams Center

6:30pm Reception & Closing Dinner

Drinks and hors d'oeuvres served in Lower Atrium, J.C. Williams Center.

*Dinner served at 7:30pm in the Gallery

Thur July 11: Departure Day

Checkout of dorm by 10:00am

7:30am-8:45am Breakfast

Location: Antonian Hall