

Plan of the Conference
March 18 – Monday / Aula II

- 14:00 **Opening**
- 14:15-15:45 Conforming to Right Reason through Christ
Joseph Hudson, O.S.B.
- 14:45-15:15 The terms הַנֶּחַד and הַשִּׁדְקָה in Gen 38,12-26, Deut 23,18-19, Hos4,12-14:
The historical and literary analysis and the theological interpretation
Anastasiia Oriekhova
- 15:15-15.45 The *Ius Gentium Dei* - Towards Contextualizing Some Current Crises
in Ecclesiology and Law
Eamon Clark
- 15:45-16:00 **Break**
- 16:00-16:30 The Mechanics of Christian Confidence: Assurance of Salvation in
John Calvin and St. Thomas Aquinas
Rev. John Wilson
- 16:30-17:00 Moral Consequences of a Subconscious Image of God
Rev. Richard Sofatzis
- 17:00 **Closing** – Followed by refreshments in Sala Colonne



(1)

Joseph Hudson, O.S.B.

S.T.D. student / 1st year / Section: fundamental and dogmatic theology

Title: Conforming to Right Reason through Christ

Abstract. This paper delves into the profound connection between the Christian principle of conformation to Christ and ancient philosophical ideals of living in accordance with reason or law. It explores how Christ, as the divine Logos and embodiment of God's will, serves as the ultimate guide for human action, aligning with the highest form of divine reason and wisdom. Investigating the role of Christ and the Holy Spirit in shaping the intellect and moral virtues, the study seeks to understand how this alignment influences ethical living and spiritual practice, contributing to the discourse on moral and virtuous living within the Christian tradition.

BIO. Fr Joseph Hudson is an American Benedictine priest. He holds Bachelor of Arts from Thomas Aquinas College and a Masters in Philosophy from the Catholic University of America. During his time at CUA he was also the Managing Editor of the Review of Metaphysics. He completed a license in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas, Rome in 2019. After returning home for a few years to teach sacramental theology he has returned to the Angelicum to pursue a doctorate in Sacred Theology.

(2)

Anastasiia Oriekhova

S.T.L. student / 1st year / Section: ecumenical theology

**Title: The terms הַנְּהוּ and הַשְּׂדֵקָה in Gen 38,12-26, Deut 23,18-19, Hos 4,12-14
The historical and literary analysis and the theological interpretation**

Abstract. In the text of Gen 38 the biblical author uses two ancient Hebrew terms הַנְּהוּ and הַשְּׂדֵקָה to describe Tamar. Until the 1970s these words were translated as "prostitute" and the Tamar's story like the other two passages were considered as the examples of sacred prostitution existing in the Ancient Near East. However, due to a change in the view of this phenomenon, the problem of the simultaneous use of two terms in Tamar's story arises. The interdisciplinary approach involving the results of philological research of selected texts of the Ancient Near East and archaeological research of recent decades allows us to explain the simultaneous use of the terms.

BIO. Believer of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Philosopher (Southern Federal University, Russia, 2011), teacher of theology (St. Tikhon`s Orthodox University, Russia, 2016), master of theology (Higher Institute of Religious Sciences "St. Thomas Aquinas Angelicum" in Kyiv, 2020), graduate of the International Program in Jewish Studies (2023), teacher of the biblical Aramaic and ancient Hebrew languages of the Certificate Program "From word to Word" of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU, Lviv, Ukraine), student of the Licentiate in Biblical Theology of UCU.

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Eamon Clark

S.T.D. student / 4th year / Section: moral theology

Title: The Ius Gentium Dei - Towards Contextualizing Some Current Crises in Ecclesiology and Law

Abstract. This paper is an exploration of the space in between Divine positive law and ecclesiastical law. In nature, the ius gentium is between natural law and civil law - is there an analogate in the order of grace? This could help to situate properly (without necessarily solving) several major contemporary ecclesiological and juridical controversies, including topics like episcopal deposition, rights over liturgical customs, papal succession, and lay governance.

BIO. An American doctoral student in moral theology. His doctoral research regards the Catholic origins of the phrase "social justice," while other research interests include special topics in marriage ethics and fundamental moral theology.

(4)

Rev. John Wilson

S.T.D. student / 1st year / Section: Thomistic

Title: The Mechanics of Christian Confidence: Assurance of Salvation in John Calvin and St. Thomas Aquinas

Abstract. This paper surveys the reception of John Calvin's thought on the assurance of salvation in the later Calvinist tradition. Calvin held that certain knowledge of one's own salvation is intrinsic to the very act of faith, but the subjective and pastoral difficulty that arises from that position — how can one truly be assured, if many who seem equally assured later fall away? — elicited competing explanations, none of which fully succeed. A compelling alternative is found in the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas. Aquinas is attentive, like Calvin, to the importance of joyful confidence in God's saving mercy. Unlike Calvin, he roots that confidence not in the bare act of faith, but in the virtue of hope and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which accompany faith in the reception of saving grace. Calvin's difficulty, therefore, brings fresh perspective to this aspect of Aquinas' teaching.

BIO. A priest of the Archdiocese of New York and an S.T.D. student at the Angelicum. He was ordained in 2016 and received an S.T.L. in Thomistic Studies from the Angelicum in 2017. His current research focuses on the virtue of faith.

Rev. Richard Sofatzis

S.T.L. student / 2nd year / Section: Moral Theology

Title: Moral Consequences of a Subconscious Image of God

Abstract. This paper argues that a person's subconscious image of God, formed through key familial relations in childhood, intimately affects their ability to live a life in Christ. To show this, first, the psychological basis for a subconscious image of God is established, drawing on the works of two psychoanalysts, Sigmund Freud and Ana-Maria Rizzuto. The latter marks a shift in the psychoanalytic literature towards a formal exploration of the psychological basis for belief in God without negating His existence. Then, drawing on the wider scholarship, important moral implications will be elaborated: whether one believes in God; one's understanding of freedom, law and virtue; and impediments to loving God and neighbour as oneself. The paper concludes with a pastoral indication of how a moral theologian can better assist the Christian faithful to live out their calling to life in Christ.

BIO. A priest of the Archdiocese of Sydney. He completed a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of New South Wales, Australia, and worked in the field for three years before pursuing the priesthood. Fr. Sofatzis completed the S.T.B. at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross and is now in his second year of an S.T.L. specialising in Moral Theology at the Angelicum.