**CALL FOR PAPERS**

THE 47th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MARITAIN ASSOCIATION

Thursday, April 11 to Saturday, April 13, 2024

Hosted by the St. Bernard’s School of Theology, Rochester, NY

**§ Maritain on Democracy: Promise and Peril;**

**and, Commemorating the 750th Anniversary of St. Bonaventure and St. Thomas Aquinas §**

Program Committee: James M. Jacobs (President), James M. Murdoch (Vice-President and Program Chair), Matthew Minerd (Secretary and Web Editor), Francisco Plaza (Treasurer), Travis Dumsday (General Editor)

Jacques Maritain once observed that “the tragedy of modern democracies is that they have not yet succeeded in realizing democracy.” He understood that because democracy “has arisen in human history as a temporal manifestation of the inspiration of the Gospel,” it is the best political vehicle for realizing the common good of persons. Nevertheless, he also knew that in many of its historical manifestations, a “delusive” and “anarchic” democracy acts instead as the greatest impediment to the common good.

The gulf separating the ideal of democracy from its concrete practice in the contemporary world continues to be a problem inviting philosophical reflection. We invite papers considering Maritain’s analysis of democracy (including, too, the work of his students, such as Yves Simon and Mortimer Adler) in both its promise for advancing the human person, and its peril in inculcating a materialistic relativism. We also welcome papers approaching these problems from any philosophical perspective that complements and enriches our understanding of the issues.

We also invite papers on a **secondary theme**. This conference coincides with the 750th anniversary of the deaths of St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Bonaventure in 1274. These “two glorious doctors…illustrious teachers…with surpassing genius,” in the words of Leo XIII’s *Aeterni Patris,* remain touchstones of the Catholic philosophical and theological tradition. Any paper considering their achievement and continued influence is welcome.

The plenary sessions will reflect the dual theme of the conference. Celebrating the work of St. Bonaventure will be **Junius Johnson** (Executive Director, Junius Johnson Academics) and **Timothy Noone** (Catholic University of America). Addressing the issue of democracy will be **David J. Walsh** (Catholic University of America) and **Russell Hittinger** (Catholic University of America, University of Tulsa, and the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology).

Please send proposals of up to 500 words to Dr. James Murdoch at [james.m.murdoch@villanova.edu](mailto:james.m.murdoch@villanova.edu) by January 1, 2024. Final presentations should be 25-30 minutes in length.

The AMA has a longstanding book series arising out of its annual conferences, with volumes published in partnership with Catholic University of America Press. All accepted submissions will later be eligible for inclusion in the resulting peer-reviewed volume. There is a $250 prize *and* a guarantee of publication for the best graduate student paper; to be considered for the graduate student prize, please submit your complete paper by January 15, 2024.

The conference registration fee is $125 ($50 for students). The optional conference banquet is an additional $60. Membership in the American Maritain Association is $75 ($35 for students). We encourage online payment by March 15, 2024. Registration after that will be $185.00 ($75.00 for students).

For more information, visit www.americanmaritainassociation.com.