Aquinas Commemoration Week

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AQUINAS COMMEMORATION WEEK – MARCH 4-9

DAYTON, Ohio, February 11, 1974 --- Scholars from across the nation will gather at the University of Dayton early in March to participate in Aquinas Commemoration Week, a cross-disciplinary view of St. Thomas Aquinas and current public issues. The program scheduled March 4-9 is in observance of the 700th anniversary of Aquinas' death.

Professor John T. Noonan, from the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California, probably best known for his books on contraception, divorce, usury and abortion, formerly a law professor at Notre Dame and Berkeley Law Schools, will be the keynote speaker.

Noonan will present a seminar, "Aquinas and Legal Philosophy" and a lecture, "The Human Element In The Natural Law of St. Thomas" to open the week's activities on Monday, March 4.

Other guest speakers for the week include Henry B. Veatch of Georgetown University, Vernon J. Bourke of St. Louis University, Ralph McInerney of Notre Dame, Rev. Benedict Ashley, O.P. of the Aquinas Institute of Theology, and Michael Strasser of Duquesne University.


Aquinas Week displays can be seen in the U.D. Library, the Marian Library and a display of medieval and contemporary technology in Kennedy Union.

Dr. Ray Herbenick, Chairman of Philosophy at U.D. and developer of the program states, "If one accepts the view that the citizenry is concerned about such issues as the energy crisis and its economic consequences, the presidential leadership crisis and its legal-political effects, the crisis of the family in such areas as womanhood, marriage, parenthood, abortion, and divorce, and others, it seems reasonable to explore them in a manner open to the dimensions of human reason and values as well as that of religious beliefs and values."

Throughout the conference students, faculty, staff and members of the local community will explore the call by environmentalists for an examination of the man-nature relationship amidst an industrial and technological society. In particular, Aquinas’ views on the natural order of things and respect for life will be examined since those views were elucidated amidst a rather advanced state of medieval science and technology. On a world-wide basis the possibility of social justice within the limits of resources and advances of technology will also be explored.

The Most Reverend Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin will celebrate a special Mass on Thursday evening at 7:30 in U.D.'s Immaculate Conception Chapel.

A brochure of the complete activities for Aquinas Commemoration Week is enclosed. Requests for additional information should be directed to UD’s Philosophy department, Dr. Ray Herbenick, Chairman, 229-2933.