

Dear Friends in Christ,

Peace.

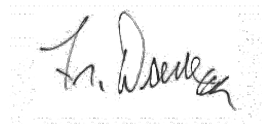
On behalf of the entire Franciscan University community, welcome to our conference on “Man and Woman in the Order of Creation.” We are grateful for your presence and your participation as we gather to consider what must surely be one of the central questions of our era. The Church herself formulates this issue in the simplest and clearest way: Why did God make us male and female—and what are the implications of that decision?

The questions at the heart of these proceedings—the nature of man and woman, their identities, and the complementarity that characterizes their relationship—is really at the epicenter of current debates concerning gender and the meaning of human sexuality. The Catholic contribution to these disputes cannot stop at pointing out the errors at work in them. We must find a way to offer the culture an alternative vision, a thoroughly robust and coherent account of man and woman, one grounded in both reason and faith. That is our purpose in this conference.

Pope St. John Paul II tells us that the complementarity that characterizes the relationship of man and woman is what gives us our mission, which, he declares, is not only to create human families—but human history itself. It is this mission that will inform our deliberations together here—as well as our hope that our contribution will find a foothold in a culture thirsting for the truth on something so fundamental to what it means to be human. I believe we will all come to see that the “genius” of woman really cannot be understood without reference to the “genius” of man.

Thank you so much for coming and for your contributions to our discussion, and—indeed—for all that you do to establish a culture of life.

God’s blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Pivonka", enclosed in a rectangular box with a decorative border.

Father Dave Pivonka, TOR ‘89  
President  
Franciscan University of Steubenville

Greetings!

As President of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC., I extend my warmest welcome to participants in this important conference on “Man and Woman in the Order of Creation.” EPPC is delighted to co-sponsor this event, pleased to have so many of our EPPC scholars presenting, and grateful to Franciscan University for undertaking this critically important conversation.

Our present cultural moment provides important context for this event, reminding us why it is vital to understand the truth about “who we are” as human beings and, more precisely, what it means to be a man or a woman, according to God’s plan.

This is a time of great confusion, both in the culture and among religious believers. Although the Dobbs decision resulted in significant pro-life protections in many states, in too many places we see the opposite: rising support for abortion on demand throughout all nine months. The rise of depression, disconnection, and anxiety in our youngest generations, particularly among young liberal women, speaks to an inner emptiness and loss of identity. The proliferation of gender ideology from kindergarten classrooms to corporate boardrooms, in language and in law, is further evidence of our cultural departure from the truth and dignity of the human person.

But there’s hope. We can, and must, build a culture rooted in the truth of the human person and deeply supportive of marriage and family. Building from the ground up means making sure we are building on the right foundation, which is what this conference on “Man and Woman” is all about. By setting forth a clear vision of the nature of man and woman and a vision for flourishing relationships in families and wider culture, and by modeling the language to communicate all this to a world hungering for a better way is exactly how to begin building a culture truly worthy of the human person.

Thank you for your presence at this conference and your thoughtful participation in these discussions. EPPC looks forward with interest and hope to the many fruits sure to follow.

Ryan T. Anderson

President, Ethics and Public Policy Center

Washington, DC

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# Man and Woman in the Order of Creation

***“The problem of the subjectivity of the person – particularly in relation to human community – imposes itself today as one of the central ideological issues that lie at the very basis of human praxis, morality, and ethics, culture, civilization, and politics.”***

—Pope St. John Paul II, *Person and Community*

Perhaps it can be said that the most hotly contested question of our era is that of the nature of man and woman, their identities, their differences, and what constitutes their distinct missions in the world. What was taken for granted for centuries is under dispute; the very existence of such categories called into question. And we watch as the culture descends into confusion. It is time to call a halt. It is time to return to the fundamental question, so clearly articulated by the Synod of Bishops in 1987: Why did God make us male and female? And what are the consequences of that decision?[1]

The aim of this conference is to mount an adequate and coherent response to those questions. And at the heart of our efforts is the conviction that the only thing that will reverse the descent so evident all around us is nothing less than a robust, scientifically, philosophically, and theologically grounded account of the nature of man and woman.

Our investigation will begin with the recognition that at the epicenter of the entire debate, the actual target of the assault, is the human person himself, that is, the person as an embodied creature, a union of body and soul, made in the image of God. We witness it daily, certainly in the larger culture, but now even in the Church herself: the encroachment of an incoherent and unprecedented ideology that seeks not only to undermine the foundational understanding of the human person that has governed Western culture for centuries, but to replace it.[2]

The design of the conference follows from these claims. We will begin by establishing the foundations of human personhood, first as a metaphysical reality and as an embodied creature. Then we will move on to an investigation of the nature of man and woman, their identities, their differences, and their distinct missions. We will end with an exploration of the concrete implications of the fact that God determined that the human person should always and only exist as a man and woman.

We hope and pray you find your participation in these proceedings fruitful. It seems clear that we need to unite our efforts in the task of recovering our culture. Perhaps this event can be one step in that direction.

[1] 1987 Synod of Bishops on the Vocation and Mission of the Laity. Also invoked by Pope St. John Paul II in his 1988 Apostolic Letter *Mulieris Dignitatem* I.

[2] Auguste Comte, the father of positivism, declared in the mid-19th century: “Nothing is destroyed until it is replaced.”

4:30-6:00 PM

**Check-in**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

6:00-7:00PM

**Welcome & Opening Address**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

Welcome Address:

Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR

Dr. Stephen Hildebrand

Dr. Deborah Savage

Mary Hasson, J.D.

Opening Address

Dr. Fran Maier, Ethics and Public Policy Center

7:00 PM

**Opening Reception**

*All are welcome to attend.*

For a more substantial meal, consider:

St. Antonian Hall

The Harp & Habit at Franciscan Square

Rubi's Pizza at Franciscan Square

Jimmy John's at Franciscan Square

7:30-8:00 AM

**Coffee, Check-in & Welcome**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

8:00-9:30 AM

**Session I: The Human Person in the Order of Creation**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

Moderator: Dr. Alex Plato

Dr. Theresa Farnan: "Person as relation: the countercultural assertion at the heart of Christian anthropology"

Dr. John Finley: "The Human Being as Microcosm of Creation"

9:45-11:15 AM

**Session II: The Science of Man and Woman**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

Moderator: Dr. Rashad Rehman

Dr. Aaron Kheriaty (virtual): "Sex Differences: Perspectives from Biology, Medicine, & Psychiatry"

Dr. Paul Vitz (virtual): "Psychological Evidence for the Complementarity of Men and Women"

# Friday October 25

12:05-1:30 PM

## **Mass**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

Lunch Options:

St. Antonian Hall

The Harp & Habit at Franciscan Square

Rubi's Pizza at Franciscan Square

Jimmy John's at Franciscan Square

1:30-2:45 PM

## **Session III: Some Disputed Issues**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

Moderator: Dr. Deborah Savage

Dr. Derek Doroski: "Disputed Questions About Gender: The View from Science"

2:45-3:00 PM

## **Break**

3:00-4:30 PM

## **Session IV: Man and Woman and Metaphysical Realities**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

Moderator: Dr. Patrick Lee

Dr. Paul Gondreau: "Metaphysical Biology as the Ground of Binary Sexual Difference: A Thomistic Approach"

Dr. Angela Franks: "The Difference Secularization Makes"

4:30-7:00pm

## **Dinner Break**

Options:

St. Antonian Hall

The Harp & Habit at Franciscan Square

Rubi's Pizza at Franciscan Square

Jimmy John's at Franciscan Square

7:00 PM

## **Session V: Revisiting Genesis: A Conversation about Man and Woman**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

Moderator: Dr. Stephen Hildebrand

Dr. Deborah Savage

Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR

# Saturday October 25

8:00-8:30 AM

## **Coffee, Check-in & Welcome**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

**Saturday  
October 25**

8:30-10:00 AM

**Session VI: Who is Man?**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

Moderator: Prof. Zach Stueve

Dr. Timothy Fortin: "Praise of the Glory of the Father: the Meaning of Masculinity in Reason and Revelation"

Fr. Christian Raab: "Man to Man: Fraternal Relations through the Lens of Walter Ong"

10:00-10:15 AM

**Break**

10:15-11:45 AM

**Session VII: Who is Woman?**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

Moderator: Dr. Christine Jungers

Dr. Maria Fedoryka: "The Spiritual Content of Femininity"

Dr. Deborah Savage: "Redeeming Woman: the Feminine Principle in the Divine Plan"

12:00-1:30 PM

**Lunch**

Options:

St. Antonian Hall

The Harp & Habit at Franciscan Square

Rubi's Pizza at Franciscan Square

Jimmy John's at Franciscan Square

1:30-3:00 PM

**Session VIII: Man and Woman in Real Life**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

Moderator: Dr. Matthew Brueninger

Dr. Greg Bottaro: "Collaborative Complementarity: Gift and Receptivity of Genius"

Dr. Hilary Towers: "Marriage Counseling: A Front-Line View of the Impact of Anthropology on the Real Lives of Men and Women"

3:00-3:15 PM

**Break**

3:15-4:45 PM

**Final Panel: Genius and Mission**

*Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher*

Dr. Fran Maier

Noelle Mering

Dr. Mary Hasson

Dr. Greg Bottaro

# Master of Ceremonies

Mary Rice Hasson, JD  
Director, Catholic Women's Forum  
Kate O'Beirne Fellow  
Ethics and Public Policy Center  
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Noelle Mering  
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## Moderators

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## Speakers

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President, Franciscan University

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Founder, CatholicPsych Institute  
[drgreg@catholicpsych.com](mailto:drgreg@catholicpsych.com)

Hilary Towers, PhD  
Licensed Professional Counselor at  
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[htowers@revelationscounseling.org](mailto:htowers@revelationscounseling.org)



## Speaker Biographies



Dr. Deborah Savage joined the Theology faculty at Franciscan University during the 2021-22 academic year, having taught both philosophy and theology at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota for the previous thirteen years. She received her doctorate in Religious Studies from Marquette University in 2005; her degree is in both theology and philosophy. Dr. Savage is the co-founder and acting director of the Siena Symposium for Women, Family, and Culture, an interdisciplinary think tank, organized to respond to John Paul II's call for a new and explicitly Christian feminism.

Dr. Savage is a student of St. Thomas Aquinas with a particular interest in investigating his thought in light of contemporary questions. Her primary academic areas are philosophical and theological anthropology; her recent research has been focused on the development of a robust theology of the nature of man and woman, both their identities and their complementarity. A second research area is the meaning of human action, the significance of human work and of vocation, and the metaphysics of creation as a foundation for both stewardship and economics. She has a particular interest in Catholic Social Thought and the fundamental theological categories that serve as its substructure. She is a scholar of the work of Karol Wojtyla/John Paul II and has written and presented or published several papers on how his philosophical anthropology informs his body of work as Pope.

Before pursuing her doctorate, Dr. Savage worked for over twenty-five years in the business sector, holding a variety of positions primarily in manufacturing organizations. This experience and the questions that arose as a result led her to investigate the theological meaning of work as a locus of personal conversion and sanctification.

Dr. Savage is a member of the Academy of Catholic Theology, the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, and the American Catholic Philosophical Association. She served for several years as a member of the Board of Trustees at Franciscan University, resigning in 2021. She moved to Steubenville along with her husband of 32 years, Andrew Percic, and their daughter, Madeline.



Mary Rice Hasson, J.D., is the Kate O'Beirne Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C., where she co-founded and directs the Person and Identity Project, an initiative that equips parents and faith-based institutions to promote the truth about the human person and counter gender ideology. An attorney and policy expert, Mary has been a keynote speaker for the Holy See during the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, addressing education, women and work, caregiving, and gender ideology, and serves as a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. She speaks frequently at national conferences, universities, and in dioceses across the country, and has testified before the U.S. Senate, state legislatures, and the Australian parliament on parents' rights and transgender issues. The co-author of several books on education, Mary's writing has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *National Review*, *First Things*, the *National Catholic Register* and *Our Sunday Visitor*, among others. Mary is the 2024 Visiting Fellow at the Veritas Center for Ethics in Public Life at Franciscan University of Steubenville. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Notre Dame Law School, Mary is married to Seamus Hasson. They are parents of seven grown children and grandparents of six.



Francis X. Maier is a senior fellow in Catholic Studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. His work focuses on the intersection of Christian faith, culture, and public life, with special attention to lay formation and action.

Mr. Maier served as senior adviser and special assistant to Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., for 23 years in Denver and Philadelphia. He previously served as editor in chief of the *National Catholic Register* newsweekly for 15 years, and earlier as a story analyst and screenwriter based in Los Angeles. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and New York University's School of the Arts, he is a former fellow of the American Film Institute's Conservatory for Advanced Film Studies. He is a cofounding board member of the University of Pennsylvania's Collegium Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture, a board member of the Napa Institute and the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), and a consulting editor with *First Things* magazine.

His bylined work has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *First Things*, *National Review*, *The American Spectator*, *This World*, *The Catholic Thing*, *Commonweal*, *America*, *Crisis*, *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *France Catholique*, and other national and foreign outlets. His book *True Confessions: Voices of Faith from a Life in the Church* (Ignatius) was published in February 2024.



Theresa Farnan, Ph.D., is a fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center focusing on the challenges of gender ideology as part of EPPC's *Person and Identity Project*. She is the co-author of two books, *Get Out Now: Why You Should Pull Your Child from Public School Before It's Too Late* and *Where Did I Come From? Where Am I Going? How Do I Get There?* She has taught at St. Paul Seminary in Pittsburgh, Franciscan University of Steubenville, and Mount St. Mary's Seminary and has worked with the diaconate formation program for the Dioceses of Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. She served as a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth and is a member of the Catholic Women's Forum Advisory Council. She serves on the Ethics and Public Policy Committee of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability. She has lectured widely on the gender ideology, Catholic education, theology of the body, the personalism of Pope John Paul II, the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas, and the vocation and dignity of women. She hosted "St. Thomas Aquinas in Today's World" on the *Eternal Word Television Network* (EWTN). She received her master's degree and her doctorate in Medieval Studies from the University of Notre Dame. She and her husband, Michael, have ten children.



Dr. John Finley is a tutor (tenured professor) at Thomas Aquinas College. He received his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Dallas. Dr. Finley has served as Academic Director of the Valor Institute, and as Professor of Philosophy at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. He is a member of the Aquinas Institute of Blackfriars Hall at the University of Oxford. Dr. Finley has lectured widely and authored scholarly publications on philosophical anthropology, metaphysics, gender and sexuality, phenomenology, Edith Stein, and Thomas Aquinas. In 2017 he was awarded a grant from the John Templeton Foundation to pursue collaborative research on human sexuality from the standpoints of science, medicine, philosophy, and theology. Most recently, Dr. Finley is editor and co-author of *Sexual Identity: The Harmony of Philosophy, Science, and Revelation* (Emmaus Road, 2022). John and his wife Hilary live in Ventura, CA with their three children.



Aaron Kheriaty, MD, is a physician specializing in psychiatry and author of three books, including most recently, *The New Abnormal: The Rise of the Biomedical Security State*. He is a Fellow & Director of the Program in Bioethics and American Democracy at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. For many years he was Professor of Psychiatry at UCI School of Medicine and Director of the Medical Ethics Program at UCI Health, where he chaired the ethics committee. Dr. Kheriaty has published articles in the *Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *The Federalist*, *Compact*, *Tablet*, and *First Things*. On matters of public policy and healthcare he has testified at the California Senate and the United States Senate. Dr. Kheriaty is a plaintiff in the landmark free speech case *Missouri v. Biden*, which is currently before the U.S. Supreme Court. For his work challenging government censorship, the journalist Matt Taibbi has called him “the most ambitious theorist of the censorship-industrial age.”



Paul C. Vitz is Professor of Psychology Emeritus at New York University and recently Senior Scholar Emeritus at Divine Mercy University. His work has focused on integrating Christian theology, especially Catholic anthropology, with psychology. His present interest includes the psychological importance of fathers and the complementarity of men and women. Dr. Vitz’s books include: *Psychology as Religion: The Cult of Self-Worship 2nd ed.*; *Sigmund Freud’s Christian Unconscious*; *Faith of the Fatherless: The Psychology of Atheism 2nd ed.*; and *The Self: Beyond the Post-modern Crisis*. And 2020, *A Catholic Christian Meta-Model of the Person..* Eds., Vitz, Nordling, & Titus; and Vitz, Ed. 2021. *The Complementarity of Women and Men*.



Dr. Doroski teaches human embryology at Franciscan University and directs the engineering program. He is a regular speaker on IVF, stem cells and other bioethical topics and won the LifeTech award for the best pro-life presentation.

Dr. Doroski has presented his work at conferences that cover a wide range of topics including bioethics and philosophy, scientific biomedical engineering, and Christian engineering. His bioethical work has been published journals such as the journal of the *Catholic Medical Association* and the *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. In addition to his bioethical work, Dr. Doroski also does experimental research that is focused on stem cells and tissue engineering. This work has been published in scientific journals such as *Biomaterials*, *Tissue Engineering*, and *PLOS*





Paul Gondreau, S.T.D., is professor of theology at Providence College. He received his doctorate in theology from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, doing his dissertation under the renowned Thomist scholar Jean-Pierre Torrell, OP. He specializes in the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas and has published widely in the areas of Christology (focusing on Christ's full humanity and his maleness), the moral meaning and purpose of human sexuality and sexual difference, Christian anthropology, the biblical vision of Aquinas' theology, the theology of disability, the sacrament of the Eucharist and the priesthood, and the Catholic vision of J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. He has also served as a theological consultant on the USCCB's committee on Marriage, Family, Laity, and Youth.



Angela Franks, Ph.D., is a theologian, speaker, writer, and mother of six. She serves as Professor of Theology at St. John's Seminary in Boston and as a Senior Fellow at the Abigail Adams Institute in Cambridge. She is a Life and Dignity Writing Fellow for Church Life Journal (University of Notre Dame).

Her areas of specialty include the body, identity, the Trinity, Christology, and the thought of John Paul II and Hans Urs von Balthasar. She is currently focused on bringing key ideas in contemporary continental philosophy into conversation with the Catholic intellectual tradition. She is finishing a two-volume book manuscript entitled *The Body and Identity*. The first volume is subtitled *Liquid Bodies* and *Empty Selves*. The second volume is subtitled *Theological and Philosophical Anthropology*.

An experienced speaker, she has spoken at numerous conferences, including the *International Theology of the Body Congress*, and on EWTN, *Catholic Answers Live*, FOX News, and many other outlets. She has been published in *America Magazine*, *First Things*, *Public Discourse*, *Church Life Journal*, *Catholic World Report*, *The Plough*, and academic journals such as *Theological Studies*, *Christian Bioethics*, *Nova et Vetera*, *Communio*, and others, in addition to contributing chapters to edited books. She has written two books on sexual ethics and the history of eugenics.



Timothy Fortin, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophical Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. He holds an M.S. in Clinical Psychology from the Institute for the Psychological Sciences, Arlington, VA and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome, Italy. His research focusses on the nature of fatherhood and human sexual difference, concentrating on the integration of contemporary thought with the Thomistic tradition.



Fr. Christian Raab hails originally from Michigan City, IN. After graduating from Indiana University with a degree in history and religious studies, he taught history and theology at St. Benedict High School in Chicago, IL.

During this time, he earned an MA degree from Loyola University in pastoral studies with a concentration in religious education. He entered Saint Meinrad Archabbey in 2003, professed first vows in 2005, and solemn vows in 2008. He earned his Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and was ordained to the priesthood in 2009.

From 2009-2014, he lived and studied at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where he also served as a priest-in-residence at Flather Hall through CUA's office of campus ministry. He earned his licentiate in sacred theology in 2012 and his doctorate in sacred theology in 2015, both from the Catholic University of America.

He is presently associate professor of systematic theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. Most of his courses are in sacramental theology. His current research focuses on the theology of the diaconate.

He has published in the areas of theology of priesthood, gender in theological anthropology, spirituality, and religion and culture. He is the author of the book *Understanding the Religious Priesthood: History, Theology, and Controversy* (Washington, DC: CUA, 2020); editor of the book *Walk The Line: Rock Music and the Christian Imagination* (New York: New City Press, 2023); and co-editor of the volume *The Tradition of Catholic Prayer* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2007). In addition to teaching, he has served as associate pastor of St. Joseph parish in Jasper, IN since 2022. His past assignments include formation dean at Saint Meinrad Seminary (2015-2022), and coordinator of the "One Bread, One Cup" College Ministerial Internship Program (2014-2019).



Dr. Maria Fedoryka teaches in the philosophy department of Ave Maria University in Florida and is an Associated Scholar with the Hildebrand Project. She specializes in the philosophy of love, her work spanning topics from the centrality of love in the being of God, to its meaning for the creation and vocation of the human person, to its role in marriage, family and human development. This work encompasses the issue of gender, questions related to spousal intimacy, and questions relating to the nature and role of emotions in human life. Among her publications are the booklet *The Special Gift of Women for God, the Family and the World* published by the *Catholic Truth Society in England* and the popular articles in the *Homiletic and Pastoral Review* titled "Gender: What is it and Why does it Matter?" and "The Centrality of Love to the Teaching of *Humanae vitae*."



Dr. Greg Bottaro is a Catholic psychologist, founder of the CatholicPsych Institute and creator of the CatholicPsych Model of Applied Personalism (CPMAP). He received his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the Institute for the Psychological Sciences, and works to integrate Catholic philosophy and theology with relevant psychology. He leads the CatholicPsych Institute's mission to "Create a Catholic Standard for Mental Health."

Before becoming a psychologist, Dr. Bottaro discerned a religious vocation with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs). He lived in the Bronx for four years following the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. Under the mentorship of Fr. Benedict Groeschel, this experience formed him in the spirituality of Abandonment to Divine Providence, which he now integrates with his model of psychology, along with the discernment of God's will he learned from Fr. Benedict.

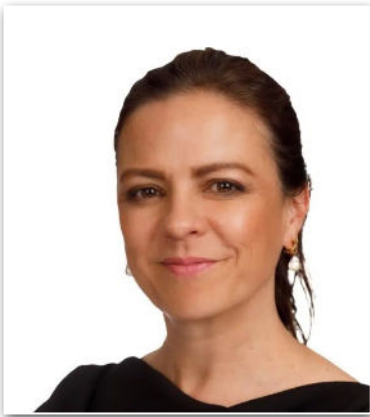
In 2012, Dr. Bottaro returned to New York as a psychologist and founded the CatholicPsych Institute, which has continued to grow and serve clients around the world. Most recently he launched the CPMAP Certification to train others in their model of integrated accompaniment.



Dr. Hilary Towers is a licensed professional counselor (LPC) at a private practice in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where she works with adolescents, adults, and couples. She earned her M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Divine Mercy University and her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from The George Washington University's Center for Family Research. Hilary has advanced clinical training in cognitive processing therapy (CPT), logotherapy, and emotionally focused couple therapy (EFCT).

Anon-resident scholar at Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion (ISR), Hilary's work in behavioral genetics appears in a variety of academic journals and books, including *Marriage and Family Review*, *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, and *Journal of Family Psychology*. Her work on the subjects of marriage and divorce has been published in an array of online journals, including: *Public Discourse*, *Crux*, *CatholicVote*, *National Catholic Register*, *Ethika Politika*, *Institute for Family Studies*, *First Things*, and *National Review Online*.

The mother of five children, Hilary and her family reside in Northern Virginia.



Noelle Mering is a Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center where she co-directs EPPC's Theology of Home Project. She is the author of the book *Awake, Not Woke: A Christian Response to the Cult of Progressive Ideology*.

She is an editor for the online women's magazine *Theology of Home* and a coauthor of the books *Theology of Home, volumes I – III*. She writes on culture, politics, and religion and has published in *National Review*, *The Federalist*, *Newsweek*, *Daily Wire*, *The American Mind*, *Catholic World Report*, and *National Catholic Register*. Her writing has been featured on *Fox News*, *Instapundit*, *EWTN*, *Catholic Herald*, *Albert Mohler's The Briefing*, *Fox News Radio*, and *Relevant Radio*.

Noelle is a wife and mother of six children in Southern California.



# Moderator Biographies



Dr. Alex M. Plato is an Associate Professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville and resides with his wife and children in the city of Steubenville, Ohio. He was born, just eleven minutes after his twin brother, on January 9th, 1979 in Lakeview, Oregon, an idyllic town with more cattle than people.

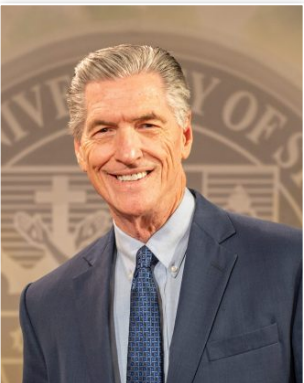
Dr. Plato received a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies *summa cum laude* from Corban University (then Western Baptist College) in 2002. His interdisciplinary studies included several areas of concentration: music, theology, philosophy, literature, and education. In his final year he received the *Graduate of the Year* award and the year following was invited to be the first Alumni speaker of the *Dr. Richard L. Caulkins Annual Lectureship*. In 2007, he earned a Master of Arts *summa cum laude* in the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics from Biola University's Talbot School of Theology. In December of 2014, at Saint Louis University, he defended, with highest distinction, his dissertation "Anscombe on Double Effect and Absolutism: An Inquiry into Modern Moral Philosophy and Traditional Morality." His work was directed by Dr. Gregory Beabout.



Dr. Rashad Rehman serves on the Franciscan University faculty as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy.

His primary area of research is in bioethics, specifically bioethical issues concerning sex and gender. He also maintains interests in metaphysics, the philosophy of religion, and the philosophy of liberal arts education. At Franciscan, he intends to serve Christ in his teaching, research, and service.

Rashad lives with his wife, Emily, and their daughter, Edith, in Steubenville.



Patrick Lee is a professor of philosophy and holds the John N. and Jamie D. McAleer Chair in Bioethics. He is also the director of the Center for Bioethics at Franciscan University of Steubenville. In this capacity he defends and articulates the Church's position on a wide range of human life issues through his writings, debates, and public speaking engagements.

He is a member of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, and Society of Christian Philosophers. In 2005 Prof. Lee gave the annual John Heiser lecture at Niagara University entitled "Embryo-Killing and Stem Cell Research." He is also the recipient of the Cardinal Wright Award for Excellence in Catholic Scholarship in Integrating Faith and Reason. He is the author of three books: *Conjugal Union, What Marriage is and Why it Matters* (co-authored with Robert P. George), *Abortion and Unborn Human Life*, and *Body-Self Dualism and Contemporary Ethics and Politics* (co-authored with Robert George).



Dr. Stephen Hildebrand received a B.A. in Philosophy and Mathematics in 1995 from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas. He completed his Master's and Doctoral work at Fordham University, graduating in 2002 with a degree in Historical Theology with an emphasis in the early Church. He has published several books and translations, mostly on St. Basil the Great. Since 2001, he has taught theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, serving as chair of the Department of Theology from 2015-2021, Dean of the School of Theology and Philosophy 2022-2023, and currently as Vice-President for Academic Affairs.



Professor Zach Stueve graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville with degrees in theology and clinical psychology. Following his undergraduate studies, he received a Master of Theological Studies degree from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family Studies, a program that integrates theology, philosophy, psychology, and political science in order to give a truly Catholic understanding of the human person. Following this, he went on to do research at Carnegie Mellon University, studying attachment theory and how it can be applied to understand romantic relationships. He currently teaches psychology and theology full-time at Franciscan University, and he works part-time as a Mentor at the CatholicPsych Institute, where he holds a caseload of 15-20 clients at any given time.

Originally from Peabody, Massachusetts, he now lives in Steubenville with his wife, Molly, and their daughter, Elaina.



Dr. Jungers is a professor in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program and the Dean of the School of Professional Programs at Franciscan University. She has worked in pastoral, university, and community settings as a licensed professional clinical counselor and as a clinical supervisor. Dr. Jungers has published several books and numerous articles in the areas of counselor ethics and their philosophical foundations, aging and crisis intervention, late-life transitions, racial and cultural identity formation, grief and loss among clergy, and clinical preparation for graduate counseling students beginning internship. She served for 8 years as a governor-appointed member of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapy Board.

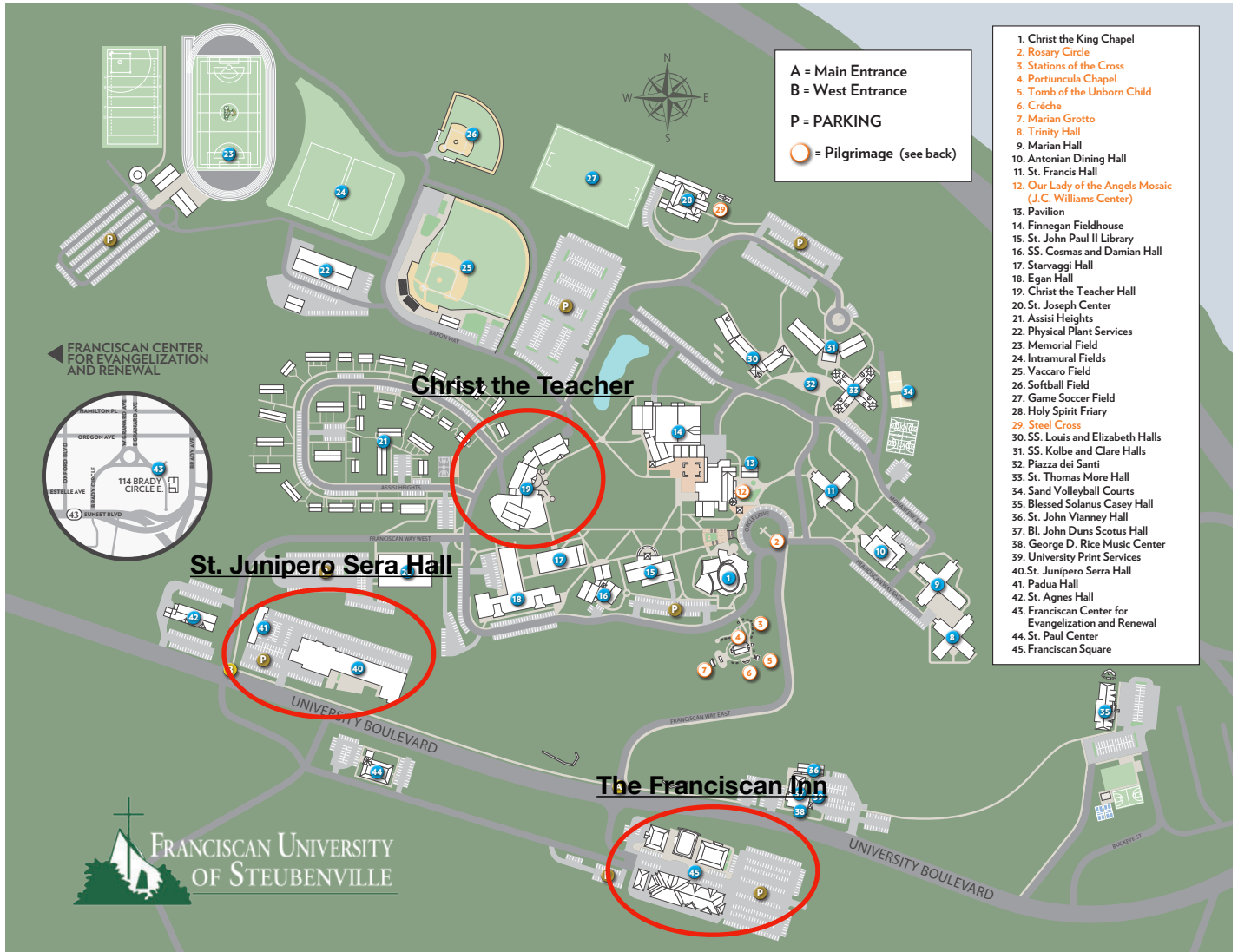


Dr. Matthew Breuninger is an assistant professor of psychology at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He earned an MA in Theology from Ave Maria University and a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Baylor University. Dr. Breuninger is a licensed clinical psychologist. His clinical interests include anxiety, depression, trauma, and substance abuse. His academic interests comprise the intersection of faith and psychology, psychology of religion, and virtue formation. When not teaching Dr. Breuninger can be found spending time hiking with his family or fishing in the local lakes.



# Shuttle Times

A University Shuttle will make stops at the Franciscan Inn, St. Junípero Sera Hall, and Christ the Teacher.



*The shuttle will be doing a continuous loop at these locations at the following times:*

## Thursday, October 24th

4:30-5:30pm  
8:00-9:00pm

## Friday, October 25th

7:00-8:00am  
12:00-1:30pm  
4:30-5:00pm  
6:30-7:00pm  
8:00-8:30pm

## Saturday, October 25th

7:30-8:30am  
12:00-1:30pm  
5:00-6:00pm

# Franciscan University

expresses heartfelt gratitude to all those who have made this conference possible.

We are deeply grateful for our co-sponsor:

*The Ethics and Public Policy Center*

Special thanks to:

Noelle Mering & Mary Hasson

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Dr. Anne Hendershott and

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We would also like to thank:

Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR

*Franciscan University President*

Dr. Stephen Hildebrand

*Vice President for Academic Affairs*

This conference has been made possible by the generosity of the Henkel's family.



# Conference Notes

15 horizontal lines for taking notes.