

Preface

VOLUME SEVENTEEN of *Life and Learning* presents thirty-six fine papers, most of them were written for the 2007 conference of the University Faculty for Life. Some of them were presented at earlier UFL conferences but were only ready for publication in this volume. We are deeply grateful to Villanova University for providing UFL with an opportunity to use their splendid facilities again this year. Special thanks are due to Prof. Jeanne Heffernan Schindler for serving as the program chair and for hosting this meeting. She arranged a wonderful program for the conference, including a special concert during our conference banquet by the Romanian concert pianist Valentin Radu. We were very honored by his guest appearance. We were also delighted to present UFL's Smith Award to Dr. and Mrs. Jack (Barbara) Willke for their long years of service and leadership in the pro-life movement and their abiding support for UFL.

We are deeply grateful for the support received for this conference from Dean Mark A. Sargent of the Villanova University School of Law, from Villanova's Department of Humanities, and from its Office of Mission Effectiveness. In addition, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the staff at Villanova for their tremendous hospitality and efficiency. We would also like to express our grateful appreciation to Our Sunday Visitor Institute for a special grant in support of the 2007 UFL Conference and to all the benefactors of UFL who have made possible its annual meetings as well as the publication of its newsletter and of its annual volume of proceedings. Without their generous contributions this organization would not be able to continue its work.

The thirty-six papers in this volume are grouped under eleven headings. In the section on Medical Ethics and Bioethics, we are pleased to present the work of two scholars who have long been associated with UFL, Prof. Frank Beckwith (Baylor University) and Prof. Jorge Garcia (Boston College). The adjoining section on Legal Perspectives features an important essay on the infamous book *The Sanctity of Life* by Prof. Glanville Willaims; the critique published here is co-authored by Prof. John

Keown (Georgetown University) and Prof. David Jones (St. Mary's University College, London), with a response by William Saunders, Esq. (Family Research Council). Within that section we are also pleased to present essays by UFL's President Richard Myers (Ave Maria Law School), Prof. Helen Alvaré (George Mason University Law School), and Prof. C. Berneo Newcombe (Southwestern Law School).

In a section on the contrast between the Culture of Life and the Culture of Death, four of our papers for this volume make important contributions: Prof. Anne Barbeau Gardner (John Jay College) on deep ecology, Ms. Marcella Colbert (Diocese of Madison WI) on the impact of denying the ill effects of abortion, Prof. Maria Fedoryka (Ave Maria University) about the effects on marriage, and Rev. Jeffrey Adams and Mrs. Karen Adams (Uganda Christian University) on the situation in Uganda. At the heart of this cultural struggle, of course, is the issue of personhood. We are pleased to present the essays of Prof. Richard Stith (Valparaiso University School of Law), Prof. Laura Garcia (Boston College), and Prof. Peter Colosi (Franciscan University of Steubenville/Austria). In the following section we offer three papers on the specific question of personhood in relation to stem-cell research by Prof. John Morris (Rockhurst University), Ms. Dolores Meehan (Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley), Ms. Kimberly Zenarolla (Catholic University of America); these are joined by a paper on the same topic written at UFL's special invitation by Prof. Christian Brugger (Institute for the Psychological Sciences). To provide a suitable scholarly setting for airing the sort of difference of opinion that is in evidence in this set of papers is an important aspect of UFL's work.

The pressing nature of the moral questions that emerge in many disciplines is evident in a number of the following sections. In the area of medicine and nursing, we are pleased to present papers by Prof. Carolyn Laabs, Prof. Richard Fehring and Ms. Jennifer Ohlendorf (all of Marquette University). Prof. Marie Hilliard (National Catholic Bioethics Center) and Fr. John J. Conley, S.J. (Loyola College) offer papers on threats related to religious liberty that are currently presented to professionals by certain political trends associated with the Culture of Death. Five of the authors for this volume directly take up issues within theology: Prof. Grattan

Brown (St. Charles Borromeo Seminary), Prof. Greg Coulter (University of St. Thomas, Minnesota), Prof. David Schindler, Sr. (John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family), and Rev. Brian Johnstone, C.Ss.R. (Catholic University).

The breadth of UFL's scholarly activities is regularly evident by the wonderful papers that we receive in the areas of literature and politics. This year's volume features three essayists in the field of literature: Prof. Mary Shivanandan (John Paul II Institute), Prof. Bernadette Waterman Ward (University of Dallas), and Prof. Jeff Koloze (University of Phoenix). In the sphere of politics and political philosophy we are privileged to present essays by Mr. Mattei Radu (Villanova University School of Law), Prof. Damian Fedoryka (Ave Maria University), Prof. Christopher Anadale and Rev. Albert Bruecken, O.S.B. (both of Conception Abbey), Prof. Thaddeus Kozinski (Wyoming Catholic College), Prof. Mark Shiffman (Villanova University), Prof. James Haninck (Loyola Marymount University), and Prof. Roberta Bayer (George Mason University).

Finally, I want to offer special thanks to Prof. Carol Nevins Abromaitis (Loyola College of Maryland) and to Prof. Jacqueline Nolan-Haley (Fordham University Law School), for their invaluable help again this year in the reviewing the papers submitted for this volume. And I am grateful to Dan Field, my graduate assistant at Fordham, for his fine proof-reading eye.

Electronic versions of these papers and many of those delivered at previous UFL conferences are available on our web site at www.uffl.org. For additional copies of this volume or for bound versions of the proceedings of our earlier conferences, please contact me at koterski@fordham.edu.

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