

Summer Theologica: The New Feminism of Pope John Paul II

Presented by: Kelly Shircliff, B.A.

Hosted by: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church Young Adult Ministry

Date: Saturday, June 20th, 2009

Location: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
Johnston Hall, 154 N. Main Street Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Preliminary Schedule of Events:

2:15 Registration

2:30 Welcome & Opening Prayer

2:45 Presentation by Kelly Shircliff

3:45 Discussion

4:30 Closing prayer

Kelly Shircliff holds a B.A. in Theology and Philosophy from Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio and a Master of Theological Studies from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. She teaches and speaks on the dignity of femininity and masculinity in the context of a Christian understanding of the human person.

The Presentation The "New Feminism"

The papacy of John Paul II had great impact on the Church and the world. This well-known and well-loved pope unwaveringly affirmed and upheld the basic tenets of the Catholic Faith while articulating them in personalist terms. The late Holy Father was known for his profound understanding of the dignity of all women, a subject which he wrote about extensively. Ms. Shircliff will explore John Paul II's call for women to live a "new feminism" and begin to answer that call by sketching out what this new feminism might look like in the everyday lives of Christian women and men.

What is SUMMER THEOLOGICA?

Faith Seeking Understanding in the Young Adult Years

Many Catholics in their late teens, twenties and thirties feel a great need for opportunities to learn more about their faith, according to a 1992 and 1997 survey conducted by the Diocese of Richmond. Some Catholic "young adults" received most of their religious instruction as children, and wish to apply their adult, and in many cases, well-educated, attention to the faith and traditions of their church. Others feel that, in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, their Christian education in the fundamentals of Catholicism was lost when many parishes turned to newer, but not fully developed, models for catechesis.

Summer Theologica is a response to this expressed need of Catholic young adults in our diocese, and is modeled on a similar program in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Throughout July, young adults will have opportunities to attend seminars on both basic and timely issues in Catholic theology. These seminars will be conducted by recognized experts, and each session will both impart information and provide an opportunity for reflection and discussion. No background in theology or religious studies is necessary or expected, just a desire to learn and explore our faith in the company of friends.

Summer Theologica is neither rote instruction nor sharing without a sufficient basis of information and understanding. It is an opportunity to speak and think about, and understand one of our most important gifts, our faith, with the minds and hearts of adults in the Church. ~ Catholic Diocese of Richmond.

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