



RENEWING THE PRIESTHOOD:
An Annual Conference for Diocesan Priests

BECOMING A BETTER CONFESSOR

*The Priest as Minister of Divine Mercy,
Spiritual Father & Moral Teacher*

JULY 10-12, 2012

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

**ST. LOUIS BERTRAND PARISH CENTER
& THE GALT HOUSE HOTEL**

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Most Rev. Joseph Kurtz, D.D.

Archbishop of Louisville and Vice-President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.

Founding member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, holds a doctorate in psychology, a well-known preacher, host of a weekly show on EWTN, and author of dozens of books.

Fr. Romanus Cessario, O.P.

Professor of Systematic Theology at St. John's Seminary School of Theology in Brighton, MA, Senior Editor of *Magnificat*, Associate Editor of *The Thomist*, author of many articles and several notable books in moral theology, as well as his many devotional writings for *Magnificat* like his recent book *The Seven Last Words of Jesus*.

Fr. John Corbett, O.P.

Asst. Professor of Moral Theology at the Dominican House of Studies, formerly professor at the Pontifical College Josephinum, and a much-beloved preacher and spiritual director.

Fr. Michael Sherwin, O.P.

Associate Professor of Fundamental Moral Theology at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, and author of *By Knowledge and By Love*, the prize-winning study of charity and knowledge in the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas

CONFERENCE LOCATION

St. Louis Bertrand Church

All liturgies will be in the beautiful St. Louis Bertrand Church, a 19th century neo-Gothic structure adorned with a magnificent carved baldacchino. Conference sessions will be held in O'Brien Hall in the parish center.



LODGING

The Galt House Hotel

The Galt House Hotel offers luxury accommodations in the heart of downtown Louisville at a special rate to conference participants of \$105/night. Regular free shuttle service will run between St. Louis Bertrand Church and the hotel (1.7 miles). For additional,



more economical lodging options, visit the conference website.

REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION

Cost \$165 (regular); \$125 (early registration, before April 18) - includes two catered dinners, all conference materials, and light refreshments during the day.

For more information and to register, visit our website: www.thomisticinstitute.org/priesthood or call (202) 495-1170.



A CONFERENCE FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS

The Thomistic Institute is pleased to offer this conference for diocesan priests interested in practical strategies to become better confessors, to increase the practice of confession in their parishes, and to exercise more fruitfully their spiritual fatherhood in this important ministry.

Prompted by the call of Pope Benedict to renew the ministry of confessor and guided by the wisdom of the Thomistic tradition, the conference consists of practical talks and roundtable discussions on issues of immediate relevance to the life of contemporary priests. Led by an impressive cadre of experienced and knowledgeable speakers, and set in a comfortable fraternal atmosphere, with meals together, it offers ample time for prayer, rest, and recreation.



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Tuesday, July 10

- 2-4 pm Arrival, Check-in, Registration.
- 4 - 4:45 pm Introduction, Opening Presentation:
FR. DOMINIC LEGGE, OP
The Preacher-Confessor: Preaching that Attracts and Converts
- 5 - 5:45 pm Adoration, Vespers
(*confessions available*)
- 6:00 pm Pre-prandials and Dinner
- 7:15 pm Keynote Address:
FR. BENEDICT GROESCHEL, CFR
The Confessor as Spiritual Father
- 8:15 pm: Bluegrass and Bourbon

Wednesday, July 11

- 7:30 - 8:15 am Private Prayer (*Altars are also available for Private Masses, with advance signup*).
- 8:30 am Lauds
- 9 - 10 am Mass with Archbishop Kurtz
- 10:15 - 11 am Principal Morning Presentation
(30 mins, then questions & discussion):
FR. ROMANUS CESSARIO, OP
Giving Counsel in the Confessional: Exercising Headship and Prudence as 'Servant of God's Forgiveness.
- 11:15 am Putting Theory into Practice
Discussion groups:
Group A: *Spiritual Fatherhood* (with Fr. Groeschel)
Group B: *Diagnosing Spiritual Pathologies* (with Fr. Corbett)
Group C: *Offering Spiritual Direction* (with Fr. Cessario)
- Noon - 3 pm Break for Lunch

- 3 - 3:45 pm Principal Afternoon Presentation
FR. JOHN CORBETT, OP
Understanding the Virtues and Vices: Diagnosing Spiritual Pathologies and Prescribing the Right Spiritual Remedy
- 4:15 pm Putting Theory into Practice
Discussion groups:
Using Virtue & Vice in the Confessional
Group A: *Dealing with the Vice of Lust* (with Fr. Cessario)
Group B: *Dealing with Vices Opposed to Charity* (with Fr. Sherwin)
Group C: *Dealing with Vices Opposed to Justice* (with Fr. Corbett)
- 5:30 pm Adoration, Vespers
(*confessions available*)
- 6:30 pm Dinner
- Thursday, July 12**
- 7:30 - 8:45 am Private Prayer (*Altars are also available for Private Masses, with advance signup*).
- 9:00 am Lauds & Mass
- 9:45 am Planning for the Future
(*Feedback & Planning discussion*)
- 10 - 10:45 am Final Presentation
FR. MICHAEL SHERWIN, OP:
Love in the Ruins: Pastoral Ministry in a Time of Sexual Confusion
- 11:15 am Putting Theory into Practice
Discussion groups:
Group A: *Continuing the discussion* (with Fr. Sherwin)
Group B: *Practical issues in the confessional* (with a panel of experienced confessors)
Group C: *Preaching on Confession* (with a panel of experienced preachers)
- Noon Adjournment