

THE
INSTITUTE
FOR ADVANCED
CATHOLIC
STUDIES



The Need
and
The Benefits

The Need

In order to increase the number of scholars committed to the dialogue between the faith and modern culture and to carry on at the highest level scholarship focused on the field of Catholic studies as a whole, an institutional design of a specialized and particular kind needs to be created. The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies is a response to the call for a renewal of Christian intellectual life voiced in *Ex corde ecclesiae*, specifically in its encouragement to devise the new forms of institutional capacity required for the ongoing task of "cooperation between Catholic universities and other universities, and with other research and educational institutions, both private and governmental."

The Institute will do for Catholic intellectual tradition what secular institutes such as the Princeton Institute and the Wilson Center have done for their own fields of research. It will generate a "multiplier effect," contribute powerfully to the quality and supply of religiously relevant scholarship on Catholic affairs, make a profound contribution to the dialogue between faith and culture called for by John Paul II, and in the process become a great asset for the Church in this new century.

The Benefits

For the Church:

- ✘ a sustained and comprehensive dialogue between faith and culture.
- ✘ a focused explanation of the discoveries and challenges of science, especially in the fields of biology and the neurosciences.
- ✘ the development of a community of scholars drawn from both Catholic and secular universities and colleges committed to this dialogue.
- ✘ a rich resource for the exploration of ecumenical, inter-faith and faith-based dialogue with the wider world.

For Catholic Colleges and Universities:

- ✘ an increase in the number of faculty in various disciplines who understand and work out of Catholic intellectual traditions.
- ✘ a way to deepen the intellectual traditions that insure the distinctive character and contribution of these institutions to the wider pluralism of higher education.
- ✘ a form of intensive faculty development aimed at the integration of knowledge and the return of theology, philosophy and history of religion from the margins of modern academic culture.

For Scholars Working in the Catholic Tradition:

- ✘ time and support to focus on crucial research themes rarely supported by most secular academic funding sources.
- ✘ an extended time to build up an intellectual community committed to a substantive dialogue between faith and culture.
- ✘ an opportunity for junior and senior faculty from public and private, secular and Catholic institutions in the US and abroad to work with one another and with world-class Catholic scholars.

For Society:

- ✘ a sustained and thoughtful exploration of ethical and religious perspectives that will contribute to a deeper understanding of the common good.
- ✘ an international center where perspectives of justice and human rights rooted in the Catholic tradition will form a basis for the exploration of economic and political issues, as well as the challenges presented by science and technology.

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