

SJB Speakers Series 2007-08

**THEME: BEING THE PEOPLE OF GOD:
MANY HEARTS, MANY VOICES, ONE CHURCH**



Topics, Presenters, and Dates

All Lectures are presented in the Hall at 11:45am

THE AMERICAN CHURCH TODAY – September 30, 2007

Who is involved in the Church, and how is that changing? What beliefs and practices matter most to American Catholics today? Are there differences by age, gender, ethnic/racial group, geography, etc.? What challenges and opportunities does all this present for our vitality as a parish community?

Presenter: William V. D'Antonio, Ph.D., professor of sociology and research fellow at the Life Cycle Institute, The Catholic University of America. Dr. D'Antonio is a distinguished sociologist and the principal researcher and author of a definitive study, *American Catholics Today: New Realities of Their Faith and Their Church* (2007). The study analyzed trends in American Catholic opinion from 1987 to 2005, using four identical surveys about Catholics' views of the sacraments, church authority and teachings, and Catholic identity.

DOING THE RIGHT THING AT WORK - November 18, 2007

Vatican II tells us that the laity carry God's presence into the workplace. How? What does this mean in real life? What do we need to be aware of? How do we get proper perspective as we make choices and decisions? Are there differences depending on my type of work and my role at work? How do we balance work and home?

Presenter: James Nolan, J.D., research fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center of Georgetown University and founding coordinator of the Woodstock Business Conference from 1993 to 2000. The conference brought together business and professional leaders to reflect on how to integrate faith, business, and personal life. From those practical discussions, Nolan wrote *Doing the Right Thing at Work: A Catholic's Guide to Faith, Business, and Ethics* (2005).

THEOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, AND SEXUALITY - January 20, 2008

God gave us the gift of sexuality. How can we incorporate Church teachings, science, and the experiences of the faithful in order to live rich, loving lives – in body as well as spirit?

Presenter: John E. Perito, M.D., retired psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, SJB parishioner, former member of the SJB spirituality team, and author of *Contemporary Catholic Sexuality: What Is Taught and What Is Practiced* (2004).

CONFLICT AND SHARED AUTHORITY WITHIN THE CHURCH – February 17, 2007

What can Peter, Paul, and the early Church tell us about how God helps the Church to discover truth? What did the bishops' experience during and after Vatican II tell us about shared authority? What is the Vatican II doctrine of "collegiality" and what does it tell me about *my* role within the Church?

Presenter: Fr. Ladislav Orsy, S.J. A renowned canon lawyer and Vatican II commentator, and also a warm, wise, loving human being who has been our SJB guide and companion in exploring Vatican II for the past few years. Supported the bishops at the Second Vatican Council as a theological expert. Emeritus professor at the Catholic University of America and currently visiting professor at Georgetown Law School.

COMMUNION AND COMMUNITY - March 30, 2007

When I come to holy communion, do I “receive” or “participate in” the Real Presence? How does our celebration of Eucharist invite us to connect in new ways with other people and with creation? How does it change my awareness of my relationships? How are these new relationships different from connections we might make at a party?

Presenter: Sr. Theresa F. Koernke, IHM, has been a very popular speaker at SJB. She chairs the Department of Word and Worship at Washington Theological Union. Sr. Koernke earned her doctorate in systematic theology at the University of Notre Dame and has written extensively on the liturgy, Eucharist, spirituality, and Vatican II. She is working on several books, including *On Touching the Body of Christ*.