



# Consortio

INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

FALL/WINTER 2009

## Academic Year Begins in Our New Location Many thanks to all of you who have made this a reality!

**I**t was an historic day in the young life of the ITI: Over 500 guests joined the Grand Chancellor, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, to celebrate the opening of the ITI in its new location in Trumau. Never before had the Institute welcomed so many guests during an event. The ITI, which moved from the Kartause in Gaming this summer, is now located about twenty minutes drive away from Vienna and is in the same diocese as its Grand Chancellor, where it is now the proud owner of its own campus. A new beginning on solid ground!

Our Grand Chancellor expressed the great joy he feels when he sees the many families who are involved with the ITI, and their many children who are the best sign of a thriving institute. "The Word of God flourishes in families where the Faith is passed on; families who practice their Faith are the oases of our society."

His Eminence –joined by almost 20 brother priests- celebrated a festive Holy Mass in the parish church of Trumau, which was packed to the brim with friends, benefactors, students and staff, as well as numerous locals. The ITI choir, with the help of soloist Gabrielle Dolna-Schuchter gave the Mass its musical inspiration.

The Liturgy was then followed by the blessing of the campus main building, an historic Schloss (castle) which houses the classrooms, library,



*ITI Students greet Christoph Cardinal Schönborn at the Convocation of the ITI on October 10, 2009*



*Cardinal Schönborn blesses the classrooms and library of the new ITI campus in Trumau.*

administration and faculty offices as well as a beautiful baroque chapel.

Cardinal Schönborn gave a homily that emphasized the "threefold listening" that a theological school needs to stand for: Listening to the Word of God in Scripture, in Creation and in the inner voice of our conscience. Pointing to Jesus' words, "Blessed are they who listen to the Word of God

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## A Gift and a Challenge

€500,000 has been donated. Your help is needed to match it by Dec. 31, 2009.

**W**e have good news to share with you – and a challenge. In August, a European foundation gave us a remarkable donation of €500,000 Euros (or nearly \$750,000 U.S. dollars). Their challenge: we need to raise matching donations, equaling a total of another €500,000 Euros, before December 31, 2009.

This matching-fund donation will be used to create an endowment. Think of how many more professors the ITI can hire, how many more courses we can offer, and how many more student leaders we can admit to the Institute. Since the money will be put in an endowment, your donation will help not just once, but continually, and will truly support our Institute and our Catholic Church. If you can help us, please make every effort to see your donation arrives before the December 31, 2009, deadline.



*Help the ITI form leaders for the Church and society.*



# ITI Alumni Carry on the

## ITI Graduates Organize the Second Annual International Theology of the Body Symposium

by Monica Rapeanu

Who can assess the abiding legacy of John Paul II?

Who can measure the depth and richness of his thought which is present in the various forms that his writing takes? One thing that can be said with certainty is that all of his teachings and writings offer us an integral vision of the human person and of human relations. And what we call The Theology of the Body is no exception.

Who would have thought that the catechetical lessons on God's plan for human

life and love, given at the beginning of his pontificate, were going to change the way many people today look at their own bodies, at sexuality and at their particular

vocation? Moreover, these lessons contained in the Theology of the Body have become a constant theme for reflection and the source of many talks, retreats, conferences, articles and books. Lately, they have also been the theme under which two important international events have taken place.

The First International Symposium on John Paul II's Theology of the Body was held in Gaming, Austria, in May 2007, and it was hosted by the Franciscan University of

Steubenville (Austrian Program).

After the great success of this first symposium, three of the participants, who were also at the ITI, decided to come together to work on organizing a second International Theology of the Body Symposium to facilitate further un-

derstanding and promotion of this great teaching. After prayer and discussion, Ireland was chosen as the venue. The three organizers, Jana Prudka (Czech Republic, ITI 2009), Robert McNamara (Ireland, ITI 2009) and Monica Rapeanu (Romania, ITI 2003), were supported in their endeavour by Dr. Michael Waldstein, to whom they owe in great part their knowledge, understanding of, and love for, the Theology of the Body. The organizing team was joined by two others from Ireland, Damian Polly and Niall Leahy, and by an Australian, Anne-Maree Quinn.

Their work was successful and the Second International Symposium was held this year in June, on the weekend of the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 11-14, in anticipation of the thirtieth anniversary of Pope John Paul II's visit to Ireland, as well as the thirtieth anniversary of the first Papal Audience on this topic. The venue was St. Patrick's College Maynooth, one of the places visited by John Paul II in 1979. The symposium was hosted by Pure in Heart, an Irish youth community dedicated to promoting chastity and to living the true beauty of sexuality.

At Dr. Waldstein's suggestion, the topics chosen for the talks followed the structure of the Theology of the Body itself. The list of Speakers included Dr. Michael



Top Row: Audience at the Symposium. Second Row: Rob McNamara and Ryan Chalissery, ITI alumni who helped to organize and film the event. Third Row: The Symposium organizing team. ITI graduates: Rob McNamara (back, left), Jana Prudka (front, left), and Monica Rapeanu (front, right), came up with the idea to organize the Symposium. Fourth Row: William Newton, ITI graduate and current professor, was a speaker at the Symposium.

After the great success of this first symposium, three of the participants, who were also at the ITI, decided to come together to work on organizing a second International Theology of the Body Symposium



# Legacy of John Paul II

Waldstein, Kathy Sinnott (Ireland), Rev. Donald Calloway M.I.C (USA), Sr. Mary Timothy Prokes, F.S.E (USA), artist Dony Mac Manus (Ireland), Rev. Alan O’Sullivan O.P. (Ireland), Dr. Peter J. Colosi (USA), Dr. Mary Shivanandan (USA), Dr. Phil Boyle (Ireland), and two ITI graduates, Dr. Mary Healy (USA, ITI 1998) and Dr. William Newton (England, graduate ITI 2005, current ITI professor). Unfortunately, Dr. Waldstein and Fr. Calloway were unable to attend, but this Symposium, too, by God’s grace, was another great success with 270 participants present from 21 different countries, a deeply warm and friendly atmosphere, engaging speakers and inspiring talks. The program included, of course, daily Mass, perpetual adoration, and last but not least, social events that were appreciated and enjoyed by all. A highlight was a theatrical performance of Karol Wojtyła’s “The Jeweller’s Shop.”

This event was at the same time an opportunity for a deepening of personal faith and self-understanding meant to inspire greater participation in the New Evangelization. Moreover, this international encounter was designed to help foster and develop prosperous networks to assist participants with their own evangelization initiatives.

A unique characteristic of this symposium was the fact that it brought together several ITI alumni. Also present were Vidya Chalissery (India, ITI 2009), Toma Bruzaite (Lithuania, ITI 2009) and three current students



*Jana Prudka, Czech Republic, ITI Graduate and co-organizer of the Symposium.*

who contributed their wonderful gifts to the success of the symposium. STM student, Ryan Chalissery (India), organized and coordinated the audio and video recording of the entire event, while Deirdre Wood (USA) and Max Becher (USA) delighted the audience with their musical talents.

Without a doubt, the Second International Theology of the Body Symposium clearly showed that the ITI is a school with a successful mission; it is not only a place where solid Catholic theological formation

is offered, but also a place where New Evangelization projects are born.

At the beginning of her talk, Dr. Mary Healy remarked: “the Theology of the Body, in presenting the Church’s Good News about the body, man and woman and how they were created in the image of God, is also a spiritual battle.” But she also emphasized, “the good thing about the spiritual battle in the Kingdom of God is that the safest place to be is right on the frontlines.”

The ITI alumni who took part in this Second International Symposium hope to remain on the frontlines while helping spread and proclaim the message of the Theology of the Body to a world that hungers for true love and beauty. ✂

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## ITI Calendar – Trumau Academic Year 2009-2010

### First Semester 2009

Oct 23	Conference “Science and Religion,” Talks by Prof. Dr. Denis R. Alexander: “ Models for Relating Science and Religion” and “Creation or Evolution: Do we have to choose?”
Dec 19	Christmas Break Begins
Jan 11	Classes Resume
Feb 1-5	First Semester Exam
Feb 6-14	Semester Break

### Second Semester 2010

Feb 16	Classes Begin
Mar 27/Apr 6	Easter Break
Apr 7	Classes resume
Jun 1-8	Final Exams
Jun 10	Commencement Ceremony
Jun 11-13	Symposium - The Hidden Radiance of the <i>Ecclesia Una</i>



*Trumau Campus Main Building*



# Proudly Presenting t



Br. Irynej Pelykh, of the Basilian Order in Ukraine, prepares to receive his diploma.

Nineteen ITI students received their diplomas in a Commencement ceremony on May 16, 2009. The day began with Holy Mass celebrated by the Right Reverend Mag. Gregor Henckel-Donnersmarck, O. Cist., Abbot of Heiligenkreuz, who also conferred the degrees. Class Speaker, Katherine Gardner, delivered an inspiring talk about the need for personal involvement with Truth in the study of theology. See her talk on page 6. The Dean of the ITI, Prof. Mag. Dr. Bernhard Dolna, gave the Commencement Address and told the graduates that as they have been “created in Christ Jesus to do good works (Eph 2:10),” they should keep a few things in mind to help them along their way. First he told them to continue a life of prayer. Secondly, he encouraged them to continue to deepen their theological knowledge. Thirdly, he charged them to keep Sunday as a day of rest and holiness, so that the rest of the days could be inspired. Fourthly, the dean asked them to continue to convey the truth through their words and deeds. After the formal ceremony, the graduates, family, friends and guests of the ITI enjoyed visiting and exchanging stories over a celebratory lunch. Without further ado, we proudly present to you the Graduates of 2009. ✂



Women of the Graduating Class of 2009

## Master in Theological Studies on Marriage and the Family - MTS



**Toma BRUŽAITĖ,**  
*Lithuania*

The ITI helped her to discover and to appreciate the teaching of the Catholic Church about the human person – his dignity, the meaning of life, etc. Toma would like to work in different projects with the aim to spread this teaching in our society, especially among young people.



**Gabrielė JUDŽENTYTĖ,**  
*Lithuania*

Gabrielė was married on the 30th of May and hopes to find a job in some organization which defends Christian ideas.



**Saulius KULIAVAS,**  
*Lithuania*

Saulius and his wife have been invited by their bishop and parish priest to do marriage preparation in Vilnius, Lithuania at St. Francis of Assisi (Bernordinoi) parish. Saulius will also find another job in order to provide further income to support his family.



**Robert Martin McNAMARA,**  
*Ireland*

Robert will continue his studies in philosophy and theology, while volunteering for “Pure in Heart” – a youth chastity program. He also helped to organize the second international Theology of the Body Conference which took place in Ireland this summer. See the article on pages 2 and 3.



**Jana PRUDKÁ,**  
*Czech Republic*  
Jana feels called to do missionary work in eastern countries – especially Ukraine and Russia. She also

helped to organize the second international Theology of the Body Conference which took place in Ireland this summer. See the article on pages 2 and 3.

## Sacred Theology Master- STM



**Joseph Patrick CUNNINGHAM**  
*USA*

Joseph plans to raise a holy family with his wife Danniell, continue missionary work in Samoa, and to teach philosophy and theology. Thesis: “If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the Truth and the Truth will make you free.” *The Foundation of Freedom in Truth According to Saint Thomas Aquinas.*



**Matthew John DUBROY, USA**  
After getting married this summer, Matt is continuing his studies in the Licentiate in Sacred Theology

program at the John Paul II Institute in Washington, DC. Thesis: *Biblical Exegetes, Become What You Are. Reading Scripture as the Work of Theology: Dei Verbum and Saint Thomas Aquinas.*



# The Graduates of 2009



**Simone Christina Natascha EBNER**  
*Austria*

Simone got married to the “best man in the world” this summer. She and her husband

Scott will continue to be part of the ITI community in Trumau where Scott is studying for his Licentiate. It is still in God’s hands what Simone will do, but above all she wants to be a good wife and use the talents God has given her. Thesis: *Creative Catechisis: The Teaching on Creation in the Fiction of C.S.Lewis.*



**Katharina Michaela FISCHER**, *Austria*

Katharina wants to serve God and the Church in whatever way God wills. Her great desire is to

pursue religious consecration. Thesis: *Towards an Integral Vision of Continence for the Sake of the Kingdom. A Consideration of Continence for the Kingdom as a Truly Human and Humanly Fulfilling Life in the Light of John Paul II’s Spousal Anthropology.*



**Katherine Marie GARDNER**, *USA*

Katherine began her Doctoral work in Theology at Ave Maria University this fall.

Thesis: *The Yardstick of Truth: Christianity and the Crisis of Public Morality in the Writings of Pope Benedict XVI.*



**Kathleen Marie HOLCOMB**, *USA*

Kathleen plans to teach at one of the Catholic schools in her diocese.

Thesis: *Realizing the Full Assurance of Hope: Divine Justice and Mercy as Seen in the Mystery of Predestination.*



**Michael Scott LEE**  
*USA*

Mike is continuing his studies at the ITI in the STL program. Thesis: *Exegesis of John 3:31-36: The Importance of*

*Obedience in the Gospel of Saint John.*



**Juraj MIŠTINA**, *Slovakia*

He is offering his services to the new archbishop that was installed in his diocese. After taking this year off and

working, he is thinking of continuing his theological studies with the ITI in Trumau and studying for his Sacred Theology Licentiate

Thesis: *The Concept of Wisdom in the Sapiential Books.*



**Ihor PELYKH (Br. Irynej)**, *Ukraine*

Br. Irynej is going to stay in Ukraine for one year doing pastoral work for his order, the Basilians. During this year, he

expects to be ordained as a priest. Afterwards, he hopes to continue his studies in Rome.

Thesis: *The Priesthood in the Texts of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky.*



**Bogdan VYKSYUK (Br. Athanasius)**  
*Ukraine*

Br. Athanasius will be ordained in his order –the Basilians - and will have one pastoral year.

After this year he will continue his studies in Rome.

Thesis: *The Development and Meaning of the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.*

## Sacred Theology Licentiate- STL



**Vidya CHALISSERY**  
*India*

This year, Vidya will be taking a break from her studies. She is expecting her second baby. After a year

she hopes to join the ITI again for her doctoral studies

Thesis: *Conjugal Relationship of the Spouses: A Way to Sanctification According to John Paul II.*



**Grzegorz IGNATIK**  
*Poland*

Grzegorz is continuing his education at the John Paul II Institute in Washington, DC, in their Ph.D. program.

Thesis: *The Law of the Gift Inscribed in the Person and Realized in the Human Act: An Anthropological Perspective Based on the Doctrine of Karol Cardinal Wojtyła.*



**Cristina Anisoara SECHELEA**, *Romania*

Cristina and her husband Calin, have been appointed by their bishop to head

a new center in Romania called, “Love and Truth.” It is a center for education and charity.

Thesis: *The Transcendental Value of Human Life and Love.*

## Sacred Theology Doctor - STD



**Rev. Thomáš LABANIČ**, *Slovakia*

Fr. Thomáš is working for his bishop in the diocese of Kosice, Slovakia.

Dissertation: *Theology of the Sacred Space of the Byzantine Church in Gaming.*







*Commencement Speech by 2009 Class Speaker, Katherine Marie Gardner*

# Personal Involvement with Truth

asked *who* He is by the terrified Moses, barefoot before His inescapably personal presence? “I AM.” What we can take away from this word, or from Thomas’ account for that matter, is not so much a metaphysical concept as a deep and perhaps unsettling sense of His Otherness. For we are dealing with negations – we are having our finite categories and false conceptions snatched out of our hands until we can only relate Him to all we have ever known as more *unlike* than like.

This awareness of the absolute transcendence of God can startle us at times. One of my classmates told me one evening that it suddenly struck her as never before how hard it is to hold together these awesome truths about God with the cherished and familiar images of the Beloved Who is so near; Who is our dearest friend. This is not an elementary question, but the product of long and serious study in a person with a deep spiritual life – and I think this is a very good sign. I think it means that we are going about theology in the right way at the ITI. Because in trying to learn to answer the question, ‘What is God,’ the question ‘Who is God’ has become more real.

But the ‘Who’ cannot be answered by study as such, as Thomas knew. Knowing ‘who’ someone is requires friendship. The question for us is no longer, ‘Who is God,’ but ‘Who are YOU?’ Our hearts reach out to the one we study as present with us, as face to face with us. We want to know Him, and I think we do not reach that kind of wanting until we have been made aware of His Otherness. He cannot be com-

prehended – He must be touched. It is He Himself Who must answer our question in our deepest hearts, in the silence where He dwells.

It would be impossible to over-emphasize the importance of this disposition for a theologian. I’m supposed to begin doctoral studies at Ave Maria University in the Fall. (I don’t want to waste time talking about personal fears for the future, but I think perhaps they are common to many of us who will go on to study and to teach, so I hope it won’t be out of place.) I have to say that at some moments I have been really petrified. I rather imagined myself at some welcoming evening, walking into a room full of scholars holding wine glasses and talking about authors I had never read. This still seems very probable to me... especially the wine glasses. Luckily I think I can manage to fit in on that point. But the uncomfortable part



*ITI Graduate, Vidya Chalissery, and her family from India.*

comes when they start asking me politely what *I* will be doing. They’ll get some vague and timid reply and will immediately begin voicing complicated critiques I do not understand and judgments I cannot begin to weigh for myself. With this alarming picture in my head, I thought, what right do I have to enter this field? Do I really think I will ever know enough of what’s been said by all

**M**sgr. Hogan, Dr. Dolna, beloved Professors and families, fellow students, and my dear fellow graduates...

Someone reminded me recently that St. Thomas reportedly irritated his masters and exposed himself to snickering by demanding to know repeatedly during lectures, “What is God?” It’s an interesting question for several reasons. Why ‘what’ rather than ‘who’? Perhaps because it is the work of the intellect to grasp the essence, to say something about the being of a thing. And sure enough, after years of reading Thomas, we have

asked many times what God is, and have at least come to this – that God is not *a* being at all, but Being itself. He is Being not in some vague pantheistic way, but in a radically personal way. Isn’t it striking that God Himself gives the same answer when

The reason that theology is done in the right way at the ITI is the personal obedience, surrender, and loyalty to the living Truth among our faculty, priests, and families.



these people to have anything *original* to add of my own?

But I realized suddenly that ‘adding something original’ is not the mission of a servant of Truth. We are not to invent what we pass on, but to become chalices, with minds pure enough to receive Truth Himself and pour Him out to others. What is required for this, but that we seek to know deeply the wonderfully free and uncircumscribed God, and let Him show Himself to us?

This personal involvement with Truth is precisely the source of our originality, of our ability to contribute something worthwhile. I don’t want to look down on new contributions, for our Faith has taken much unfolding, and there is much left to be distilled by faithful theologians. But the way to go about penetrating the mystery more deeply is not first of all to read everything that has been said about the topic in the last 50 years. This is a useful and necessary exercise, but it can never be the *source* of good theology.

Imagine that you wanted to learn something about, say, Pope Benedict XVI. Now, you can read a certain number of books and interviews that are available. After that, there’s very little you can learn from someone else who’s just read the same books and things. Anything they add will come from their own imagining, and will most probably be false.

But what if you had the chance to speak with the Pope’s mother, or his best friend, or his philosophy professor at university? Each one, though knowing one and the same

person, would have something precious and unique to tell you about him – something the others could not tell you. Their relationships with him are what make their words about him worth hearing. The power and appeal of those words is that they spring from intimacy. These are the people who know ‘who’ and not only ‘what’ the Holy Father is. They can see his various qualities not as a collection of facts, but in their natural integrity, and can speak about him with a deep penetration.

So should it be with us, who are to speak to others of the Beloved.

I said that we have to be chalices of Truth, and that our work is to achieve the purity of mind to deliver what is

given to us unspoiled to those who ask it of us. Purity of mind in knowing and speaking Truth is achieved by purity of heart – because purity of heart, charity, is nothing other than friendship, intimacy with God. I want to read to you a part of a speech given to a group of Dominican novices on the day of their reception of the habit by a wise, older Sister. I have read it so

many times I know it almost by heart, and yet I can’t seem to read it enough. It reads, in part:

*“St Thomas says that when man’s purified reason understands a divine truth, it is only after an opening of the heart, a victory of the heart over heaviness. ... Make it your goal to*



*The Graduating Class of 2009 with ITI Professors and the Abbot of Heiligenkreuz*

*strive toward Purity of Heart. Purity of Heart lies in having a heart free from all attachments, even those regarded as innocent, since they too give a share to creatures in a heart which is made for God alone. Purity of heart is a “sweet repose of the heart and mind in God. It is recollection in God. It is a taste for God; unattainable until it is purified of attachments to material goods, worldly pleasures, honor, esteem, reputation, and any object which keeps us agitated in our search for God.” How far we are from it. But it is attainable*

*– in this life. You have heard the saying of Kierkegaard, “Purity of heart is to will one thing.” Purity of heart is to will one thing.”*

I would propose these words as her challenge to us as students and teachers of theology – Remember that one thing is needful.

I found another quote, this one from Fr. John Saward, in my journal, though I did not note where it came from. He writes about saintly theologians in the Church: *“They spoke with authority of the God whom they loved above all else.”*

The reason that theology is done in the right way at the ITI is the personal obedience, surrender, and loyalty to the living Truth among our faculty, priests, and families. That obedience

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In trying to learn to answer the question, ‘What is God,’ the question ‘Who is God’ has become more real.



*The boys choir, under the leadership of ITI student Br. Basil Nixen, sang for the Mass during the 2009 Commencement*





## Personal Involvement with Truth continued from page 7

Speech by 2009 Class Speaker, Katherine Marie Gardner



Mike Lee, Idaho, USA, receives his Sacred Theology Masters diploma from Abbot Gregor Henckel Donnermark.

means first of all the whole order of their lives, and secondly, the sacrifices that are made to support, in addition to family or religious life, the serious work of teaching. Married students come here even with small children to care for, and they

To the generous benefactors of the school, to all who work in hidden ways to make the unique life of the ITI possible, and to our parents and families who supported us individually for the same end, likewise, our heartfelt affection and thanks.

are able to leave them in the common room during classes with no shortage of willing babysitters or even to take them to class, where professors

graciously permit their irresistible cuteness to compete for students' attention. As to professors, P. Denis seems to actually have raised the art of multi-tasking to veritable tri-location! And Dr. Newton's habit of studying with a baby strapped happily to his back is as inspiring a thing as the sound of the gravel crunching at 5 a.m. when he arrives for his holy hour. Our faculty *prays*. Those of you who are the slightest bit familiar with the level of faith in theological faculties in the larger universities, let the weight of these words sink in: our faculty prays; and they fight for their prayer-time, knowing that we are nothing if we are not with Him, living in His presence. Many of our professors in particular have shown through

their teaching that they live in genuine intimacy with the Truth, and it is thus that they are able to speak about God with such faithfulness and penetration. For your witness and for your service, thank you with all our hearts.

To the generous benefactors of the school, to all who work in hidden ways to make the unique life of the ITI possible, and

to our parents and families who supported us individually for the same end, likewise, our heartfelt affection and thanks.

I suppose that it may from time to time have been disheartening for those of you, faculty and otherwise, who in recent years saw the ITI struggle so much in finding the *right* mode of growth, and the resources it needs to develop. I think all of the students are aware that in the midst of these difficulties there have been generous personal sacrifices made by many of you to keep the Institute alive, and perhaps there have also been some disappointments. One doesn't need to know the ins and outs of such trials to know that they can be discouraging.

What I would like to say is that I hope neither you nor any of those who have put their faith and efforts into the ITI are discouraged in fact, because, from the humble perspective of a student who has only been part of this unique family for a few years, there is no reason to be so. The question of success, of course, lies not finally with the structure, the organization, the foreseeable longevity, the monetary security, or the general approval of the Institute, or even with the praise and satisfaction of those responsible for it, but within the hearts and minds of the students. And if my friend, with whose question I began, is not the exception, and it does not seem to me that she is, I think that no one who has contributed to the Institute should be discouraged. Rather on the contrary, they should be confident that it is the Lord Who is working.

So finally to you, my fellow students and especially my fellow graduates, who shared your friendship with me (with all that implies for Christians), my profound gratitude. May you carry your Treasure abroad with you, and remain in His presence always. Thank you ✂



Cristina Sechelea, Romania, mother of four, proudly holds her Sacred Theology Licentiate diploma.



## Don't Just Learn Theology – Live it! Come Study With Us

By the authority of the Holy See, the ITI grants Canonical Masters, Licentiate and Doctoral degrees in Sacred Theology that are also recognized by the Austrian State.

If you are interested in learning more about our curriculum, or can recommend someone, please contact us at [admissions@iti.ac.at](mailto:admissions@iti.ac.at) or visit our website at [www.iti.ac.at](http://www.iti.ac.at)





## Academic Year begins in Our New Location continued from page 1

and live according to it" the Cardinal underlined that with this phrase, Jesus has said all that a theological faculty should be doing. What better description for theologians than to be called the "Listeners of God's Word"? The Fathers and Doctors of the Church, who are the basis of the ITI curriculum, were all primarily such "listeners"!

And since God speaks to us through nature as well as through His Word, scientists need the help of theologians in order to correctly understand and interpret the works of Creation. "We have to read the Book of Creation with the help of reason, given to us by God, to help us decode its language." Thus the "cooperation between theology and science is essential," the Cardinal underlined.

The formation of conscience is an essential component of what the ITI does and, as the Cardinal put it in his sermon, "the conscience is the sanctuary where God speaks to me in person only." The sermon came to a conclusion with our Grand Chancellor expressing his great joy when he sees the many families who are involved with the ITI, and their many children who are the best sign of a thriving institute. "The Word of God flourishes in families where the Faith is passed on; families who practice their Faith are the oases of our society."

Guided by the joyful ringing of the bell tower, all flocked from the parish Church to the Schloss to continue the celebrations in its beautiful inner courtyard. Here, Abbot Gregor

Henckel Donnersmarck, the Abbot of the nearby Cistercian monastery of Heiligenkreuz, spoke of his joy in seeing the medieval buildings, which were entrusted to the care of the Abbot of Heiligenkreuz in the Middle Ages, become a center for the study of theology. ITI President, Msgr. Prof. Dr. Larry Hogan, thanked the Abbot for making it possible for the Institute to move to Trumau.

The key-note speaker of the day, the Dean of the Catholic Theological Faculty of the University of Vienna, Univ. Prof. Dr. Martin Jäggle, gave a talk entitled, "What is Good Theology?" Dr. Jäggle cited Pope John XXIII who compared the Church with an old fountain in the village, which always flows with good, fresh water. He said that the task

*continued on page 11*



Photo Captions Top Row: (Left) Children play in the ITI Courtyard, (Middle) ITI students in front of their new home, (Right) Jude Edeh, ITI student from Nigeria. Middle Row: (Left) Architect Dipl. Ing Peter Mensdorff, who renovated the Schloss, enjoys the celebration. (Right) Priests came from all over Austria to help celebrate the Convocation. Bottom Row: (Left) Dr. Wolfgang Kropf and his family enjoy the festivities. (Right) The Abbot of Heiligenkreuz, Cardinal Schönborn, Grand Chancellor of the ITI and Msgr. Hogan, President, listen to the talks.

# Aristotle and the Family

Interview with ITI alumnus Eugene J. Wallace



The Wallace Family Children

1) How were you introduced to the ITI and what made you decide to study here?

I was introduced to the ITI through my work with Franciscan University of Steubenville in 1996. As the Associate Director

Family Business Advisors, my company, came to be around a client's kitchen table. As we discussed a certain family business... I realized that they were stuck, and had been blocked...for about a decade.

of Student Life and the Director of Student Life at the Gaming, Austria campus, it was an amazing blessing to watch the ITI become a reality, as we shared the same campus in Austria. I was part of the team that interviewed Dr. Michael Waldstein, the founding president. Michael's ideas and insights about the foundational principles and pedagogical direction of the Institute were masterful. After serving in the Student Life field for sixteen years, I had begun looking for the next step in my own growth and education. Throughout the interview of Michael, I began to realize the Institute that was coming to be was exactly what I had been yearning for for many years: *sicut cervus ad fontes* (Psalm 42). Be careful what you pray for, God may just give it to you. Through a series of very fortunate, though interesting events, I was able to study full

time at the ITI while raising five children with my wife Angela. This time of study was exactly what I had been looking for and what I critically needed.

2) How was your experience at the ITI - personally and intellectually - and of the professors and other students?

I found in the ITI professors and students, vital compatriots in the thirst and pursuit of knowledge and truth. With Sacred Scripture as the cornerstone, the philosophical and theological works we read and discussed in Socratic forum were essential, primary sources for a solid intellectual and transformational understanding of theology. Drawing upon the traditions of both the East and the West, studying with students from the East and the West was a profound and life-changing experience. In the classroom and on trips to Eastern Europe, coming to a deeper understanding and appreciation for how the Catholic Faith is lived out through the theology and traditions of Eastern thought was a powerful reminder of the richness and breadth of the Church. Spending time 'getting to the truth of the matter' was abundantly more effective when ordered around the central mysteries of the Faith and guided by professors who actively/humbly participated in accessing the masters. The rigorous and wide-ranging discussions (sometimes debates) always broke open a deeper understanding of theology: we worked to access and unpack the essence of theology together. Whether sipping brandy and listening to Wagner with Professors Michael Waldstein, Jay Thompson and others, or sharing

lunch in the cafeteria with fellow students, the discussions were eye-opening.

3) What are you doing now and how do you use what you learned at the ITI?

Candidly, the time I was privileged to spend with the ITI students and professors provided me with the foundation, principles and inspiration that I use every day to help business owners and family businesses get to the truth of the matter in growing their companies.

Family Business Advisers, my company, came to be around a client's kitchen table. As we discussed a certain family business, and how to pass it from a father to two sons (succession planning), I realized that they were stuck, and had been blocked from moving the succession of the business forward from one generation of owner/leadership to the next for about a decade. As we talked, I wondered about the 'cause' of the blockage. In asking questions and listening to them, it became clear that the 'causes' of the 'block' were related to the dad's frustration with an action of son number two, twelve years prior to our current conversation. Son number two had painted the machines on the manufacturing floor a different color than dad had asked him to paint them. Rather than playing the he-said/he-said scenario, or getting bogged down in who did what with what, I asked them about the purpose of their family business: the final end of the business, that for the sake of which it came to be. We crafted a vision-centered, purpose-driven path forward starting with the end in mind. In





# Business

taking this approach, in focusing on the final cause of the business, we were able to get ‘unstuck’ and move the succession planning and implementation forward immediately. It was a rewarding use of Aristotle’s causes.

Helping business owners and leaders gain the clarity of focus and direction they need to take their companies to the next level of success is very rewarding. Working with them to lay out a reasonable and sound plan for strategically growing their business, founded upon what I received from the ITI, is profoundly enjoyable.

#### 4) What do you wish for the future of the ITI?

The ITI is uniquely positioned, geographically, intellectually, spiritually and theologically to impact marriage and family in

a special way, and through this the broader culture, throughout Europe and around the globe. Reawakening and guiding students to the principles upon

*When Eugene Wallace came to study at the ITI in the MTS program in 1996, he was already the father of five children. As founder and President of Family Business Advisers and president of Excell Oregon, Eugene has integrated his experience as a husband, father, successful business owner, and academic to forge a highly effective consulting practice that powerfully assists business owners, executives and professionals to pursue excellence. Eugene has invested over 15 years of his life in the field of education, serving as a faculty member, administrator, and coach. He has earned three Masters Degrees focusing on Counseling, Human Development, and Philosophical and Theological Studies. God found a way to put his degrees and talents to good use in the business arena.*

and through which creation was founded (Proverbs 8:22 and following)

is essential to calling all the world to remember

the source from which it has come. The ITI offered me a theological formation that enables me to reason well and impact the culture through my work with business leaders and family businesses. It is my hope that the ITI draws an increasing number of leaders/students who are thirsty for truth and hungry to use what they gain through the ITI to contribute to the new evangelization. ✂



*Eugene J. Wallace and his wife, Angela*

## Academic Year Begins in New Location continued from page 9

of theology is to secure the sources and make this living water available to the modern man. This is no easy task, but as a help, Dr. Jäggle suggested we could remember the tactics of Father Brown, a storybook character who solved mysteries and who was created by G. K. Chesterton. In one story, Father Brown unmasked a thief who was posing as a priest. The thief asked him how he knew of the deception. Father Brown replied that the thief had attacked reason, which no priest should do, as it is bad theology.

Both ITI Grand Chancellor Cardinal Schönborn and President Msgr. Hogan summarized well what the future will bring for the ITI: Msgr. Hogan underlined that with the move to Trumau, “the ITI sets a clear signal that it is actively present in Church and society.” The Cardinal emphasized the call of the ITI “to participate in the great questions of our time and to engage with Austrian society.” He concluded with expressing his desire that the ITI should now take the next step in its development and start a “Studium Generale” program, which

would prepare young men and women for university studies and provide them with a solid foundation in the Catholic Faith.

The new location will allow the ITI to increase its student capacity to at least 120. There is still more renovation work to be done to continue to provide for the expansion and growth of the campus. When funds are raised, the ITI plans to renovate a lecture and event hall, a cafeteria, build a Byzantine Church, and renovate another building, the Hofrichterhaus, in order to accommodate more classrooms and offices.

*continued on page 12*





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## Academic Year Begins continued from page 11

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Many thanks are due to those who helped prepare the Schloss so that classes could begin smoothly on October 5th. Architect Dipl. Ing Peter Mensdorff renovated the Schloss with careful attention to the preservation of the historic site. The mayor of Trumau, Mayor Otto Pendl, provided housing for students, staff and professors during this first year until the ITI student housing is built. There were also many students and members of the administration



*ITI Grand Chancellor, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, and ITI students gathered in front of the Schloss, which houses the classrooms, library and administration at the new campus in Trumau.*

who spent their time over the summer to prepare the Schloss to become a fitting space in which to study, work and pray. Last but not least, many special thanks are due to all of those who donated money, time, talents and prayers in order to make this move a success.

Now that we are settled in our own place, we are going forward with joy and hope for the future! ✂



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