



**The eyes of the child
continue to surprise us
with their sparkle of
truth and hope...**

It is especially during the first years of a child's life that an individual's psychological health, sound character, happiness and creativity are determined. This unique interdisciplinary conference addresses the vital issue of how society can provide the best psychological and spiritual environment for the formation of a strong and harmonious personality. Internationally recognized experts will analyze childhood from the psychological, philosophical and pedagogical perspectives, offering attendees a challenging opportunity to learn from each other.



About the Conference Organizer

The **International Theological Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family (ITI)** is a Papal Institute committed to teaching theology at the heart of the Church. Founded in 1996 at the initiative of Pope John Paul II, it has a specific commitment to the theological study of marriage and the family. The ITI exists to help the Church in promoting an authentic vision of marriage and the family in today's world.

Students and faculty from over 20 different countries have come to the beautiful 14th century campus of the ITI in Austria. They were all attracted by the compelling mission of the school to "study theology on one's knees".

The Aims of the ITI are Threefold

- To provide studies in Theology with specialization in marriage and the family;
- To form by such studies those who are preparing themselves for tasks in the various areas of the Church's life, especially in the area of marriage and the family;
- To organize seminars, symposia and conferences as an aid to the local Churches and to the Holy See in promoting an authentic vision of marriage and family life.

ITI, Kartause Maria Thron, A-3292 Gaming, Austria

www.iti.ac.at



**International Theological
Institute for Studies on
Marriage and the Family**

*invites you to the
interdisciplinary conference*

Childhood
Vital Foundations of Personality

**Friday, 31.3.2006 –
Sunday, 2.4.2006**

**Haus am Sonntagberg
A-3332 Sonntagberg, Austria**

Featuring

Hanna-Barbara Gerl-Falkowitz
TU Dresden

Phil Mango
John Paul II Institute, Washington D.C.

Clemens Sedmak
King's College, London

Paul C. Vitz
New York University

Presented with the cooperation and support of:



Program Schedule

Friday, 31.3.2006

- 18.00 Welcome reception
18.30 Welcome address (Bishop Karl Josef Romer, Vatican)
18.50 Key-note opening address (Dr. Clemens Sedmak, King's College, London)
20.00 Dinner
21.30 Cultural and literary program hosted by Vienna Burgtheater actress Gabriele Schuchter

Saturday, 1.4.2006

- 09.00 "Childhood in Modern Catholic Thinking" (Dr. Bernhard Dolna)
9.45 Discussion
10.15 Coffee Break
10.45 "Crisis of Fatherhood" (Paul C. Vitz, PhD)
11.30 Discussion
12.00 Lunch break
14.00 "The Impact of Childhood Experiences on a Person's Sexuality" (Phil Mango, PhD)
15.00 Discussion
15.30 Snacks and coffee
16-17:30 Interactive workshops. Choose one of the following:
"The Child as Your Teacher: The Formative Potential of Child Rearing for the Parent's Personality" (Dr. Gintautas Vaitoska, in English)
"Good Shepherd Catechesis: Catechesis for Young Children in the Maria Montessori tradition" (Ruth Thompson, MA, in English)
"Psychological Health as Rooted in Childhood."/"Die Kindheit als Basis seelischer Gesundheit." (Mag. Maria Rauch, in German)
18.30 Dinner
20.30 Film viewing and discussion

Sunday, 2.4.2006

- 10:00 Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Klaus Küng, Basilica Sonntagberg
11:30 Concluding lecture: "Childhood in Post-modern Society" (Dr. Hanna-Barbara Gerl-Falkovitz, TU Dresden)

Conference Speakers



Bishop Karl Josef Romer

His Excellency is the Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family.



Clemens Sedmak

Dr. Sedmak is a professor at King's College, London, and a visiting professor in Salzburg, Ghana, the Philippines and the USA. He holds doctoral degrees in philosophy, theology and social sciences.



Paul C. Vitz

Dr. Vitz is Professor of Psychology at New York University and the Institute of Psychological Sciences in Arlington, Virginia.



Phil Mango

Dr. Mango is a Professor of Psychology at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family in Washington, DC, and Director of St. Michael's Psychotherapy Clinic in New York.



Bernhard Dolna

Dr. Dolna is a Professor of Philosophy at the International Theological Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family (ITI) in Gaming, Austria.



Hanna-Barbara Gerl-Falkovitz

Dr. Gerl-Falkovitz is Professor of Religion Studies at TU Dresden. Her vast fields of academic work include theory of culture and religion, politics and women's issues.

Workshop Leaders



Gintautas Vaitoska

Dr. Vaitoska is a psychiatrist and a theologian; he teaches at the ITI in Austria and also works for the Family Center in Lithuania.



Maria Rauch

Mag. Rauch is a clinical psychologist and health psychologist with a private practice in Vienna. She is also the mother of four children.



Ruth Thompson

Mrs. Thompson holds a master's degree in theology and is an experienced teacher of the Good Shepherd Catechesis. Her pedagogical experience is also very practical since she is the mother of six children.

Who should attend?

All those involved with the formation of children – especially teachers and those committed to family ministry – are encouraged to attend this conference.

Certificates of participation are available upon request.

The conference is in English and German with simultaneous translation.

Registration and Costs

Seminar fee and full board: 100 Euro (single room)/85 Euro (double room)

Student rate available upon request.
Further Information +43 7485/97570

Please register by March 15: administration@iti.ac.at
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