

# CHRIST MY FUTURE

## ITI Summer Program 2010

### Curriculum

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#### FRIENDSHIP, CHARITY, AND CHRISTIAN CULTURE—A BEAUTIFUL FUTURE

Friendship, which Aristotle holds as necessary for the happy life, is the flower of society—laws and justice are aimed at providing the conditions for friendship to blossom. The purpose of this seminar is to investigate the combination of classical philosophy on friendship (Plato, Aristotle, Cicero) and Christian *caritas* (Gospel of St. John, St. Augustine). The first section of the Holy Father's encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, is a source of inspiration for this theme. Based upon the thought of these great masters, we hope to deepen our understanding of the nature of friendship and friendly relations from the perspective of philosophy and literature, and to rediscover the role of Christian self-confidence (humility in the true sense) in order to encounter others in a fair and rich way. This applies to many levels of human interaction, from close friendships to establishing friendly relationships with other cultures and religions.

#### JUSTICE AND ITS LIMITS—A FUTURE BEYOND JUSTICE

In the history of thought, much time and many texts are devoted to the theme of justice. Indeed, in a world battling injustice on so many fronts, the necessity of justice appears ever more urgent. But if justice alone were to reign, what sort of a world would that be? Would it be enough? Would man flourish and thrive, or would he be crushed under the weight of justice? Taking as our guide classical texts on justice from Plato and Aristotle, to Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, we will explore justice, its role in society, its limits, and what is necessary beyond justice for a fully human life and a fully human future.

#### THE MESSAGE OF DIVINE MERCY—THE PAST CENTURY AND THE FUTURE

John Paul II wrote in *Dives in Misericordia* that “mercy becomes an indispensable element for shaping mutual relationships between people in a spirit of deepest respect for what is human and in a spirit of brotherhood.” A unique perspective on the truth of mercy can be gained from St. Faustina's message of Divine Mercy, a message only fully understood within the biblical conception of divine mercy as well as the historical context of the disasters of the twentieth century. A careful consideration of the biblical background will provide an opportunity to grasp some basic concepts of biblical Hebrew and Greek, while the historical inquiry will prepare us to see more clearly the way into a future rooted in divine mercy.

#### THE GIFT OF THE CATECHISM—SECURING OUR FUTURE

Before ascending to the throne of Peter, Cardinal Ratzinger made the comment that the *Catechism* was one of the best fruits of the Second Vatican Council. With depth and insight, this rich, multi-layered document presents the Catholic faith in all of its splendor and power. In this seminar, we will take a tour of those texts pertinent to justice, mercy, and charity, a tour led by one who helped in the writing and preparation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for publication. Bringing the profundity of this great text to bear on the themes that will arise in the course of our other seminars, we will deepen our understanding and secure our future in Christ.