

The Catholic Intellectual Tradition:

Faith and Politics

Last fall, we explored the Catholic intellectual tradition in general terms. From this foundation, we will examine specific topics through the lens of the Catholic intellectual tradition. These conversations are meant to help educate faculty and staff about the tradition, demonstrate how a specific topic relates to the tradition, and model how to raise these topics for discussion in the classroom. We continue with the topic of Faith and Politics.

Bridget Burke Ravizza



Paul Wadell

Faith and Politics. For many people they are worlds apart and ought to stay that way. But the Catholic intellectual tradition has steadfastly maintained that a community's faith convictions are relevant to every area of life, including the political realm. Otherwise, one's faith becomes privatized and is seen to matter for one's personal life, but not for the life of society. Nonetheless, as recent national elections have made clear, how faith relates to politics is not always easily discerned, even among members of the same ecclesial community. What is the relation between church authority and one's conscience on these matters? How should church leaders try to influence their members? What should be done when individuals dissent from particular moral teachings? In our presentation we will examine these questions and explore the relationship between faith and politics by attending to recent Catholic teachings on the issue, and by offering some suggestions on how faith communities might best deal with divergent viewpoints among their members.

**The Division of Mission & Heritage and the Office of Faculty Development
cordially invite faculty and staff to join us for one of two discussions
(the same presentation will be offered twice)
to take place in the Union Shield Room:**

Monday, September 15, 2008

3:00 p.m. ~ 4:15 p.m.

refreshments provided

RSVP to Julie Friedman,

julie.friedman@snc.edu or ext. 3049

by September 9

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

1:45 p.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.

NOTE: Different date and time from what is listed in the Faculty Development Calendar

refreshments provided

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by September 11