



The Emmaus Road Initiative

A Project of the Cornerstone Forum

Monthly presentations for Religious Educators,
Pastors, Parents, and anyone interested in
spreading the faith and bringing it to maturity.

Inspiring a Wholehearted Faith in a Half-hearted Age

Pope Benedict XVI has observed that today “theology and anthropology converge as two strains in a conversation.” In an effort to encourage that conversation and make it more fruitful, the Cornerstone Forum brings together René Girard’s anthropological insights into the uniqueness and universality of Christianity and the rich theological orthodoxy which Benedict XVI both espouses and exemplifies.

The result is an account of Christianity that is explicitly Christological, thoroughly traditional, and refreshingly original – something capable of rekindling the faith of Christians and reminding others of the cultural indispensability of Western civilization’s religious patrimony.

The Themes for the Fall, Winter, and Spring of 2007-2008

“ADAM, WHERE ARE YOU?”

- The Looming Crisis – Its Peril and Its Promise
- Why are we here? – Creation and Fall
- What is happening in history? – History and Hope

“I WILL PLACE MY LAW WITHIN THEM, AND WRITE IT UPON THEIR HEARTS.”

- Why did it take the Incarnation to save us?
- Why did it take the Crucifixion to save us?
- Why did it take the Resurrection to save us?

“I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.”

- From a Psychological to a Sacramental Understanding of Who We Are
- “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

The monthly presentations and follow-up discussions are led by Gil Bailie, author, lecturer, founder and president of the Cornerstone Forum.

The presentations are free and open to the public. Donations in support of our work are gratefully accepted.

For more information, contact:

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THE CORNERSTONE FORUM MISSION

Keeping Faith & Breaking Ground

Emphasizing the anthropological uniqueness of the biblical tradition and the unparalleled historical significance of the Christian Gospel, the Cornerstone Forum is a non-profit organization working to foster a theologically sound and culturally useful Christian response to today’s cultural and spiritual crisis.

Our Theological Home & Ecumenical Commitment

It has been our privilege over the years to work with people of other faiths and with fellow Christians from many different denominational and theological traditions, each committed to its own moral and social priorities and ecclesial vision. Collaboration of this kind has been an important source of inspiration for us, and we welcome the opportunity to work with those who are engaged, as we are, in what can broadly be termed the “re-evangelization” of Western culture. What we bring to this collaboration, however – the source of our hope, the bedrock of our faith, and the touchstone of our apostolate – is the theological richness, anthropological depth, and moral realism of the Roman Catholic tradition. The British historian Christopher Dawson, writing in 1938, aptly expressed the enduring role of this tradition, not only for Catholics, but for anyone who is both grateful for the moral, material and political achievements of Western culture and concerned about the perils that beset it today.

If Christianity is necessary to Europe, the Catholic Church is no less necessary to Christianity, for without it the latter would become no more than a mass of divergent opinions dissolving under the pressure of rationalist criticism and secularist culture. It was by virtue of the Catholic ideal of spiritual unity that the social unity of European culture emerged from the welter of barbarism, and the modern world stands no less in need of such an ideal if it is to realize in the future the wider unity of a world civilization.

Many of Christianity’s enemies and most of its friends – whatever their creedal affiliation – have today begun to recognize the point Dawson was making. To appreciate the role “the Catholic ideal of spiritual unity” has played and continues to play in Western cultural life – fully aware of how inadequately this ideal has sometimes been expressed – is to be more, not less, committed to ecumenical cooperation with non-Catholic fellow Christians and to meaningful interreligious dialogue with non-Christians and non-believers. We welcome, as we always have, the opportunity to collaborate with others in bringing Christianity’s theological, cultural and moral resources to bear on the cultural confusions of our time.

As we work to explore both cultural and theological matters as creatively as we can, we will always be seeking to clarify, never to challenge, the deposit of faith preserved through the centuries in the teachings of the Church. The work of René Girard, on which we continue to draw heavily, is especially suited to the task as we see it of bringing the truths of Christian faith to bear on the great questions of our day, and to show those who have been taught to dismiss these truths how supremely pertinent to our present predicament they are.