



Dear Member of N.A.C.T.S.,

I am writing you today about a conference that will be held at Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado from May 16 to May 18, 2017. The conference is titled:

“Framing a Catholic Response to Gender Ideology”

Consider the following statements of our Holy Father, Pope Francis:

“We are experiencing a moment of the annihilation of man as the image of God. I would like to conclude with this aspect, since behind all this there are ideologies. In Europe, America, Latin America, Africa, and in some countries of Asia, there are genuine forms of ideological colonization taking place. And one of these - I will call it clearly by its name - is [the ideology of] “gender”. Today children - children! - are taught in school that everyone can choose his or her sex. Why are they teaching this? Because the books are provided by the persons and institutions that give you money. These forms of ideological colonization are also supported by influential countries. And this terrible!”

--Meeting with the Polish Bishops , Cathedral of Kraków Wednesday, 27 July 2016

Yet another challenge is posed by the various forms of an ideology of gender that “denies the difference and reciprocity in nature of a man and a woman and envisages a society without sexual differences, thereby eliminating the anthropological basis of the family. This ideology leads to educational programmes and legislative enactments that promote a personal identity and emotional intimacy radically separated from the biological difference between male and female.

--Amoris Laetitia n. 56 19 March 2016

The purpose of our conference is to equip key leaders to help prepare a proactive, truthful and compassionate response to gender ideology as it arises a variety of diocesan contexts. What will the diocesan response be when Jimmy’s parents call up your Catholic School Principal letting them know that Jimmy is to be called Jenny, wants to use the girls’ restroom and play on the girls’ soccer team this year? Or the pastor who gets the call from parents of a second-grade boy stating he is in fact a transgender girl and wants to wear a dress to First Holy Communion? Or when a lawyer calls the head of Catholic Charities threatening legal action because a homeless man who identifies as a woman was denied entrance to the women’s shelter?

Our conference has been designed to orient diocesan leaders to these issues and discuss ways to approach an authentically Catholic response. The conference will address Gender Ideology from medical, psychological, philosophical, theological, pastoral, and legal perspectives. We have arranged an outstanding group of presenters:

- **Helen Alvaré, JD.** *Professor of Law, George Mason University School of Law*
- **Father Philip Bochanski.** *Executive Director of Courage International*
- **Mary Rice Hasson, JD.** *Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. , Director of the Catholic Women's Forum*
- **Deacon Patrick Lappert, MD.** *Trained and board-certified as a general surgeon and as a plastic and reconstructive surgeon, Dr. Lappert is a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama.*
- **Pia de Solenni, STD.** *Professor of Moral Theology and Associate Dean of the Augustine Institute in Orange County*
- **Suzanne Hollman, PsyD, MSc.** *Associate Professor, Co-Director of the PsyD Program, and Clinical Supervisor at Divine Mercy University, the home of the Institute for Psychological Studies*
- **Margaret Harper McCarthy, PhD** *Assistant Professor of Theological Anthropology at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at The Catholic University of America*
- **Susan Selner-Wright, PhD.** *Archbishop Charles J Chaput Chair of Philosophy at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver.*

I hope you will consider attending the conference. Along with this letter of invitation, the email you received has our conference brochure as well as a detailed summary of our presenters and presentations. All of this information and more can be found at www.sjvdenver.edu/conferences. Please feel free to pass along this invitation to any of your colleagues to whom it may be of interest. The cost of the conference is \$150 which includes six meals (Tuesday dinner thru Thursday Lunch). Should you have any questions or need additional information, you can reach me directly at (605) 261-2941 [cell] or (303) 282-3427 [office] or email father.traynor@archden.org. Thank you for your consideration, and may the Lord bless you in your ministry.

Sincerely Yours in Christ



Father Scott Traynor
Rector