

Marquette University Marquette Lonergan Project

15 August 2011

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Marquette! This letter is intended primarily to bring you up to date on Lonergan-related activities at Marquette University during the past academic year, but once again I hope you don't object if I also remind you that we are attempting to build an endowment that would permit this work to continue far into the future. Response to our endeavors has been heartening, and the University's support for what we are doing is unflinching, with a recent promise of sustained help well into the future.

For the first time, I'm placing this annual letter on the two Marquette Lonergan websites (www.bernardlonergan.com and www.lonerganresource.com), as well as sending it through regular mail to a number of people.

As many of you know, interest in Lonergan's work among graduate students at Marquette has increased substantially over the last five years. Despite the fact that I remain the only professor of Lonergan Studies at Marquette, the atmosphere among graduate students is superb. The students interested in Lonergan have established close ties with students with other specializations, which bodes well for the future in terms of dialogue and community. They have formed their own Lonergan Society at Marquette University, an official student group with its own constitution and privileges. Annually they sponsor "Lonergan on the Edge," a conference intended primarily for graduate students (though Greg Lauzon, who is working with me on a lot of computer-related issues, has presented some very original papers). Students assemble from all over North America. The conference will assemble again September 16-18 of the current year.

In addition, the Marquette Lonergan Project will be sponsoring this year the third in a series of annual colloquia devoted to exploring the theme of "Doing Catholic Systematic Theology in a Multi-religious World." The Colloquium will be held this coming November 2-3, and you are all invited to attend if you are able. The focus in 2009 was on the mission of the Holy Spirit, and in 2010 on the mission of the Son, in a multi-religious world. This year, the focus will be on the mission of the church in the same context. The major papers will be delivered by Susan Wood, Chair of the Theology Department at Marquette and a noted ecumenist and ecclesiologist, John Dadosky from Regis College, Toronto, who is exploring new avenues in ecclesiology, and myself, with the annual Emmett Doerr Lecture, "'As the Father Has Sent Me': The Mission of the Church in a Multi-religious World." Panelists will respond to each lecture, invited from faculty at Marquette and at other schools and from graduate students in theology at Marquette.

This year the Marquette Lonergan Project will launch a second colloquium, one that treats Lonergan, Philosophy, and Theology. The dates for this year's colloquium are March 1-2, 2012. The purpose of the colloquium is to provide a forum for the exploration of Lonergan's distinct philosophical contributions, both in their own right and as related to theology. Three philosophers will present the major papers: Mark Morelli, Loyola Marymount University, on

Lonergan and Hegel; Michael Sharkey, University of Wisconsin – Platteville, on Lonergan and Heidegger; and William Rehg, Saint Louis University, on Lonergan and Habermas. Some of the respondents will be theologians, some philosophers, and will be selected from faculty and graduate students.

All of these events are open to the public, free of charge. Visitors to Milwaukee may want to request accommodations at a special Marquette rate at the Ambassador Hotel, just off campus (2308 West Wisconsin Avenue, toll free: 877-503-2011).

My continuing work on Lonergan's Collected Works goes forward, in collaboration with the Lonergan Research Institute in Toronto. This summer, three volumes in various stages of preparation were submitted to University of Toronto Press. And I try to continue to transcribe a number of the materials from Lonergan's archives, for the website www.bernardlonergan.com. Lonergan's handwriting, as many of you know, presents a challenge, especially when he is writing in Latin! But after nearly 30 years of working with it, I've gained at least some facility in reading it and making his notes available.

The second Marquette Lonergan website, www.lonerganresource.com, devoted to secondary materials, took a big step forward this past year, as the back issues of the journals *Lonergan Workshop* and *METHOD: Journal of Lonergan Studies* were uploaded to the site. We continue to solicit manuscripts (articles, books, dissertations, course notes, etc.) for inclusion on the site. I've uploaded revised versions of most of my articles since 1993 to an e-book entitled *Essays in Systematic Theology*.

As I wrote last year: 'In terms of the endowment, I am hoping to build a fund of at least \$2 million for the Marquette Lonergan Project before I reach the point where I have to retire (which I hope is a long way off). In the ideal order, we would also like to attract funding from foundations and individual or corporate donors to establish chairs of Lonergan Studies in relevant disciplines. In other words, there's no reason aside from funding why Marquette could not become a permanent center of Lonergan Studies in several disciplines, a center enduring far into the future.' If you can contribute to this dream, please send a donation payable to **Marquette University** to the following address:

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Coughlin Hall 100
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Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881 USA.

Donors from the United States will receive official recognition that can be used for tax purposes. Whether you are able to donate or not, I hope you enjoy hearing the news from Marquette. It's a promising and vibrant center of Lonergan Studies.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Doran, S.J.