



Sacred Heart Major Seminary
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News Release

Experts on evangelization, including two American cardinals, will speak at a conference sponsored by Sacred Heart Major Seminary, March 24-26.

Detroit, Michigan, February 8, 2006—Taking a cue from the call of Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XIV for a “new evangelization” of the Church and the culture, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, Michigan, and Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit, will be sponsoring a convocation entitled “**The New Evangelization: Overcoming the Obstacles.**” This three-day conference will be held **March 24-26, 2006**, at the beautifully restored Conference Center at St. John’s, 44011 Five Mile Road, Plymouth, Michigan.

“The New Evangelization: Overcoming the Obstacles” will identify and address the main theological, cultural and spiritual impediments to a successful proclamation of the Christian Gospel in an increasingly secularized culture. Some of the leading U.S. experts on evangelization, including two American cardinals, will be giving presentations.

On Friday, March 24, **Francis Cardinal George**, Archbishop of Chicago, will speak on “The Culture in Which We Evangelize,” while **Avery Cardinal Dulles**, one of the Church’s most esteemed theologians, will discuss “The New Evangelization: Doctrinal Issues.” Other respected scholars and Church leaders will speak on Saturday, March 25: **Dr. Edwin Hernandez**, an expert on Hispanic Catholics, from the University of Notre Dame; historian and widely published author **Dr. Philip Jenkins** from Pennsylvania State University; **Fr. Robert Rivers, CSP**, director of missions for the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association; **Bishop Samuel Jacobs**, chairman of the U.S. Bishops Committee on Evangelization; and Scripture scholar **Fr. Francis Martin**, the chairholder in Sacred Scripture from Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

Respondents to these speakers are equally distinguished. They include evangelist and EWTN program host **Mr. Ralph Martin**, bioethicist **Dr. Janet Smith** and **Bishop Robert Carlson** of the Diocese of Saginaw. Martin and Smith are also professors at

Sacred Heart. Cardinal Maida will be the celebrant and homilist at Sunday morning Mass, March 26.

Clerics, religious, academics, lay leaders, educators, catechists, youth ministers, students—anyone who is interested in the critical work of Catholic evangelization—are welcome to attend. All media outlets are invited to cover the event. There will a **press conference** at 2:00 PM, Friday, March 24, featuring selected presenters and Sacred Heart representatives.

More information on the convocation is available on Sacred Heart's website, **www.shmsonline.org**, including the daily schedule, speaker bios and registration form, or call the New Evangelization Office, **313-883-8792**.

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