

Beggars for Heaven: The Inheritance of Jacques and Raïssa Maritain

MBIT Day Conference – Wednesday 13 March 2024 – CALL FOR PAPERS

A day conference open to scholars, students, lay and religious; to appraise the spiritual and intellectual inheritance of Jacques and Raïssa Maritain.

2023 marked the 50th anniversary of Jacques Maritain's death, yet the life and work of this charismatic French philosopher remains far less known in the UK than elsewhere. A convert from agnosticism, Maritain authored over seventy books, passionately advocating the perennial wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas, and influencing philosophers, theologians, politicians, popes, painters, and poets. As Canadian philosopher William Sweet notes: "He was perhaps the best-known and most admired Catholic philosopher of the mid-twentieth century" and yet many have questions about his life that scarcely seem resolved.

At the present time their voices are a clarion call to truth, realism and wisdom, and their profound witness to the mission of the Catholic Church and its laity stands as an exemplar of lives lived in the pursuit of beauty, goodness, and divine wisdom. A cause for the canonization of both saintly souls began in 2011. The Maritain home was always a place of great hospitality and generosity, and Raïssa's contribution cannot be understated. Very capable as an academic in her own right, Raïssa was a poet and contemplative even as she remained, in the most elevated sense, a muse to her sacramental spouse until her death in 1960. In many ways, Jacques cannot be fully assessed apart from Raïssa.

We intend that this conference will be pervaded by the scholarly, yet friendly and convivial spirit, of the Maritains themselves. Papers are welcome in any area relating specifically to the contributions of Jacques or Raïssa Maritain, or to their unique complementarity. The conference aims to explore the legacy of the Maritains very broadly, emphasising ways in which their work still addresses the cultural, political, and theological spheres, in the academy, and the Church. Keynote speaker, John G Trapani Jr. is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Walsh University, and the author of *Poetry, Beauty and Contemplation: The Complete Aesthetics of Jacques Maritain*, published by Catholic University of America Press. He served as President of the American Maritain Association in 2001, and again from 2006 to 2012.

Please submit proposals or abstracts of up to 500 words to Dr. Christopher Grey by 29/02/24. Final papers should be no more than 25 minutes reading time, allowing for 10 minutes of discussion. Postgraduate student submissions are especially encouraged. We should like to accommodate as many papers as possible. The full schedule will be published subsequently. For questions or further information, contact:

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