

JANUARY EVENT

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY IS PLEASED TO INVITE THE ENTIRE ORANGE COUNTY LEGAL COMMUNITY TO ITS

**ANNUAL MCLE SEMINAR
SATURDAY,
JANUARY 15, 2011**



STMS thanks its sponsoring MCLE provider:
Jones Day

Featuring three sessions:

- **Ethics in the Legal Profession** by Sr. Mary Angela Shaughnessy, SCN, JD, PhD, St. Catharine's College; Founder, Education Law institute
- **Elimination of Bias in the Legal Profession** by Hon. Eileen C. Moore Associate Justice, California Court of Appeal
- **Prevention, Detection, & Treatment of Addiction and Abuse of Marijuana, Alcohol and other Psychoactive Drugs which Impair Professional Competence** by Dr. Saeed Soltani, Phd, MFT; Bd. Certified Diplomate, Treatment of Addiction and Substance Abuse
- Due to limited seating PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
- Cost: \$75 with MCLE Credit or \$30 with NO MCLE Credit or \$10 for law students
- Please submit your check payable to the "St. Thomas More Society" to: Deborah P. Knefel, 333 City Blvd. West, 17th Floor, Orange, Ca 92868
- Your check must be received by January 10, 2011
- NO REFUNDS after January 11, 2011

**PLEASE SEE COMPLETE DETAILS
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JANUARY LUNCH MEETING

WHEN: Wednesday, Jan. 19

TIME: 12:00 P.M.

WHERE: Jilio-Ryan Hunter & Olsen Court Reporters
14661 Franklin, #150 (entrance at rear of building)
Tustin, California

FOR DIRECTIONS: www.jilioryan.com (714) 424-9902

LUNCH COST: \$15

SPEAKER: Dr. Vincent Fortanasce on "The Church in Chains." All are welcome. For questions, call Greg Weiler (949) 851-7238 or Fabio Cabeza (949) 362-1168.

FAST TIMES AT ADVENT

JOHN J. FLYNN III

Several years ago, a “friend” advised me that Advent was a time of fasting. I have yet to recover from the shock of that revelation. The reason is simple: On matters of doctrine and dogma, I am slavishly observant. Where fasting is concerned, however, I am a bloodhound for loopholes.

At the beginning of every month, especially during Lent, I scour the calendar for excuses to break my fast. All are legitimate, but there is something unsavory about the energy I bring to the task. Naturally, I assure myself that this weakness of mine in no way deprives me of the love of God. Indeed, I theorize, my frank admission of weakness makes me even more lovable. This tells you something about my capacity for fantastic rationalization.

So, is Advent really a time of fasting? Are our Christmases forever to be haunted by yet another specter, the Ghost of Advent Fasting? (An Advent fast is appropriate, though not required.) These are subsidiary questions, of course. The bigger question is, why do we fast at all? What is the point of the suffering that fasting brings?

Every act of love is an act of suffering, however slight the sacrifice. What we deny ourselves in fast, we give to God. It



is not the empty stomach that God seeks, but the heart, and fasting is a movement of the heart to God. Fasting may not be an act of charity, but it is an act of love.

Fasting during Advent cannot be easy. The distractions and temptations are many, and it is, in addition, socially awkward. But there will be at least one moment during Advent when we find ourselves free of distractions and tumult, and in sight of the manger.

If not a fast from food or drink, then perhaps a fast from worry, anxiety or anger. Then we can present our gift of fasting, however small or short-lived, a movement of the heart, to the newborn King. That, as O. Henry observed far more poetically many decades ago, is the Gift of the Magi.

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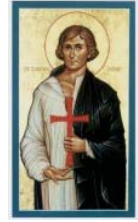
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*Give me thy grace, good Lord,
To set the world at nought,
To set my mind fast upon thee...
Gladly to be thinking of God,
Piteously to call for his help,
To lean unto the comfort of God,
Busily to labour to love him.*
St. Thomas More



St. Thomas More Society of Orange County

Is Pleased To Invite the Entire Orange County Legal Community To Its

ANNUAL MCLE SEMINAR

Saturday, January 15, 2011

Jilio Ryan Hunter & Olsen

14661 Franklin Avenue*

Suite 150

Tustin, CA 92780

8:00 am – 8:30 am	Mass	Fr. Hugh Barbour, O.Praem.
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast	
9:00 am- 10:00 am	Ethics in the Legal Profession	Sr. Mary Angela Shaughnessy, SCN, JD, PhD, St. Catharine's College; Founder, Education Law institute
10: 10 am – 11:10 am	Elimination of Bias in the Legal Profession	Hon. Eileen C. Moore Associate Justice, California Court of Appeal
11:20 am-12:20 am	Prevention, Detection, & Treatment of Addiction and Abuse of Marijuana, Alcohol and other Psychoactive Drugs which Impair Professional Competence	Dr. Saeed Soltani, Phd, MFT Bd. Certified Diplomate, Treatment of Addiction and Substance Abuse

STMS thanks its sponsoring MCLE provider: Jones Day

1 hour each of MCLE credit in Ethics, Substance Abuse & Elimination of Bias is available to all participants.

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***PLEASE NOTE - DIRECTONS TO OUR NEW VENUE!**

Directions: from 55 freeway, South on 5, exit Tustin Ranch and turn right, turn left on Walnut, Right on Franklin

For information/RSVP contact: Deborah P. Knefel, Esq., Law Offices of Deborah Pernice Knefel, 333 City Blvd. West, 17th Floor, Orange Ca 92868, dpknefelesq@gmail.com (714) 937-2035 (office) (714) 287-7897 (cell),

BRAVE NEW WORLD MANDATED

VINCENT M. FORTANASCE, M.D.



**DR. FORTANASCE IS A LEGATUS MEMBER
AND ON THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS FOR THE NATIONAL
CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER.**

*Why has
Germany banned
Pre-Implantation
Genetic Screening
& Diagnosis
(PGSD) and
Eugenics?*

*Why is the U.S.
ready to accept it?*

*Can a mandated
law prevent your
right to object?*

PGSD originated in 1991 to help those rare cases where a lethal genetic disorder might be passed on to one's children.

There are now 150 diseases that are genetically tested;

including one for breast cancer called BRCA-1. In PGSD, one obtains a number of embryos through IVF technique then selects a single embryo that does not carry the trait and aborts the rest. In vitro fertilization gave us this ability to do PGSD. Eugenics is a natural progression from PGSD, in which the embryo is enhanced, i.e. increased IQ, athletic ability, a "designer baby." Who can pass this up?

The Biotechnology Law Report on PGS & Eugenics concludes:

"If it becomes such common practice in a future society that the non-use of [eugenics and PGSD] is perceived as unreasonable, the birth of any child with genetic disease or disability...will give cause to liability, perhaps even criminal prosecution... Any compromise of the prospective child's health and ability will certainly constitute harm to the child...SOCIETAL PREJUDICE...are extrinsically harmful because of society's morally wrong attitudes."

Dr. Haas: Dr. Fortanasce, what does this Bioethical Law Report mean?

"Non-use of PGSD and liability and criminal prosecution" means we all will be mandated to use this technology or be prosecuted." Compromising of the prospective child's health" gives the child and government the right to sue for harm done by a "negligent" parent. England has a law pending to mandate the destruction of "abnormal" embryos.

"Societal Prejudices" refers to religious moral attitudes that condemn the practice of PGSD and eugenics. Here, these are classified as "morally wrong attitudes." Sounds like Brave New World, doesn't it?

It is opinion papers like this that will herald judicial judgments and mandates to undermine our faith and our children's moral rights. It will come swiftly, manufactured by biotech businessmen, manipulated by New Age bioethicists, and delivered by a knee jerk media who will convince the uneducated public. Governmental mandates will follow. If this seems inconceivable, in California, a 12-year-old child can have an abortion without parental consent yet not an aspirin at school.

Dr. Haas: Dr. Fortanasce, you have said PGSD and eugenics is the greatest danger to Catholicism. Why?

PGSD and eugenics is a recipe for disaster as it combines the forces of biotech with the liberal media to make a trillion dollar industry to manufacture children. Once accepted, the government and judicial system will enforce its use. The Catholic Church, referred to here as "Prejudice Society," along with any who morally object will be "liable and criminally prosecuted."

Dr. Haas: What do the New Age Bioethicists think?

Caplan, a highly-sought new age bioethicist, says in a 2007 interview, "I don't think testing for freckles or blond hair or musical aptitude is a bad thing. I think parents will want to do it." A professor, Ravistky, states, "If you have cash (in the U.S.), you can get it." The United States has no guidelines regarding this technology, yet in Germany it is forbidden. They have witnessed the fanaticism of man playing God. The Catholic Church is not alone in its objection. An essay in Time Magazine (March 2008) by Nancy Gibbs reflects their grave concerns of man playing God. This is not yet a pro-life vs. pro-choice issue.

Dr. Haas: Dr. Fortanasce, is there any indication currently that PGSD may be so misused?

Yes. A John Hopkins University study notes that 42% of the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

A PRICELESS INCONVENIENCE

ANONYMOUS

The liturgical season of Advent is over. The feast of Christmas has passed. A new year has begun, and everyone is back to the grind. I, too, am back to the grind.

This means that every week I join the untiring group of parents crowded outside our respective child's classroom, waiting for the door to open and the preschoolers to be let either in or out. Recently I arrived on time to pick up my beloved little boy, only to find that twenty minutes after school should have let out, the children were nowhere to be found.

As the other parents and I looked at each other, a mother standing next to me sighed: "Almost every time I come, whether to drop my child off or pick him up, I have to wait. Today I even arrived at the last minute, and I am still early!"

I also commiserated, particularly because thirty minutes previously I had to wake my sleeping baby in order to take him with me to pick up his older brother. Caring for such a little one, I always feel that he is safer at home where it is warm, quiet and cozy, and his well-deserved sleep remains undisturbed. So standing outside in the cold with a 3-month old in my arms made me feel helpless, especially for his sake.

Needless to say, the preschoolers eventually made their way back to the classroom, and my boys and I were happily off. By the time we reached home, I had quickly forgotten the inconvenience of having to wait—that is, until the next time I found myself in the huddle of parents, baby in arms, standing around in the cold, waiting ...

Struggling with my frustration and helplessness in the face of the inconvenience of waking a sleeping baby and waiting, I put the situation to prayer. It was not until a few days later that it hit me. Or, rather, God hit me!

As I was straightening the house, it occurred to me to



**"But Mary kept all these words,
pondering them in her heart." Luke 2:19**

consider the life of the Blessed Mother. Here was the most faithful woman, who had spent nine long months waiting for the birth of Her Son. In the midst of waiting, She endured misunderstandings regarding her "premarital" pregnancy, a long and arduous journey to Bethlehem on a donkey, hunger, hormonal changes, and more. And how did Our Lady respond? She pondered these things in her heart and encountered the One within: Christ.

From a human point of view, the Blessed Mother's life was full of various inconveniences. From a spiritual point of view, however, this was how God treated the One He really loved. How, then, could I continue to remain frustrated when the Lord decides to express His Love for me in a similar way?

God knows that often, when caring for my children, I am so caught up in the business of everyday life that I forget to stop and be with Him. So, in His Love, He comes to me.



*All of Creation rejoices in thee, O full of grace:
The angels in heaven and the race of men,
O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,
The glory of virgins, of whom God was incarnate
and became a child, Our God before the ages.*

*He made thy body into a throne, and thy
womb more spacious than the heavens.
All of creation rejoices in thee,
O full of grace: Glory be to thee!*

**ST. JOHN DAMASCENE
8TH CENTURY**

BRAVE NEW WORLD MANDATED (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

institutions doing PGSD offer it for sex selection.

Proposition 71, the Stem Cell Research and Cure Act showed how quickly public opinion can be changed. In 2002, 92% of Californians were against cloning; now 70% accept it.

Dr. Haas: What else should alarm us regarding this biotechnical law report?

It derives conclusions from utilitarian “end justifies means” based suppositions. St. Thomas Aquinas has said “Believe in one absurdity and in an infinity will follow.” The one absurd hypothesis in this law report is: “The prospective parent’s procreative autonomy is established as a general rule, and the objections that claim to be based on human dignity, naturalness, sentimental morality, and eugenics are indicated to be unfounded.”

The hypothesis that parents have “procreative autonomy” has great significance. It will allow as a rule that any type of procreation, sexual or asexual, will be up to the parents. This means gay cloning will be allowed. It further gives approval to abortion and PGSD.

One can see how quickly “wrongful life lawsuits” issued by children or their proxy Planned Parenthood against the parent will destroy the family as we know it. Physicians will be required to obtain the signature of the parents that they have been informed of their right to have PGSD or eugenics. The child using the principle of best interest will have a written document that proves the parents were not acting in their best interest because they refused PGS. Institutions such as the Catholic Church, who are morally opposed, will quickly come under liability and criminal prosecution. Precedence for requiring eugenics or PGSD already exists in our governmental system, i.e. children cannot attend public schools if not

immunized. Jehovah’s Witnesses have had their right to decide medical treatment for their children legally curtailed.

As leaders of the Catholic community (Legatus), it is our fiduciary responsibility to be knowledgeable and act on our belief in the sanctity of life. To do otherwise, would be to give tacit approval of such utilitarian belief. Remember, it is our children who will suffer the full extent of the law and be prosecuted and persecuted because of their beliefs in the sanctity of all life as revealed by Christ.

Dr. Haas: The National Catholic Bioethics Center advises all Catholic service organizations, as well as Legatus, to educate their membership regarding this new technology and its consequences. Remember indecision is no decision.

Our leadership must have bioethicists, physicians, and biotechnical scientist as part of their board; we must mandate laws as Germany has in limiting this new technology. In the past month, Pope Benedict the 15th has expressed that all Catholic institutions should have bioethicists as part of their institution.

Dr. Haas: How long do you believe it will be before this new technology becomes commonplace? Is it already too late to stop it?

No! Even liberal magazines such as Time Magazine (March) are in concert with our concern. If we do not act within the next three years, this new technology will be impossible to reverse like IVF & abortion. Soon after we will be mandated to comply or suffer the consequences. Germany experienced the consequences. Act now, for united we stand, divided we fall.

*Vincent M. Fortanasce M.D., Board of Directors, National Catholic Bioethics Center, Legatus Member.
John Haas Ph.D. KM, President of the National Catholic Bioethics Center.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTH	DATE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
January	Sat, Jan 15	Annual MCLE with Justice Eileen Moore, Sr. Mary Angela Shaughnessy and Dr. Saeed Soltani	Jilio-Ryan Hunter & Olsen 14661 Franklin, #150 (entrance at rear of building) Tustin, California
	Wed, Jan 19, 12:00 pm	Dr. Vincent Fortanasce on “The Church in Chains.” All are welcome.	Jilio-Ryan Hunter & Olsen (same as above)