

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## THE ACADEMY OF PHILOSOPHY AND LETTERS

### 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

## THE BENEDICT OPTION: THE PROBLEMS OF CULTURE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

*Conference Dress Code: Coat and Tie*

### Friday, 27 May

5:00-6:00pm: Registration  
6:00-7:00pm: Reception/Cash Bar  
7:00-9:00pm: Dinner

**Welcome:** Michael P. Federici,  
*Mercyhurst University, President of the APL*

**Chair:** Daniel McCarthy,  
*The American Conservative*

**Speaker:** Rod Dreher, *The American Conservative*, **“What Is the Benedict Option?”**

9:00-11:00pm: Hospitality Suite

### Saturday, 28 May

8:00-8:30am: Late Registration

8:30-10:30am: **Panel 1: The Things of God and Caesar: Theoretical Perspectives on the Benedict Option**

**Chair:** R.V. Young, *Modern Age*

**Moderator:** Rod Dreher,  
*The American Conservative*

**Presenter:** Claes G. Ryn, *The Catholic University of America*

**Presenter:** David Walsh,  
*The Catholic University of America*

**Presenter:** Jeff Polet, *Hope College*

10:30-10:45am: Break/Refreshments

10:45am-12:45pm: **Panel 2: Russel Kirk and the “Mecosta Option”**

**Chair:** Ryan Holston, *Virginia Military Institute*

**Presenter:** Bruce P. Frohnen, *Ohio Northern University College of Law*

**Presenter:** Seth Vannatta, *Morgan State University*

**Presenter:** Ian Crowe, *Russell Kirk Center*

12:45-1:00pm: Break

1:00-2:30pm: Lunch

**After Virtue, 35 Years Later:** Book Discussion

**Chair:** James Matthew Wilson, *Villanova University*

**Presenter:** Matthew O’Brien, *The Elm Institute*

**Presenter:** Peter Wicks, *The Collegium Institute*

2:30-3:30: Break

3:30-5:30pm: **Panel 3: The Benedict Option and Scale**

**Chair:** Mark T. Mitchell, *Patrick Henry College*

**Presenter:** Christopher Manion, *American Foreign Policy Council*

**Presenter:** William F. Byrne, *St. John’s University*

**Presenter:** Justin B. Litke, *Belmont Abbey College*

5:30-6:30 p.m.: Break

6:30-7:30 p.m.: Reception/Cash Bar

7:30-9:00 p.m.: Dinner

**Chair:** Richard M. Gamble, *Hillsdale College*

**Speaker:** Walter A. McDougall, *University of Pennsylvania*

9:00-11:00 p.m.: Hospitality Suite

### Sunday, 29 May

9:00-10:00 a.m.: Member Meeting and Breakfast (Members Only)

10:00-12:00 p.m.: **Panel 4: The Benedict Option Upon Us?**

**Chair:** Justin D. Garrison, *Roanoke College*

**Presenter:** Winston Elliott III, *The Imaginative Conservative*

**Presenter:** Robert Delfino, *St. John’s University*

**Presenter:** Brian Mitchell, *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*

12:30-2:00 p.m.: APL Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting