

## THE SPIRITUALITY OF JOHN HENRY NEWMAN INTEREST GROUP

Topic:	The Spirituality of John Henry Newman
Conveners:	John R. Connolly, Loyola Marymount University Brian W. Hughes, University of Saint Mary, KS
Moderator:	Edward Jeremy Miller, Gwynedd-Mercy College
Presenters:	Kenneth Parker, St. Louis University Donald Graham, Institute of Theology of St. Augustine's Seminary Danielle Nussberger, Marquette University

This interest group is dedicated to the study of the spirituality of John Henry Newman and its significance for contemporary theology, for understanding of the mission of the Catholic Church today, and for the life of Catholic believers in the twenty-first century.

Kenneth Parker's paper, "Coming to Terms with the Past: The Role of History in the Spirituality of John Henry Newman," focused on Newman's understanding of historical consciousness and the role it plays in Newman's understanding of spirituality. The body of the paper contrasts Newman's Anglican understanding of the past with that presented in the *Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine* (1845). As an Anglican, Newman accepted a stable (static) view of the Christian past (tradition) and held that there was a *disciplina arcani* (hidden or secret tradition), which only became the Church's public teaching as controversy and need required. Parker maintains that in the *Essay on Development* Newman rejected a static vision of truth and argued for a living tradition. He adopts a view of tradition that accepts historical consciousness and the notion of the development of doctrine. Parker concludes that in the *Essay on Development* Newman crystalized a historiographical principle that continues to guide Roman Catholic theological discourse into the twenty-first century.

Donald Graham's paper, "Sympathy in the Spiritual Theology of John Henry Newman," examined Newman's notion of "sympathy" and its significance for his spirituality. Graham discussed Newman's meaning of sympathy in five moments, the trinitarian foundations of Newman's theology of sympathy, its christological significance, the meaning of sympathy in the life of the God-man relationship, sanctified sympathy, and, finally, its anthropological dimension. Through this examination of Newman's different meanings of sympathy, with its analogous meanings in various genres and situations, Graham suggests that one is able to grasp more concretely Newman's understanding of the human being as graced and gifted, as well as the societal significance of sympathy. This examination also demonstrates the unity between his spirituality and theology, and deepens one's appreciation of Newman's theological anthropology. In his conclusion Graham argues that sympathy is an underappreciated and overlooked reality in Newman's spiritual theology, and that understanding it will strengthen one's understanding of how trinitarian, economic, christological, soteriological, hagiographical, and anthropological elements flow through his spirituality.

Danielle Nussberger prepared a paper entitled "Identifying the Correlation between Newman's Sacramental Spirituality and His Marian Devotion." She explores the connection between Newman's sacramental spirituality and his devotion to Mary and points out its significance for today. She was not able to attend the conference because of illness, so she did not present her paper during the session. A copy of the outline of her paper was sent to all the participants of the Newman Interest Group for their consideration and reflection.

*Interest Group: Spirituality of John Henry Newman*

The session was well attended (19 present) and there was ample time for questions and discussion. Copies of the outlines for the papers were sent out to the participants a week before the conference, which facilitated participation. Also, since only two papers were actually presented during the session, the time for discussion was expanded. At the end, there was a brief discussion of the purpose and objectives of the Interest Group. The participants were urged to inform others of our group and were encouraged to submit papers for next year's program. 2013 will be the last year for our interest group.

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