



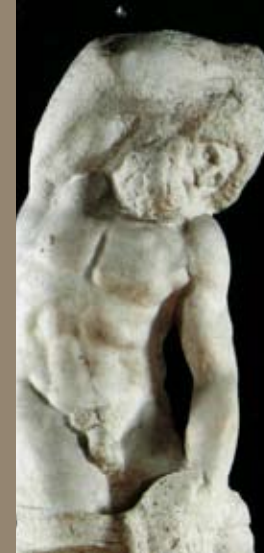
Photo: Missy Collins



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THE CHRISTIAN HUMANISM
OF MICHELANGELO
WHAT A THING IS MAN?



*September 13 to 20, 2009
Florence and Rome, Italy*

THE FLORENCE SEMINAR

AN I M A G E EVENT

THE FLORENCE SEMINAR

WHAT A THING IS MAN? THE CHRISTIAN HUMANISM OF MICHELANGELO



Photo: Rosie Herrera

IN THE LATE SUMMER of 2009, a small group of inquirers will gather in Florence and Rome to explore the life and achievements of the sculptor, painter, architect, and poet, Michelangelo Buonarroti.

A towering figure whose life spanned the period from the heyday of Florentine humanism to the stormy Reformation and Counter Reformation eras, Michelangelo stood at a turning point in Western history.

In his works we see the dignity of humanity and its fall, the emergence of the individual and the dangers of individualism, and a fierce struggle to harmonize beauty with goodness and truth.

Yet for all the conflict and tension in his work, Michelangelo left us with exquisite images of how God's grace can transform human experience.

Throughout our week together we will reflect on how Michelangelo's incarnational vision of art inspired by faith can inform our own efforts to bring about cultural transformation today.

We will undertake this journey in the two cities that laid claim to Michelangelo—Florence, the birthplace of Renaissance Christian Humanism, and the “Eternal City” of Rome.



REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FOR THE FLORENCE SEMINAR, excluding airfare, includes seven nights accommodation, all breakfasts and dinners, and transportation and entrance fees to all sites. Fees are \$4,250 per person for a shared room or \$4,500 for a single.

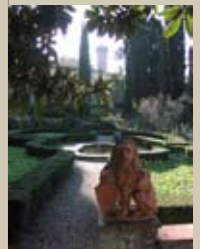
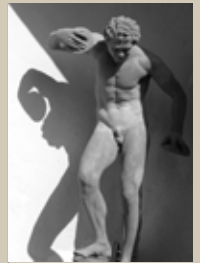
DEADLINE: June 1, or until the available space is filled. Registrations are accepted on a first come, first served basis. A receipt will be mailed to confirm your registration, followed by an informational packet.

PAYMENT: A \$500, non-refundable deposit must accompany your registration in order to reserve your space. \$1,500 is due by June 1 and the balance by July 15 (nonpayment will forfeit your space). Please make checks payable to *Image*, or phone us to pay by credit card.

REFUNDS: Between June 1 and July 15, a 50% refund will be paid upon cancellation. No refunds are available after July 15.

TRANSPORTATION: We will provide transportation for group excursions throughout the week. Because traffic is limited in many historic areas, we'll do a moderate amount of walking to get to key sites.

WAITING LIST: If the seminar is full, we will contact you and place you on a waiting list. We will let you know as soon as space opens up.



DOMUS SESSIORIANA & VILLA AGAPE



OUR RESIDENCE IN ROME will be the Domus Sessoriana, a former basilica surrounded by the ruins of the last Roman emperors. Now a modern hotel with all the amenities, it is still attached to the working monastery and beautiful basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme.

Our home the rest of the week in Florence will be Villa Agape, the former estate of the Duchess D'Aosta, now a place of hospitality run by the nuns known as *Suore Stabilite nella Carita*.

Set on a hillside just south of the Arno, it is surrounded by beautiful ornamental gardens, statuary, and an olive grove. A ten-minute walk brings you to the church of San Miniato al Monte, where Benedictine monks continue their fifteen-hundred-year history of work and prayer.

At Villa Agape we will take our meals together in the formal dining room, meet in the library, and relax on the spacious, open-air terrazzo.

The rooms are simple but clean and bright. Each has a private bathroom and shower.

And views that are unforgettable.



FACULTY & PROGRAM

OUR WEEK IN ITALY will begin with a couple days in Rome, where we will visit the Vatican and other sites associated with Michelangelo. The remainder of the week will be spent in Florence, where we will visit the great churches and museums featuring the artist and enjoy exquisite meals at restaurants in the city and the surrounding area.



MONSIGNOR TIMOTHY VERDON is a priest in residence at the Duomo in Florence and a renowned expert on Renaissance art. A Yale-trained art historian, he is the author of several books, including *Mary in Western Art*; *Michelangelo the Theologian*; and *Art, Faith, History: A Guide to Christian Florence*.



GREGORY WOLFE is writer in residence at Seattle Pacific University and the founder and editor of *Image*, one of America's leading literary quarterlies. He also directs the Master of Fine Arts program in creative writing at SPU and recently served as a judge for the National Book Awards. His essays, reviews, and articles have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies.



FLORENCE AND ROME

SEATS OF THE HIGH RENAISSANCE



AS FREQUENT VISITORS will attest, the richness of Florence and Rome is inexhaustible—not merely because of the quantity of timeless art and architecture, but because each visit reveals new resonances among art, faith, and history.

Michelangelo lived through the High Renaissance era—along with artists like Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci—when the “dignity of man” became a major theme in art, science, and literature. But more than any other artist of his time, Michelangelo came to see the difficulty of celebrating human greatness without acknowledging human sinfulness and suffering. Hence the tragic pathos of his mature masterpieces.



Photo: David Lees, 1966

AS A YOUNG MAN, Michelangelo moved in the Renaissance Humanist circles that his Florentine Medici patrons had done so much to cultivate. One can see the influence of their Neoplatonic thought in his famous Pietà in the Vatican and his David in Florence’s Accademia, with their stress on ideal beauty.

But during the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, Michelangelo’s vision took on darker tones as he wrestled with the woundedness of human nature. His unfinished Florence Pietà, with its sagging Christ, expresses a new vision of tragic but redemptive suffering.

In addition to our visits to key sites in Florence and Rome—including a semi-private tour of the Sistine Chapel—we will read some of Michelangelo’s incomparable poetry, now recognized as among the finest of his time.



REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s)

Address

Phone

E-mail

HOUSING PREFERENCE/REGISTRATION FEE:

Please circle your choice:

Single/\$4,500

Double/\$4,250 (per person)

Roommate(s) (optional)

Please reserve my space(s) at the Florence Seminar. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is enclosed. Make checks to *Image*—or call 206.281.2988 to pay by credit card.

Participants' contact information will be available at the seminar.

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