



Conceptualization of the Person in Social Sciences



Plenary Session 18-22 November 2005 – The Academy's 11th Plenary Session, on 'Conceptualization of the Human Person in the Social Sciences' was originally to have been held in the spring of 2005, but was postponed to November 18-22, 2005, due to the death of Pope John Paul II. This session, coordinated by Professor Malinvaud, represented a departure from the Academy's usual programs devoted to studies of concrete social problems in the areas of labor, democracy, globalization and inter-generational relations. There were two main reasons for the decision to devote a special meeting to exploration of issues relating to personhood. In the first place, since a major part of the Academy's mission is to offer the Church elements that may be useful in the development of her social thought, it was necessary, sooner or later, to gain a deeper understanding of personhood, a concept that is central to, but not systematically developed in, the social teachings. Secondly, it was desirable to look critically at each of the social sciences from the perspective of Catholic social thought and to try to discern the extent to which they are consistent with Christian anthropology. Since the Academy has no special competence in philosophy, the aim was not to produce a full treatment of the subject, but rather to improve our own understanding. To that end, a number of outside experts were invited to give us the benefit of their specialized knowledge. After reviewing the proceedings published in the present edition of the *Acta*, the Academy will decide whether and how to pursue this exploration so fruitfully begun in 2005.

Mary Ann Glendon

Participants

Prof. Margaret S. Archer

Prof. Belisario Betancur

Prof. Rocco Buttiglione

Prof. Pierpaolo Donati

Prof. Ombretta Fumagalli Carulli

President Prof. Mary Ann Glendon

Prof. Juan José Llach

Mr. Justice Nicholas J. McNally

Prof. Edmond Malinvaud

Msgr. Prof. Roland Minnerath

Prof. Vittorio Possenti

Prof. José T. Raga

Prof. Mina Magpantay Ramirez

Prof. René Rémond
Prof. Kevin Ryan
Msgr Prof. Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo
Prof. Herbert Schambeck
Rev. Msgr Prof. Michel Schooyans
Prof. Krzysztof Skubiszewski
Prof. Joseph Stiglitz

H.E. Amb. Hanna Suchocka
Prof. Wilfrido V. Villacorta
Prof. Bedrich Vymetalík
Prof. Hans F. Zacher
Prof. Jerzy B. Zubrzycki
Prof. Paulus Zulu
Dr. Dr. Herbert Batliner
Dr. Martin Strimitzer
Msgr Giampaolo Crepaldi
Prof. Enrico Berti
Prof. Christopher Bliss
Prof. Francesco Paolo Casavola
Cardinal Georges M.M. Cottier
Prof. Romano Harré
Prof. Serge-Christophe Kolm
Prof. Janne Haaland Matlary
Prof. John Shotton