



St. THOMAS MORE FORUM

St. Thomas More:
The Patron of Statesmen,
Politicians and Lawyers

St. Thomas More Forum in association with the Ambrose Centre for Religious Liberty

“Religious Liberty in the Public Square How the Church Should Engage Public Policy: Lessons from the American Healthcare Debate”



Presented by

Professor Gerard Bradley

Professor of Law

University of Notre Dame, United States of America

Wednesday 10 March 2010 7.30 – 9.00pm

St. Thomas More Hall at 30 White Crescent, Campbell followed by light supper.

The Speaker

Professor Gerard Bradley, is a noted scholar in the fields of constitutional law as well as law and religion, joined the faculty of the Notre Dame Law School as a professor in 1992, having taught at the University of Illinois from 1983 to 1992. He earned his B.A. from Cornell University in 1976 and his J.D. from the Cornell Law School in 1980. Admitted to the New York Bar in 1981, he practiced law as an assistant district attorney with the New York County District Attorney's Office from 1980 to 1983.

Professor Bradley participates in numerous professional organizations that involve the study of law and religion and related constitutional issues. He is Co-Director of the Natural Law Institute at Notre Dame and Director of the Center on Religion and the Constitution of the Witherspoon Institute, Princeton NJ. He is Past President of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, Vice President of the American Public Philosophy Institute, member of the board of advisors of the Cardinal Newman Society and Immediate Past Chair of the Federalist Society's Religious Liberties Practice Group.

(Speech Synopsis over page)

**Entry : \$10 per person and \$3 per student at
school or university and concession card holders.**

The objective of the St Thomas More Forum is to promote thought, discussion and debate on the challenges of faith in the workplace, family and public life in the modern world.

The St Thomas More Forum is a Committee of St Thomas More Parish, Campbell Supported by Catholic Life of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

Speech Synopsis

The most contentious and most important political issue of 2009 in the United States of America was the Democrats' proposal – backed by the Obama Administration – for a major overhaul of the American healthcare system. For the moment all these proposals are stymied, and no one can say for sure how things will turn out. But almost everyone agrees that the interventions of the American bishops have been, and will be, crucial to the outcome.

What can we learn from this recent experience?

From the bishops we learned the great value of their speaking consistently and in a consistently principled way; they refrained from taking sides on technical or political issues which were beyond their competence as teachers of faith and morals. The virtual unanimity with which they spoke, and that they spoke through (most often) the conference and not as an aggregate of individuals, strengthened their witness and influence. And circumstances permitted the bishops to avoid (almost entirely) the question about denying Holy Communion to pro-abortion politicians.

From the bishops opponents we learned that their complaints about episcopal "interference" in politics derogation of proper church-state separation is opportunistic rhetoric. For these complaints focused mostly upon the bishops' resistance to abortion funding; no one objected to the bishops' equally persistent declarations in the same teaching documents in favor of a universal right to healthcare as somehow crossing the line between what is Caesar's and what is God's. We also learned that these opponents are not really civil libertarians, for they opposed adequate conscience protection for healthcare personnel opposed to abortion.

ST THOMAS MORE FORUM PROGRAM

22 June 2010 St Thomas More Feast Day

Sixth Annual St. Thomas More Lecture Dinner

Most Rev Philip Wilson

Archbishop of Adelaide, President Australian National Bishops Conference

1 September 2010

The Hon Justice Susan Crennan - High Court of Australia

November 2010

"The Faith of our Prime Ministers"

Prof John Warhurst, Professor of Political Science at ANU

Booking Details

Prior bookings are requested by email on sttmforum@homemail.com.au for seating and catering purposes. Prepayment of bookings is encouraged and seating is only guaranteed for those who prepay for their tickets. Please see payment options below:

1. By cheque made out to :

St. Thomas More Forum posted to the Forum at PO Box 68, Campbell, ACT 2612.

2. By Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) using the following banking details:

Account Name: St Thomas More Forum

Bank: CDF

BSB: 062786

Account Number: 22458

Please clearly insert your surname and the date of the Forum for which you are paying and whether it is an adult or concession entry. For example) 2 Adult Entries x \$10 = \$20 or 2 Concession Entries x \$3 = \$6 Then please email us back with advice that payment has been completed and then your ticket/s will be available at the door.

Payments will be accepted at the door on the night of the Forum where available seating will be allocated in order of arrival.

Please note that these dates and speakers are correct at the time of printing. However, due to varying circumstances there could be changes and additional speakers may also be included in the Program depending on availability. Therefore the dates and times should be confirmed by checking our website <http://www.stmore.act.edu.au/parish/parishmain/parishforummain.htm>