



He helps with Sunday and weekday Masses at the Cathedral and at St Agnes Parish, Baton Rouge, LA.

## Associate Member's Conference

"It's very important to read about the mission of the Institute," said Dr. Anthony Rizzi, Director of the Institute for Advanced Physics, "but it's very difficult to fully integrate these truths without discussing them, debating them, and using your own words, expressing them." That was certainly the agenda and focus for the recent IAP Associate Members Conference held on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007.



Left to right: Dr. Rizzi, Phillip Bellini, David Giroir, and James Louviere

The conference, a mini-symposium, was held for the benefit of associate members: Phillip Bellini and James Louviere, as well as associate member candidates: David Giroir, Don Caffery and Mac Cazedessus. Dr. Anthony Rizzi spent six hours with the attendees, teaching them using a compressed outline of his book, *The Science Before Science*. Dr. Rizzi personally moderated the lively discussions that ensued.

Associate member candidate and mechanical engineer Don Caffery, summarizes: "What is the science before science? It is, as Dr. Rizzi's book points out, philosophy. Not just any philosophy, of course, but true and authentic philosophy. Dr. Rizzi shows that the Greeks—particularly Aristotle—laid a foundation, later perfected by St. Thomas, that properly harmonized all knowledge as a whole. This wholesome and holistic view that God's creation is good and intelligible paved the way for the hard sciences that flourished later. It also provides the remedy for the rupture we live with today, caused by brilliant but off based modern thinkers such as Kant and Descartes. Sound thinking and good science exist today in a wounded condition that can and must be healed."

These wounds run deep. James Louviere, associate member, IAP videographer, and lifelong jeweler, adds. "I

find few things in life can be properly described as profound. I have always looked for universals. Dr. Rizzi's book and the Institute's work are full of them. Like a modern Rosetta stone, these insights and principles make sense of—or in many cases, illustrate the lack of sense of—almost every modern endeavor, whether scientific, social, moral or spiritual.

After the discussion attendees meant to continue their exploration with a look at the heavens through the Institute's telescope but were thwarted by clouds. The day's events continued and closed with an evening supper, joined by certified member candidate Fr. Cliff Hill.

Associate member Phillip Bellini summed up the day with this observation, "I like to think of the Institute's work as teaching the science of correct thinking. Clear thinking is essential to the very survival of any society. After all, as the saying goes, if we don't live the way we think, we soon begin to think the way we live. On a personal note, I really wish I had learned this much earlier in life."

Associate member candidate and noted author and theologian Msgr. Michael Wrenn of Florida was scheduled to attend but was prevented at the last minute due to an unexpected medical emergency.

## Dr. Rizzi Talks at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans



Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans welcomed Dr. Rizzi to host a very important discussion on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February. He was invited by Dr. David Liberto. The afternoon and dinner featured a meeting with seminary faculty to discuss the importance of *physica* (physics in the general sense), metaphysics, and theology.

In the meeting Dr. Rizzi spoke of the necessity of learning Truth in the order accessible to man. "We must put first things first," says Dr. Rizzi in what should be a continuing mantra for us all. He stressed how this means we must start with our senses, and encounter that which is most knowable around us. Since the physical world is what we know through the senses, this means we need *physica* first. *Physica* leads to metaphysics, where one explores the full analogical nature of being. Only with this knowledge can we truly appreciate the depth of the revelation, which one studies in sacred theology. Revelation speaks of trees and deserts, light and darkness, man and woman. We must know something about each of those physical things in

order to understand how they have been used in revelation and to know what we are talking about in theology.

Following the faculty meeting, Dr. Rizzi moved to a lecture hall to speak to seminarians and the general public. Speaking mostly on the key points of his book, *The Science Before Science*, Dr. Rizzi focused on the main problem. The task that faces us today is the integration of our understanding of the real world. Few scientists can speak to the ontological depths of Thomist philosophy and few Thomists can speak to the empiriological depths of modern science. After a while, the deep confusion simply results in noise in some quarters and silence in others.



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## Radio Interview On Catholic Answers Live

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Dr. Rizzi took to the airwaves on the radio program Catholic Answers Live. Show host Jerry Usher talks with Dr. Rizzi in this interesting segment. Listeners get a chance to chime-in at the end of the program with questions spanning everything from Evolution to Abortion. Dr. Rizzi fields questions with great attention to philosophy and science.

To listen to the show use the following link:

<http://www.catholic.com/radio/event.php?calendar=1&category=0&event=4508&date=2007-03-05>

## A Special Thanks To:

**Tom Evans** of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in Livingston, LA, has assisted in reviewing an IAP article written by Prof. Rizzi, called *What is Math Really?*, to reground modern mathematics. He is also assisting in reviewing a chapter of the *Physics for Realists* textbook manuscript.

**Richard Urban**, of Exclusive Treasures recruited an artist to create an original oil painting of the IAP logo.

**James Louviere**, Stuller Industries and IAP Associate Member, coordinated the March Associate Members Conference held at the IAP office. See the article about the conference in this newsletter issue.

**Giuseppe Rizzi**, eight year old IAP volunteer has contributed many hours loading software for IAP after a hard drive crash at the end of last year.



Sam Reid reviews problems in the *Physics for Realists* textbook.

## IAP Intern Pursues Physics Degree at LSU

Spring semester of 2007 IAP contacted Denham Springs High School asking for the name of a top student in physics and math. Calculus teacher Mrs. Amy Flake referred Sam Reid to the Institute.

After meeting with Dr. Rizzi and receiving chapters from IAP's new physics textbook, *Physics for Realists*, Sam began to read and digest the material which for the first time stays in touch with common sense and fundamental truths of experience while teaching the principles of modern science. How did it strike him? Upon studying and doing problems in the first half of the book Sam told us, "I wish I had learned physics this way first. It makes so much sense." Thinking back Sam adds, "By going through the text I've understood things that I've never understood before."

Sam spent the remainder of that school year working with the Institute and graduated from Denham Springs this past May as the top physics and math student in his class.

It is indicative of the power of the approach of *Physics for Realists* textbook that Sam connects so strongly with it.

After continuing his work with the Institute this past summer, Sam is now enrolled at LSU to pursue a degree in Physics. He continues to be active with the Institute.

Sam is the third such student referred to the IAP from Denham Springs H.S., and the second out of Mrs. Amy Flake's calculus program. The other recommendation came from Mrs. Graham who teaches Physics.