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Summer FFD Yields Seven New Facilitators!

In June, Imago Dei held a Facilitator Formation Day in Bethesda, Maryland. Seven participants were certified to teach *A New Language* study groups in their parish communities. The next local training will be held in Bethesda, Maryland on Saturday, March 14, 2015 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. For more information or to RSVP for this event, email us at tobstudy@imagodei-tob.org.

Invite Imago Dei to Your Next Event

In addition to offering Facilitator Formation Days across the country, Imago Dei has a number of experts who would be happy to speak at your church, school or prayer group. Please keep Imago Dei in mind as a resource for speakers on theology of the body and related topics. Email us at tobstudy@imagodei-tob.org to book a presenter today!

Upcoming Events

Imago Dei is hosting a Facilitator Formation Day on **Saturday, October 25**, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The cost of attendance is \$45 per person, \$60 per couple and \$35 for Religious and students. Participants will receive certification to facilitate *A New Language* study groups. If you or someone you know is interested in attending please email us at tobstudy@imagodei-tob.org. Space is limited, so contact us today!

Do You Have an Experience You Would Like to Share?

We are frequently reminded of the impact that *A New Language* has on our facilitators and study guide participants throughout the world. Therefore, we are asking for volunteers to write witness articles to share their personal experiences from leading or participating in an ANL study group. Submissions should be 500 words or less and can be emailed to tobstudy@imagodei-tob.org by January 1. Submissions may appear in print and online.

Work on Season Five Continues

This past spring, the pilot group led by Jim Park, which focused on St. Joseph, completed their study on the apostolic exhortation, *Redemptoris Custos* (Guardian of the Redeemer). Similar pilot programs on *Familiaris Consortio* and *Salvifici Doloris* are in process.

Imago Dei Certifies Facilitators for the First Time Online!

In September, a married couple in Dallas contacted us about becoming certified to teach Imago Dei's *A New Language* to a study group comprised of college students in the diocese of Dallas.

Diane and her husband, Robert, are co-directors of Balanced Families Ministries, a marriage and family apostolate in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Diane is currently in the process of writing a Masters dissertation for a degree in Pastoral Education in Marriage and Family from the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham, England. Dr. Mary Shivanandan's book *Crossing the Threshold of Love* is a primary source for her dissertation.

She stumbled upon Imago Dei during her research and thought that *A New Language* would be a perfect study guide for the university students that she and her husband teach. Since our DVD is in the final stages of production, Imago Dei was able to have the couple view the videos online and conduct the practicum portion via skype with Jim Park.

Overall, the first remote training went very well and we are excited to offer the full DVD in the coming months.

Remembering the Life of Stratford Caldecott

Acclaimed Catholic author, theologian and editor, Stratford Caldecott died on July 17, 2014 at the age of 60 from pancreatic cancer.

A convert to Catholicism, Stratford was not baptized as a child and was instead encouraged to make up his own mind about religion when it was time to do so. His journey to Catholicism began initially when he was attracted to mysticism and religion as a teen. He studied philosophy and psychology at Oxford University and later converted to the Baha'i religion. As a young adult he took an interest in Buddhism, all the while continuing to have an interest in learning about Christianity. After having a dream one night about the Holy Grail and feeling a distinct divine presence, Caldecott awoke and realized that on some level he was already a Christian. The experience was an awakening for him which he describes in Fr. Dwight Longenecker's book, *The Path to Rome – Modern Journeys to the Catholic Church*. (The full text of his conversion story can be read [here](#))

“What this made me realize was how important to me had been the stories I had read in childhood, stories of King Arthur, the Knights of the Round Table and the Quest of the Holy Grail, and later the Narnia books of C.S. Lewis and The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien. All along, my imagination had been built on a Christian foundation, and I had never noticed it before.”

Years later, as editor at T&T Clark, Stratford Caldecott orchestrated the publication of Dr. Mary Shivanandan's book, *Crossing the Threshold of Love*, which forms the basis of Imago Dei's study guide program, *A New Language: A Study Guide for the Theology of the Body*.

In addition to visits to Oxford over the years in which Dr. Shivanandan found him unfailingly generous in his personal attention, she was privileged to have spent time with him and his family less than a year before his death.

His serenity and luminous holiness in face of the inevitable was an inestimable gift.



"I am grateful for the gift of St. John Paul II in the theology of the body. It was Providence that led him to develop his ideas as a pastor, teacher, bishop, and pope."

Leadership Spotlight

Donna Fitzpatrick Bethell, Chairman, Imago Dei Board of Directors

Donna F. Bethell has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Imago Dei since it was founded in 2007. But Donna's connection to this work began long before that; she was there when the groundwork for *A New Language* was first being laid twenty years ago.

In 1994, Donna and a group of other women--including Mary Shivanandan, Mary Ellen Bork, and Suzanne Shaffer--began reading and discussing John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* as part of the local chapter of Women Affirming Life (WAL). Marianne Luthin, one of the founders of WAL, thought that a study guide was needed to make the Pope's writings more accessible to a wider audience.

Mary Shivanandan's book, *Crossing the Threshold of Love*, was

published in 1999, and served as the basis for *A New Language*. The new guide was a big success with a pilot group meeting at Little Flower Parish in Bethesda, MD. The guide was published and work began on developing a training program for facilitators. With Donna's assistance, Imago Dei, Inc., was incorporated and received 501(c)(3) status in 2008.

Amid the constant attack that the family is under in today's world, Donna sees the greatest benefit of *A New Language* is that it helps people understand the beauty of marriage and healthy sexuality as God intended them for both individuals and society.

Through her years of service for Imago Dei, Donna insists that she is one who is grateful:

"I am grateful for the gift of St. John Paul II in the theology of the

body. It was Providence that led him to develop his ideas as a pastor, teacher, bishop, and pope. He could hardly have known at the time how truly deconstructed the ideas of marriage and sexuality would become, but his teaching is the complete answer to contraception, the social suicide of the failure to form stable families, and the oxymoron of same-sex marriage."

In 1980 Mrs. Bethell received a Juris Doctor degree from the National Law Center of George Washington University and was admitted to the Bar of the District of Columbia. She received a bachelor of arts degree in physics from American University, Washington, D.C., in 1972. Mrs. Bethell resides in Washington, D.C., with her husband Tom.

Help Imago Dei Reach its Financial Goals in 2014!

Support Our 2014 Appeal ~ Donate Today!

As current events and reports from the Extraordinary Synod in Rome have shown, truth and clarity is desperately needed in our culture on the topics of sexuality, marriage and family. Imago Dei is poised to evangelize society on the Catholic meaning of sexuality and marriage.

Imago Dei continues to thrive in its mission to bring Saint John Paul II's theology of the body to the world. However, we rely on the generous support of you, our friends, to fund the day-to-day aspects of Imago Dei, our operating costs. To keep our doors open, we must net a minimum of \$10,000 annually; this covers a part time administrator, supplies, shipping and handling, storage, licenses and more. Most foundations will not support operating costs.

An annual gift of \$500 or \$1000 toward these expenses will help Imago Dei continue their mission to evangelize society on the Catholic meaning of sexuality and marriage.

We humbly ask that you consider assisting us with our operating costs in any way that you are able. May God bless you and may His Mother keep you under her mantle. Thank you!

Under Mary's mantle,



Donna F. Bethell

Chairman, Board of Directors

Please detach the form below and mail with your check, payable to Imago Dei, Inc., to 2510 Virginia Avenue, NW #905N, Washington, DC 20037. Or you may easily contribute via PayPal on our website, www.imagodei-tob.org. Imago Dei is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Imago Dei's greatest need!

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\$25

\$50

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