

Why Morality-Free Economic Theory Does Not Work: A Natural Law Perspective in the Wake of the Recent Financial Crisis

October 17, 2012, 7:00 PM

Marist College. Performing Arts Room,
3rd floor, Student Center

*Co-sponsored by the Core/Liberal Studies Committee of Marist College
and the Focolare Movement*

The recent worldwide financial crisis has revealed a serious flaw in current thinking about markets and morals. Contemporary legal theorists and political economists commonly assume that markets can (and even should) provide morally neutral zones for the exchange of goods among free persons, constrained by nothing other than the laws of contract and the imperatives of self-interest. Professor Bruni's lecture will challenge this dominant assumption and will offer an alternative, natural law perspective on the inter-relatedness of markets, morals, and human sociality. Relational ethics has been increasingly a subject of interest across many disciplines, including economics, political theory, psychology, organizational behavior, neuroscience, bioethics, philosophy, law, and feminist theory. We hope this event will open a dialogue among students and faculty from various departments on this topic.



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Presenter:



Luigino Bruni, Ph.D.,
Economist and Associate Professor,
University of Milan-Bicocca, Economics
Department and Professor at the Sophia
University of Loppiano in Florence, author of
*The Wound and the Blessing: Economics,
Relationships, and Happiness (2012)*

Responder:



Robert D. Manning, Ph.D.,
President and CEO of the Responsible Debt Relief
Institute (RDR), and past director of the Center
for Consumer Financial Services at the College of
Business at the Rochester Institute of Technology
(RIT) Author of *Credit Card Nation*

Moderator:



Joan Duggan, Ph.D.,
Co-founder of EOS Finish Line, and past
coordinator and current Board member
of the North American Economy of
Communion Association

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