Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2012 renewal of the Portsmouth Institute. The Institute is a conference, study, recreation and retreat center for all those interested in Catholic life, leadership and service in the 21st century. This year’s conference is on Modern Science/Ancient Faith and will feature leading scholars and speakers who will explore and debate what Templeton Prize winner Reverend Dr. John Polkinghorne has called “the friendship between science and religion.”

In addition to the conference sessions, there will be ample time for prayer, sport, musical and theatrical entertainment, good humor, and friendship. We hope that you enjoy yourself on our beautiful campus in the days ahead, and also that you leave Portsmouth Abbey refreshed, stimulated, and inspired.

Please don’t hesitate to ask me or any of the conference staff to assist you in making your stay with us as pleasant and rewarding as possible!

Sincerely,

James MacGuire ’70,
Director
Schedule of Events

12:00 – 5:00 PM  Registration, Administration Bldg. Foyer

1:30 PM  Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament; Holy Rosary (optional) Church of St. Gregory the Great

2:30 PM  Afternoon Session I, St. Thomas More Library
   Introduction: Cliff Hobbins, teacher of History, Portsmouth Abbey School

         Prologue: “Galileo Revisited”
         Dom Paschal Scotti, O.S.B., teacher of Humanities, Portsmouth Abbey School

3:45 PM  Refreshments, Library Foyer
4:00 PM  Afternoon Session II, *St. Thomas More Library*
Introduction: Rt. Rev. Dom Caedmon Holmes, O.S.B.
Abbot of Portsmouth Abbey

Conference Opening: “A New Heaven and a New Earth”
Abbot James Wiseman, O.S.B., St. Anselm’s Abbey
Catholic University of America, retired

5:30 PM  Vespers

6:15 PM  Drinks and Dinner, *Monastic Gardens*

8:00 PM  Evening Session, *Stillman Dining Hall*
Introduction: Dr. Blake Billings ’77
Director of Spiritual Life, Head of Christian Doctrine
Portsmouth Abbey School

Address: “Evolution and Faith: What is the Problem?”
Dr. John Haught, Woodstock Theological Center
at Georgetown University

9:00 PM  After-Glow, *Winter Garden, Administration Bldg.*
7:40 AM Mass, Church of St. Gregory the Great  
“Palliative Care: The Science and Spirituality”  
Dr. B. Joseph Semmes ’67, True North Medical Center

8:00-9:30 AM Registration, Administration Bldg. Foyer

7:30-9:15 AM Breakfast, Stillman Dining Hall

9:30-10:30 AM Morning Session I, St. Thomas More Library  
Introduction: Dom Francis Crowley, O.S.B.  
Dean of Spiritual Life, Master of Ceremonies,  
Science, Portsmouth Abbey School  
Address: “To Find God in All Things:  
Exploring the Evolutionary Architecture of Life”  
Dr. Kenneth Miller, Brown University

10:45 AM Break and refreshments, Library Foyer

11:00 AM - Noon Morning Session II, St. Thomas More Library  
Introduction: Dr. James DeVecchi  
Headmaster, Portsmouth Abbey School  
Address: “An Informative-Theoretic Proof  
of God’s Existence”  
Dr. William Dembski ’78, Discovery Institute

Noon - 1:30 PM Lunch, Stillman Dining Hall

1:15 and 2:30 PM Theatre of the Word Production  
with Kevin O’Brien as Dom Stanley Jaki  
St. Thomas More Library
1:00-4:30 PM  Save the Bay Marine Science Cruise on the Aletta Morris
Meet the Portsmouth Abbey bus at the Administration Bldg. parking lot. Please be prompt.

5:30 PM  Vespers, Church of St. Gregory the Great

6:15PM  Concert, Auditorium

CONCERT PROGRAM

Aaron Copland  Appalachian Spring Suite
(1900-1990)

Jean Sibelius  Andante Festivo
(1865-1957)

Arthur Honegger  Pastorale d’été
(1900-1990)

Samuel Barber  Adagio for Strings
(1910-1981)

7:15-7:45 PM  Reception, Stillman Dining Hall Patio & Foyer

7:45-9:00 PM  Dinner and Keynote Speaker, Stillman Dining Hall
Introduction: Mr. Timothy Seeley ’77
Director of Summer Program, teacher of Math, Portsmouth Abbey School

“Making Room for Faith in an Age of Science”
Dr. Michael Ruse, Florida State University
SUNDAY JUNE 24

Masses at 7, 8 and Sung Mass at 9:30 AM
Church of St. Gregory the Great

7:30-9:15 AM  Continental Breakfast, Stillman Dining Hall

10:30 AM  Closing Session and Brunch, Stillman Dining Hall
Introduction: Mr. Robert Rainwater, teacher of Science, Portsmouth Abbey School

“What can Genomic Science Tell Us about Adam & Eve? A Catholic Perspective”
Rev. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., Providence College

12:00 PM  Final Communications, James MacGuire ’70, Director of the Portsmouth Institute

1:00 PM  Check Out
Rev. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P.

Rev. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., is a Catholic priest in the Order of Friars Preachers, also known as the Dominicans. Born in the Philippines, he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Bioengineering, *summa cum laude*, at the University of Pennsylvania in 1989. He then earned his Ph.D. in Biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he was a fellow of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. At M.I.T., Fr. Austriaco worked in the laboratory of Professor Leonard Guarente on the genetics of aging in the yeast, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. After completing his doctoral studies, he was a fellow of the International Human Frontier Science Program at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research at the University College London in the United Kingdom.

In 1997, following a deeper conversion to the Lord, Fr. Austriaco entered the novitiate of the Order of Friars Preachers. He completed both his pontifical bachelor’s degree in Sacred Theology and his Master of Divinity degree at the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., in 2003. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, 2004. In 2005, he earned his Pontifical License in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.), *summa cum laude*, for a thesis in moral theology entitled, “Life and Death from the Systems Perspective: A Thomistic Bioethics for a Post-Genomic Age,” also at the Dominican House of Studies. He is currently pursuing a Pontifical Doctorate in Sacred Theology (S.T.D.) from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland.

Fr. Austriaco currently serves as an associate professor of biology and an instructor of theology at Providence College in Providence, RI. He is also an investigator of the Rhode Island-INBRE Program funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a scientific advisor at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, and an ethics consultant for St. Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island.

Fr. Austriaco has intellectual interests both in molecular and cellular genetics and in moral theology. His NIH-funded laboratory at Providence College is investigating the genetics of programmed cell death using the yeasts, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Candida albicans*, as model organisms. Papers describing his scientific research have been published in *PLoS ONE*, *FEMS Yeast Research*, *Cell*, the *Journal of Cell Biology*, and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, among others. His essays in bioethics have been published in the National

**William A. Dembski ’78**

William A. Dembski ’78 is a senior fellow with Discovery Institute’s Center for Science and Culture in Seattle and senior research scientist with the Evolutionary Informatics Lab (www.evoinfo.org). With doctorates in mathematics and philosophy, he has published articles in mathematics, engineering, philosophy, and theology journals as well as authored and edited 20 books. *In The Design Inference: Eliminating Chance Through Small Probabilities* (Cambridge University Press, 1998), the first book on intelligent design published by a major university press, he examined the design argument in a post-Darwinian context, analyzing the connections linking chance, probability, and intelligent causation. In 2000 he founded the first intelligent design think-tank at a research university, Baylor’s Michael Polanyi Center. In 2009, he published a book on God’s goodness titled *The End of Christianity: Finding a Good God in an Evil World*. His newest book is a massive 1,000-page anthology on naturalism in science, coedited with Bruce Gordon, titled *The Nature of Nature*. He lectures widely on intelligent design and has appeared on various radio and television programs, including ABC’s Nightline and Jon Stewart’s The Daily Show.

**John F. Haught**

John F. Haught (Ph.D., Catholic University, 1970), is senior fellow, Science & Religion, Woodstock Theological Center, Georgetown University. He was formerly professor in the Department of Theology at Georgetown (1970-2005) and chair (1990-95). His area of specialization is systematic theology, with a particular interest in issues pertaining to science, cosmology, evolution, ecology, and religion. He has authored 19 books and numerous articles and reviews. He lectures internationally on many issues related to science and religion. In 2002 he was the winner of the Owen Garrigan Award in Science and Religion; in 2004 he was awarded the Sophia Award for Theological Excellence; and in 2008 he received a “Friend of Darwin Award” from the National Center for Science Education. He testified for the plaintiffs in the Harrisburg, PA, “Intelligent Design trial”
Kenneth R. Miller

Kenneth R. Miller is Professor of Biology at Brown University. He did his undergraduate work at Brown and earned his Ph.D. in Biology at the University of Colorado; he spent six years teaching at Harvard University before returning to Brown in 1980. He serves as an advisor on life sciences to the NewsHour, a daily PBS television program on news and public affairs. His research work on cell membrane structure and function has produced more than 60 scientific papers and reviews in leading journals, including CELL and Nature, as well as leading popular sources such as Natural History and Scientific American. Miller is co-author, with Joseph S. Levine, of a series of biology textbooks used by millions of students nationwide.

One of Miller’s principal interests is the public understanding of evolution. He has written a number of articles defending the scientific integrity of evolution, answering challenges such as “intelligent design,” and he served as lead witness in the 2005 Kitzmiller v. Dover trial on evolution and intelligent design in Pennsylvania. In 2009, he delivered the Dom Luke Childs Lecture at Portsmouth Abbey with the title “Is Evolution ‘Only a Theory?’” His popular book, Finding Darwin’s God: A Scientist’s Search for Common Ground between God and Evolution, addresses the scientific status of evolutionary theory and its relationship to religious views of nature. His latest book, Only a Theory: Evolution and the Battle for America’s Soul, was a Los Angeles Times finalist for Best Science Book of 2008. In 2005 he was presented with the Presidential Citation of the American Institute for Biological Sciences for distinguished contributions to the biological sciences. In 2006 he received the Public Service Award from the American Society for Cell Biology, and in 2008, he was given the Distinguished Service Award of the National Association of Biology Teachers. In 2009 Dr. Miller received the AAAS Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology as well as the Gregor Mendel Medal from Villanova University. He received an honorary doctorate from Mt. Aloysius College in 2010, and in 2011 was recognized with the Stephan Jay Gould Prize from the Society for the Study of Evolution.
Michael Ruse

Michael Ruse is the Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy and director of the Program in the History and Philosophy of Science at Florida State University. He was born in England in 1940, emigrated to Canada in 1962 and taught for many years at the University of Guelph in Ontario, before moving to the USA (to avoid compulsory retirement) in 2000. He is the author of many books on and around the Darwinian Revolution. These include: *The Darwinian Revolution: Science Red in Tooth and Claw* (Chicago, 1979); *Monad to Man: The Concept of Progress in Evolutionary Biology* (Harvard, 1996); and *Can a Darwinian be a Christian? The Relationship between Science and Religion* (Cambridge, 2001). He is the editor of the forthcoming *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Darwin and Evolution*.

Ruse was raised as a Quaker, but lost his faith in his early twenties. He describes himself as an agnostic (although he prefers the term skeptic) but candidly is pretty atheistic about the main claims of the major theistic religions. He has spent much time fighting the claims of Scientific Creationism (he was an expert witness for the ACLU in Arkansas in 1981) and, more recently, of the Intelligent Design theorists. He is nevertheless heartily despised by many of his fellow non-believers, especially the so-called New Atheists, both because he is contemptuous of their poor arguments (he characterized Richard Dawkins’s *The God Delusion* as a book that made him ashamed to be an atheist) and because he thinks that, although science is certainly incompatible with the idiosyncratic evangelical literalism so popular today in America, science as such does not prevent one from being a traditional theist. Religion may not be true, but this must be shown on grounds other than simple conflict with science.

Rev. Dom Paschal Scotti, O.S.B.

Dom Paschal Scotti entered Portsmouth Abbey in 1983 after finishing his undergraduate education at Columbia University. He was ordained a priest in 1989 after studies at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., and later gained a JCL from the Catholic University of America. He has taught in Portsmouth Abbey’s history and Christian doctrine departments and is now teaching Humanities. The Catholic University of America Press published his *Out of Due Time: Wilfrid Ward and the Dublin Review* in 2006, and his articles have appeared in *The Catholic Historical Review, The Downside Review*, the revised *New Catholic Encyclopedia* and its online version, and *The Encyclopedia of Catholic Social Thought*.
Benedict Joseph Semmes, M.D. ’67

Benedict Joseph Semmes, M.D. ’67, A.B., Dartmouth College ’74, M.D., University of Cincinnati ’78, has practiced internal medicine, critical care medicine and mostly emergency medicine in Arlington, VA, and Portland, ME. Since becoming a cancer survivor in the late ’90s, he has balanced his emergency medicine practice in the study and practice of “integrative medicine” at the True North Medical Center in Falmouth, Maine (http://www.truenorthhealthcenter.org). His areas of concentration have included mind-body medicine, genomics, metabolomics and nutrition, lifestyle and disease prevention, and functional medicine. Semmes is board-prepared in hospice and palliative medicine and has been involved in national efforts to improve end-of-life-care, such as the POLST (Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment). See http://www.ohsu.edu/polst.

James A. Wiseman, O.S.B.

James A. Wiseman, O.S.B., has been a monk at St. Anselm’s Abbey in Washington, D.C. since 1964. He served an eight-year term as abbot from 1975-1983 and was elected to a further abbatial term in June 2011. In the intervening years he served his community at various times as vocations director, novice master, and prior. For 27 years he was a full-time member of the theology faculty at The Catholic University of America, where he taught courses primarily in the field of Christian spirituality but also in interreligious dialogue and in issues arising at the interface of science and religion. He retired from CUA in 2011 since such work was incompatible with the demands of the abbacy.

Among his publications, the one most relevant for this conference at Portsmouth is Theology and Modern Science: Quest for Coherence (Continuum, 2002). His most recent book is Spirituality and Mysticism: A Global View (Orbis, 2006), and he was co-editor of volumes arising out of major dialogues between Christians and Buddhists at the Abbey of Gethsemani in 1996 and 2002. With regard to issues in science and religion, his most recent contributions were lectures in November 2011 and April 2012 at conferences sponsored by the Washington Theological Consortium and available online at www.atompluseve.com.

We can be assured of neither peace, nor liberty, nor dignity in the world of tomorrow so long as … science and wisdom are not reconciled.

Troy Quinn

Troy Quinn, music director of the Portsmouth Institute Orchestra, has been lauded for his energetic and riveting, yet sensitive, conducting throughout the United States and Europe. A versatile young artist, Quinn has conducted many prestigious ensembles both in the U.S. and abroad, including the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic, and the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. He has also performed at many of the world’s major music centers and at such famed venues as the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris and Southwark Cathedral in London. A Rhode Island Foundation grand prize recipient, Quinn has received numerous awards from several other foundations, including the Rislov Foundation and Anna Sosenko Assist Trust. As a conducting fellow, he has attended conducting institutes at the Royal Academy of Music, the Eastman School of Music, and at Bard Conservatory of Music, where he was coached by conductors Benjamin Zander, Neil Varon, and Leon Botstein.

In demand as a conductor, Quinn has performed with members of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, the Manhattan School of Music Opera Orchestra, and with Voices of Joy, in a televised special on the subject of choirs. His work in the concert hall has given him the opportunity to collaborate with such prominent maestros as Helmuth Rilling, David Gilbert, and Dan Saunders of the Metropolitan Opera. An avid supporter of music education, Quinn has also served in the capacity of adjudicator and clinician in the New England area as a read-through All-State conductor. In addition to his concert work, Quinn has appeared on Fox’s “GLEE” and “The Tonight Show” with Jay Leno, where he has performed with such popular singers as Jennifer Hudson and Jackie Evancho.

A native of Connecticut, Quinn pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree from Providence College, where he was the recipient of the Leo S. Cannon Award for superior achievement in the music field. He went on to earn his master’s degree with honors from the Manhattan School of Music in classical voice performance, studying with highly acclaimed Metropolitan Opera singer Mark Oswald. He is currently finishing his doctoral studies in conducting at the University of Southern California’s Thornton School of Music, where he studies with Jo-Michael Scheibe, Larry Livingston, Nick Strimple, and Don Brinegar and serves on the faculty as a teaching assistant. Quinn has previously served on the faculty of Providence College and Portsmouth Abbey School.
INTRODUCERS

Dr. Blake Billings ’77
After receiving his diploma from Portsmouth Abbey School in 1977, Blake Billings joined the Dartmouth College class of 1981, majoring in policy studies. Upon graduation, he moved to inner-city Oakland, CA, working with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in inner-city parish work. Blake then studied philosophy and theology in Louvain, Belgium, earning master’s degrees in the two areas before returning to the Abbey in 1987 to teach for three years. Marrying Jillian Fenton in 1990, Blake returned to Louvain to pursue doctoral studies, receiving his doctorate in philosophy in 1995. His research focused on the ethical philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas, whose thought was lauded by Blessed John Paul II. After teaching philosophy for several years at St. John’s and Fairfield universities while completing his dissertation, Blake decided to return to secondary education, beginning his current tenure at Portsmouth in 1996 with his wife and growing family, which now includes four children. Blake served as the director of Christian community service for 14 years before receiving in 2010 his current appointments as director of spiritual life and head of the Department of Christian Doctrine at the School. Blake has also previously served as director of music at the School, and is the current director of the School’s liturgical Schola.

Dom Francis Crowley, O.S.B.
Brother Francis earned a B.S. from Providence College, an M.A.T. from Brown University, and a Ph.D. from Providence, all in chemistry. He taught chemistry at public and private independent schools and colleges in Rhode Island. After graduate school he joined Ciba-Geigy Corporation, an international chemical and pharmaceutical firm, where he worked for 25 years in various chemical process-development, environmental protection, and safety positions. He took early retirement as corporate director of environmental technology in 1991 and entered the monastery of Portsmouth Abbey 40 minutes after he left work on his last day. Brother Francis currently teaches three sections of physics and is the dean of spiritual life at Portsmouth Abbey School.
James DeVecchi, Ph. D.
Dr. DeVecchi is headmaster of Portsmouth Abbey School, a position he has held for 12 years. Since joining the Portsmouth faculty in 1973, he has served in numerous capacities, including that of associate headmaster, academic dean, registrar, head of the Mathematics Department, and athletic coach. He holds a B.A. in Mathematics from St. Francis College, and a M.S. in Mathematics and a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from UNH. He has served on various educational committees and associations including the N.E. Association of Schools and Colleges, the National Association of Independent Schools, the National Catholic Educations Association, and the College Entrance Examination Board.

J. Clifford Hobbins
Cliff Hobbins has taught for 42 years in the private school world and has spent 36 of those years at Portsmouth Abbey School. Mr. Hobbins teaches history and political science at present. He has taught Christian doctrine and teaches public speaking in the Abbey Summer Program. He received a B.A. and a M.A. from Marquette University. He lives in Portsmouth, RI, with his wife and two children.

Right Reverend Dom Caedmon Holmes, O.S.B.
Fr. Caedmon is the abbot of Portsmouth Abbey. He holds a B.A. from Western Reserve University and an A.M. from Harvard University and for many years taught in the Classics Department at Portsmouth Abbey School. Abbot Caedmon joined the Portsmouth community as a lay teacher of classics in 1965. He entered the Monastery in 1969, made his first profession of monastic vows in 1970, and continued to teach classics for several years. He later began teaching Christian doctrine. He served as head of the Christian Doctrine Department from 1992 to 1997, when he took over as head of the Classics Department at the retirement of Peter Harris. Abbot Caedmon then
resumed teaching classics full-time until he was named prior administrator in March 2005 and served in that capacity until his election as abbot on August 22, 2007.

**Robert Rainwater**
Bob Rainwater has served on the faculty of Portsmouth Abbey School for 27 years, teaching physics, mathematics and astronomy. He holds a B.A. in Physics from Cornell and an M.A. in Science Education from Teachers College at Columbia University. Mr. Rainwater is the son of James Rainwater, the winner of the 1975 Nobel Prize in physics.

**Dom Paschal Scotti, O.S.B.**
See biography on page 11.

**Timothy Seeley ’77**
Tim Seeley is a graduate of Portsmouth Abbey School, and went on to be a religion major at Dartmouth College. After two years in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, he spent three years working as a teacher, coach and houseparent at the Abbey, before earning a master’s of theological studies and a master’s in education from Harvard University. He has spent the last 20 years in independent schools, as a teacher, department head, division director and headmaster. He returned to the Abbey last summer as director of summer programs.
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Telephone Numbers**
Medical Emergency – dial 911
Main Switchboard – 401-683-2000 (8:30 AM - 4:00 PM /Thurs. and Fri.)
Housekeeping/Questions/Concerns – 401-862-0620
Campus Safety – 401-842-7093 (4:00 PM to 6:00 AM daily)

**Parking**
Please park your car in the hockey rink parking lot for the weekend. Volunteers with golf carts will help you bring your luggage to your accommodations after check-in and, later, at check-out.

**Campus Facilities Hours**
Library Hours – Saturday, 1:00 to 4:00 PM
Mass – Saturday, 7:40 AM
(5:00 PM Mass at St. Barnabas Church, 1697 East Main Rd., Portsmouth, RI; must provide own transportation.)
Sunday, 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM

**Save the Bay Marine Science Cruise**
There will be a shuttle bus at the Administration Bldg. parking lot to transport you to the Save the Bay Marine Science Cruise on the Aletta Morris. Please meet the Portsmouth Abbey bus at the Administration Building at 1:00 PM sharp!

**Dress for the Weekend**
Business casual, except for the concert and dinner on Saturday evening, when jackets and ties are requested.