

– JOIN US FOR THE 40TH ANNUAL CHESTERTON CONFERENCE –
THE MERRIEST EVENT OF THE YEAR - ATTEND IN PERSON OR ONLINE!

The Laughing Prophet

Hope, Joy & G.K. Chesterton

JULY 29 - 31, 2021 | SHERATON LISLE NAPERVILLE HOTEL | CHICAGO, IL



Keynote Speakers



DALE AHLQUIST
President,
Society of Gilbert
Keith Chesterton



SETH DILLON
Chief Executive
Officer, The
Babylon Bee

“JOY, which was the small
publicity of the pagan,
is the gigantic secret
of the Christian.”

— G.K. CHESTERTON

GKC IN CHICAGO

We're back! Join us for this year's Chesterton conference, our annual three day reunion of friends, old and new. Don't miss this opportunity to experience Chestertonian joy and to learn how to live the spirituality of G.K. Chesterton in your everyday life. Bring a friend...bring your whole family!

Come for the intellectual stimulation, spiritual edification, fellowship & fun!

Register online at Chesterton.org or call +1-800-343-2425

Conference Schedule

40th Annual Chesterton Conference
The Laughing Prophet | July 29–31, 2021

DAY ONE

THURSDAY, JULY 29

Check-In & Registration

2:00PM – Registration and Vendor Tables Open
G.K. Chesterton Traveling Museum Open

4:30PM - Opening Mass

Live & Virtual

*All are invited to this uplifting service of prayer and worship.
Spiritual reflection and scriptural Rosary begin at 4:00PM.*

5:00PM – Welcome Reception

5:30PM – Dinner & Fellowship

Opening Session

Live & Virtual

6:45PM – Conference Kickoff

7:00PM – The Laughing Prophet: A Joyful Message of Hope

Dale Ahlquist, President

The Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton

Dale Ahlquist describes Chesterton's life of heroic virtue and presents the Laughing Prophet as a joyful guide to sanctity for the Ordinary Man.

8:15PM – GKC and The Bee

Seth Dillon, CEO, The Babylon Bee

The secular left is killing satire by turning reality into a parody of itself and by censoring satirists they don't like. And they accomplish the latter by mischaracterizing satire as misinformation. What would Chesterton say?

9:15PM – Night Prayer

9:30PM – Afterglow

Greet old friends, and make new friends in a relaxed, convivial atmosphere. A legendary part of the Chesterton conference experience!



DAY TWO

FRIDAY, JULY 30

7:30AM – Daily Mass (*Scriptural Rosary begins at 7:15*)

7:30AM – Breakfast service begins

Morning Session

Live & Virtual

9:00AM – Witches, Wolves, and Will-o'-the-Wisps: Education as a Joyful Crisis

Eric DeMeuse, Headmaster, Chesterton Academy, Milwaukee

Dr. DeMeuse describes the power that stories and healthy discourse have to teach people to encounter crisis with discernment and joy.

10:30AM – Chesterton and Artificial Intelligence

Mark Matthews, Senior Software Engineer

Mark separates AI fact from fanciful extrapolation, and applies the timeless wisdom of Chesterton about man and technology to this rapidly advancing domain.

11:30AM – A New Chesterton Academy in Iraq

Archbishop Bashar Warda, Erbil, KRI (Iraq)

Learn about the Archbishop's exciting vision to save Christianity in post-ISIS Iraq by serving families who courageously remain in their homeland.

12:00PM – Lunch

Afternoon Session

Live & Virtual

1:15PM – Chesterton and My Jewish/Catholic Journey

Dawn Eden Goldstein, Author and Scholar

Dr. Goldstein shares the role G.K. Chesterton played in her conversion and how she wrestled with G.K.'s controversial comments about Jews.

2:30PM – Good to be Alive: On the Wholesomeness of Celebrating Birthdays

*Fr. Spencer Howe, Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis;
Chaplain, The Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton*

Father Howe reflects on Chesterton's insights on the significance of birthdays and his affirmation of the goodness of existence.

4:15PM – Irrational Optimism and Chesterton's Theology of the Ordinary

Lydia Webster, Boyce College, Louisville, KY

This Chesterton scholar discusses how irrational optimism is not mere positive thinking, but a powerful manifestation of the Christian virtues of hope and love.

DAY TWO

FRIDAY, JULY 30 (continued)

5:00PM – Dinner

Evening Session

Live & Virtual

7:00PM – On Becoming a Boy Again

Jeromy Darling, President and Performer, The Salvage Project

This dynamic actor, singer, and songwriter recounts how Chesterton filled gaps in his Christian faith and how G.K.'s example helps open dialog between Catholics and Protestants.

8:00PM – The Sound of Ideas: Music as a Reflection of Philosophy Throughout the Centuries [+ Concert!]

Dr. Joshua Russell, Chesterton Academy of the Sacred Heart

Dr. Russell, a Chesterton Academy headmaster and virtuoso pianist, illustrates how philosophy has influenced music through the ages. Special appearance by Chesterton Academy student and violinist, Zoe Lonsinger.

9:15PM – Night Prayer

9:30PM – Afterglow

DAY THREE

SATURDAY, JULY 31

7:30AM – Daily Mass (*Scriptural Rosary begins at 7:15*)

7:30AM – Breakfast service begins

Morning Session

Live & Virtual

9:00AM – The Happy Warriors: G.K. Chesterton and St. John Henry Newman as Satirists

David Deavel, University of Saint Thomas

Dr. Deavel compares these two great British satirists.

10:30AM – The Humor and Humility of G.K. Chesterton

Joseph Pearce, Director of Publishing, The Augustine Institute

Joseph Pearce shows how Chesterton's virtue infuses his sense of humour, his joie de vivre, his use of paradox and his Christian witness to the inextricable unity of faith and reason.

11:30AM - Mr. Chesterton: Thoughts on Hope and Joy

Chuck Chalberg, President, History on Stage

Back by popular demand! G.K. Chesterton returns to share some of his great good humor and hope for the world today.

12:00PM – Lunch

DAY THREE

SATURDAY, JULY 31 (continued)

Afternoon Sessions

Live & Virtual

1:00PM – How Much Chesterton Did C.S. Lewis Read?

Alan C. Duncan, Producer, The Public Square Radio Broadcast

Alan Duncan reveals which of G.K. Chesterton's ideas helped bring C.S. Lewis to the Christian faith.

2:00PM - The Surprise of Chesterton: Dorothy L. Sayers

Crystal L. Downing, Co-Director, Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College

Dr. Downing discusses how Chesterton shaped Sayers into an author whose work turned Protestant certitude upside-down.

3:00PM – Ask Ahlquist Anything

Dale Ahlquist, President, The Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton

The world's foremost expert on G.K. Chesterton answers your questions, in this moderated Q&A session.

4:00PM – Confession

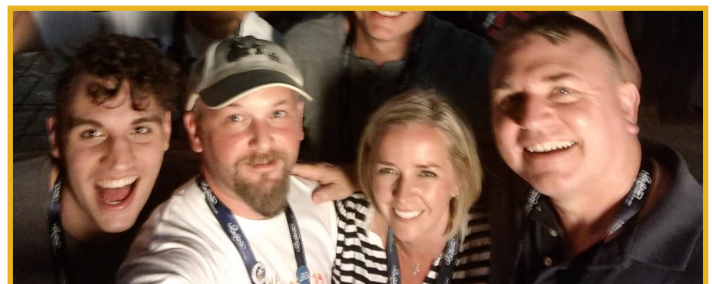
4:30PM – Scriptural Rosary

5:00PM – Closing Vigil Mass

6:30PM – Traditions: Annual Closing Banquet Jokes, Toasts, Songs, Clerihews, and Other Fun!

A can't-miss event hosted by Dale Ahlquist - make sure to purchase your banquet ticket to attend!

9:30PM – Afterglow





Registration Details

Conference Dates and Venue

Dates: Thursday, July 29 – Saturday, July 31, 2021

Please join us in person this year if you are able! COVID restrictions have been lifted in Illinois and the city of Chicago. For more information, contact events@chesterton.org.

- Registration is open from 2PM – 5PM on Thursday.
- The conference begins at 6:45PM with our Opening Session and ends with our Closing Banquet on Saturday evening (*special event - advance meal ticket purchase required*).

Venue: Sheraton Lisle Naperville Hotel

3000 Warrenville Rd, Lisle, IL 60532 | +1-630-505-1000

Mention the CHESTERTON SOCIETY for discounted conference rates on suites and single rooms. Free on-site parking!

Airport Transportation

Chicago's two airports, O'Hare and Midway, are 30-35 miles from the hotel. Hotel does not provide shuttle service. Uber, taxi, rental cars available as well as the ride share section of the Whova app to coordinate rides with other attendees.

See you in Chicago!

Marion E. Wade Center Tours

Tours of the Chesterton Collection at the Wade Center at Wheaton College available on Thursday, July 29 prior to the conference. Space is limited - sign up on Whova today!

Hybrid Event Details

- In-person attendees receive access to all session talks, vendors, welcome reception, and world-famous afterglows.
- All session talks will be live-streamed for Virtual Attendees through the event app, Whova. After registration, you will receive a link via e-mail to download the Whova app.

Conference Swag

Pre-order some awesome ChesterCon shirts and goods for pickup at the conference or delivery in time for the conference at chesterton.orderpromos.com.



Three Day Conference Registration

Three Day Conference Registration	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER
In-Person Admission <i>Includes all sessions. Does not include lodging, meals, closing banquet.</i>	\$195	\$165
In-Person Clergy, Religious, Student Admission <i>Does not include lodging, meals, closing banquet.</i>	\$145	
MEAL PACKAGE ADD-ON (Meals + Closing Banquet) <i>Six delicious meals served on-site, Thursday dinner through Saturday lunch - PLUS ticket to our annual Traditions Closing Banquet on Saturday evening!</i>	\$200	
MEAL PACKAGE ADD-ON (Closing Banquet Ticket Only) <i>Single ticket to our annual Traditions Closing Banquet - Jokes, Toasts, Songs, Clerihews, and Other Fun!</i>	\$85	
FREE Virtual Conference Admission for Members! Use promo code at conference checkout Become a member today or login to your member dashboard at chesterton.org for promo code	\$0	
Virtual Conference Admission <i>Includes all session talks.. Hosted through Whova event app.</i>	\$75 NON-MEMBER	

REGISTER ONLINE AT CHESTERTON.ORG OR CALL +1-800-343-2425