

THE SOCIETY OF GILBERT KEITH CHESTERTON



JULY 24-26, 2025
INTERCONTINENTAL
NEW ORLEANS

**“The saints, the most exalted
of human figures, were also
the most local.”**

—G.K. CHESTERTON



THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

Conference Schedule

44th Annual Chesterton Conference
The Saints Go Marching In | July 24-26, 2025

DAY ONE THURSDAY, JULY 24

Welcome & Registration

2:00 PM – Registration and Vendor Tables Open

5:00 PM – Opening Mass 🏛️ St. Patrick's Church
All are invited to this uplifting service of prayer and worship.
Scriptural Rosary at 4:30PM.

6:15 PM – Dinner & Fellowship

Opening Session Live & Virtual

7:30 PM – “I Want to Be in That Number”



Dale Ahlquist
Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton

Dale Ahlquist explores the Chestertonian way of the Church Militant, marching hopefully to our heavenly reward.

8:30 PM – Chesterton and the Saints



David Deavel
University of St. Thomas, Houston

Dr. Deavel looks at Chesterton's depiction of the saints, and at the significance behind the particular aspects of saints' lives G.K.C. found most interesting.

9:30 PM – Night Prayer

9:45 PM – Afterglow

NB: Cash-only bar! Greet old friends, and make new friends in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere. A legendary part of the Chesterton conference experience!



DAY TWO FRIDAY, JULY 25

8:00 – 10:00 AM – Breakfast available

7:15 AM – Extraordinary Form Parish Mass 🏛️

8:30 AM – Ordinary Form Mass 🏛️

🏛️ – Liturgical events will be held at St. Patrick's Church, 724 Camp Street.

DAY TWO (cont.)

Morning Session

Live & Virtual

10:00 AM – Chesterton in Croatia



Nikola Bolsec
Croatian Chesterton Society

Nikola discusses the impact of the life and works of G. K. Chesterton on his own life and in his country, particularly among young people.

11:00 AM – Touching Immortality: G. K. Chesterton, Sigrid Undset, and the Toy Theatre



Amy Fahey
Thomas More College of the Liberal Arts

Dr. Fahey explores the connections and similarities between Gilbert and the woman who has been called “The Norwegian Chesterton,” Sigrid Undset.

Afternoon Break Period

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM – Visit the vendor hall, explore the French Quarter, rest in your room – the time is yours!

12:00 PM – Lunch Buffet

For regular meal pass holders only. “Explorer” package holders can use this time for lunch on their own in the city.

1:30 PM – Optional Scriptural Rosary

2:00 PM – Workshop Session on the Father Brown Card Game



Afternoon Session

Live & Virtual

3:00 PM – Chesterton in Retirement



David Fagerberg
Prof. Emeritus of Theology, University of Notre Dame
A recently retired theology professor looks at Chesterton's *non*-retirement and ponders what he missed and whether he'd have enjoyed retirement.

4:15 PM – Why Did Chesterton Hate Jazz, and Should We Hate It, Too?



Marc Barnes
New Polity

In the birthplace of Jazz, Dr. Barnes probes a controversial question: was Chesterton *wrong* in his dislike of America's classical music? Or should fans adjust their tastes to match Chesterton's?

5:30 PM – Dinner

DAY TWO

FRIDAY, JULY 25 *(continued)*

Evening Session Live & Virtual

7:00 PM – Chesterton and Walker Percy



Cy Kellett

Catholic Answers

Cy discusses G.K. Chesterton alongside the great American Catholic writer with roots in the Big Easy, Walker Percy.

8:00 PM – Marching with the Saints: The Troubadours Live

Dale Ahlquist, Christopher Check, Joseph Pearce, William Fahey, and Dan Kerr

The Troubadours discuss people they've met who have been beatified or canonized, or whose cause is opened or being pursued.



9:30 PM – Night Prayer

9:45 PM – Afterglow

DAY THREE

SATURDAY, JULY 26

7:30 – 9:00 AM – Breakfast available

8:00 AM – Extraordinary Form Parish Mass 🏛️

Morning Session Live & Virtual

9:00 AM – Untamed Children: A Future of Hope



Theresa Martin

Wojtyła Community & Institute

A New Orleans native discusses the extraordinary effects of Chestertonian parenting.

DAY THREE (cont.)

Morning Session, cont. Live & Virtual

10:00 AM – From Acadian to Cajun: Le Grand Dérangement, 1755-1763



Christopher Check

Catholic Answers

Chris Check introduces the history behind Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic poem about the tragic expulsion of the Acadians.

11:00 AM – The Poetry of “Evangeline”



Joseph Pearce

Writer, Editor, and Speaker

Joseph Pearce picks up the story and explores the poetry and the impact of Longfellow's classic work.

12:00 PM – Lunch

Afternoon Parallel Sessions

1:00 PM – PARALLEL SESSIONS I

I
Live
&
Virtual

Chesterton and Nietzsche

LaSalle A



Ted Janiszewski

Saint Irenaeus Ministries

II
Live
Only

By Way of Kensal Green: Chesterton's Spirituality of the Second Half of Life

Pelican



Robert Moore-Jumonville

Spring Arbor University

III
Live
Only

The Home is the Most Important Place in the World

Poydras



Robert Gil

Biographer of the late Rosie Gil

2:00 PM – PARALLEL SESSIONS II

I
Live
&
Virtual

Chesterton and A.I.

LaSalle A



Julian Ahlquist

Chesterton Academy of the Twin Cities

II
Live
Only

Sir Walter Scott: A Great Catholic Writer?

Pelican



Don Flanagan

St. Paul Chesterton Society

III
Live
Only

The Chesterton Schools Network

Poydras



Emily de Rotstein

Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton

5:00 PM – Rosary 🏛️

5:30 PM – Anticipatory Mass for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time 🏛️

7:00 PM – Closing Banquet Jokes, toasts, songs, Clerihews, and other fun; a can't-miss event hosted by Dale Ahlquist

9:30 PM – Afterglow



Message from Dale

44th Annual Chesterton Conference
The Saints Go Marching In | July 24-26, 2025

Thursday, July 24, 2025

St. Sharbel Makhlouf

Dear Chestertonian,

Welcome to the 44th Annual G.K. Chesterton Conference—our first ever in the Big Easy!

This year's theme, *The Saints Go Marching In*, calls to mind not only the lively traditions of this town but also the great procession of holy men and women in the Communion of Saints!

As always, the best part of this conference isn't just the lineup of brilliant talks or spirited debates—it's *you*. You are part of the great Chestertonian revival, bringing wonder, wit and joy to a world badly in need of all three.

Soak it in. Take notes. Raise a glass. Laugh loudly. Pray deeply. And if inspiration strikes (as it often does in these parts), go ahead—start writing your cleriheW.



Your servant,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Dale Ahlquist

President, Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton



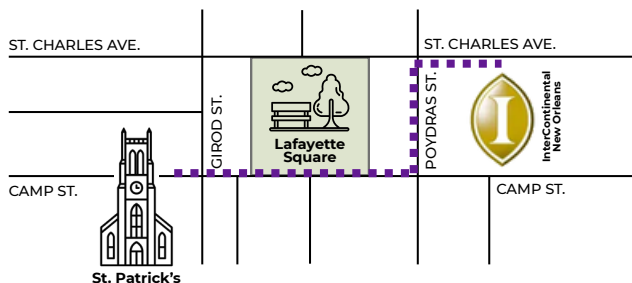
We can't do it without you.

The **Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton** is a non-profit charity that relies on *your generous gifts* to accomplish our mission of evangelizing through education and assisting people to lead happy, holier lives with G.K. Chesterton as a model of lay spirituality. *Thank you!*



chesterton.org/give

Directions to St. Patrick's Church

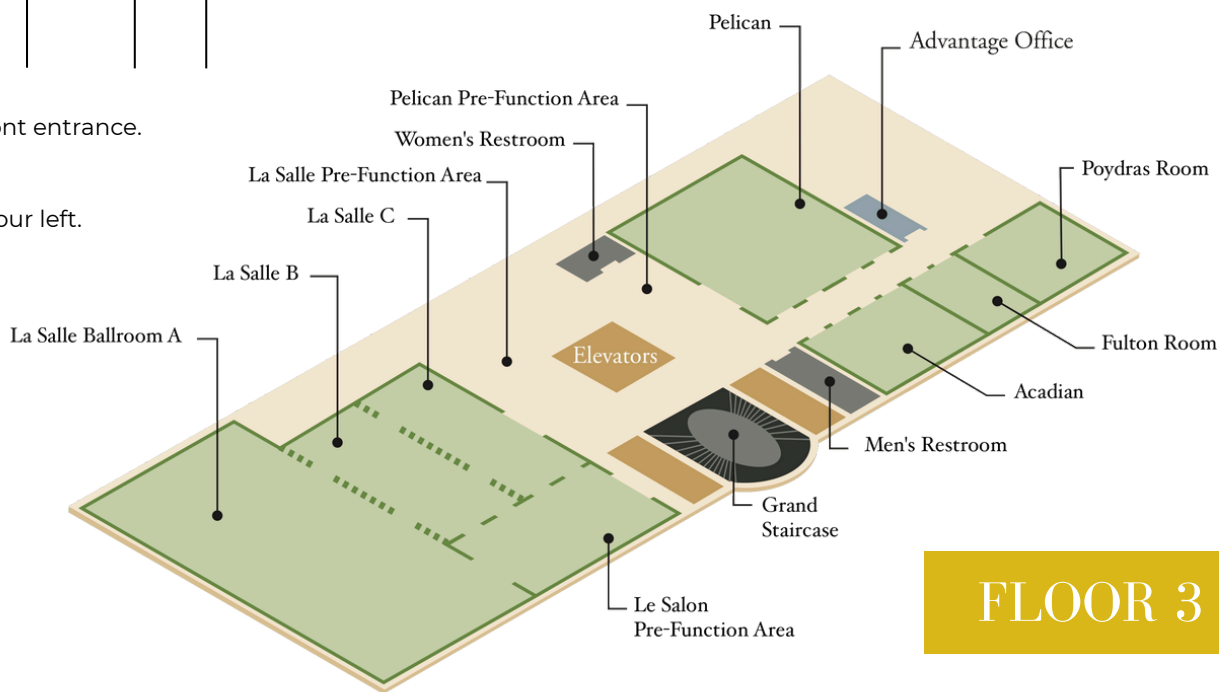


Take a left out of the front entrance.
Turn left on Poydras St.
Turn right on Camp St.
St. Patrick's will be on your left.

Ukova
instructions



**Afterglows will be held on the
5th floor rooftop, just off the
elevators. A guest-room key will
be needed to access the floor.*



FLOOR 3



THE CHESTERTON SCHOOLS NETWORK
JOYFULLY CATHOLIC, CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Truth. Beauty. Goodness.

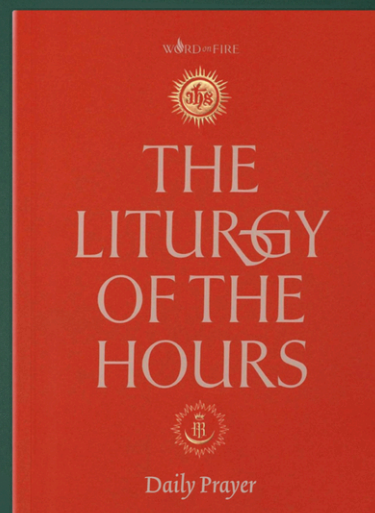
"Education is simply
the soul of a society
as it passes from one
generation to another."

C. S. Lewis



ChestertonSchoolsNetwork.org

**Many voices,
one Church,
one prayer.**



wordonfire.com/pray

Featured Merch

Limited Edition Conference Tee

\$25

Soft, stylish, and unmistakably Chestertonian, this year's Conference T-shirt features a festive design celebrating our theme, *The Saints Go Marching In*.

A must-have for any attendee, this limited-edition shirt will be available for \$25—while supplies last. Add it to your collection before it's gone!



ACS Books: *Evangeline*

\$10

Pick up ACS Books' brand new title, *Evangeline*, by H.W. Longfellow. This beautiful presentation of the poem features essays by Joseph Pearce and Christopher Check.

Buy your copy and get it signed at the conference!

