

Dr. Pia de Solenni, SThD

Bio:

Dr. Pia de Solenni is an ethicist and moral theologian who speaks and writes on a variety of cultural and moral issues. She currently serves as director of Diotima Consulting and her expertise covers issues relating to women's health, life issues and bioethics, the new feminism and culture. Her work has appeared in various publications including The Washington Post, The New York Times and The Associated Press. She is a frequent commentator on MSNBC, FOX, CNN and other nationally televised programs.

Dr. de Solenni received her doctorate in sacred theology summa cum laude from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome, where she received an award for her doctoral work. The award was presented by the late Pope John Paul II.

In addition to the doctorate, Dr. de Solenni holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts-Great Books from Thomas Aquinas College, California; a Sacred Theology Baccalaureate from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome; and a Sacred Theology Licentiate from Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome.

Awards & Appointments:

2001 Award of the Pontifical Academies, presented November 8, 2001, by Pope John Paul II.
- Highest academic award bestowed by the Vatican to a young scholar or institution for a publication or body of research which makes a relevant contribution to the development of the theological sciences.

U.S. Delegate to the UN for the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, February 26 – March 9, 2007.

Publications and Articles:

Early Church Fathers: Excerpts Pertaining to Abortion, Web publication, April 1999,
<http://www.priestsforlife.org/magisterium/earlychurchfathers/fatherscover.html>.

A Hermeneutic of Aquinas's "Mens" Through a Sexually Differentiated Epistemology: Towards an understanding of woman as "imago Dei," Dissertations, Vol. 2, Pontificia Università della Santa Croce, Rome 2000. Republished 2003.

Columns, *Washington Post*, *National Catholic Register*, *Tagespost*, *Our Sunday Visitor*, *National Review Online*, *National Review* (print edition), *Wall Street Journal Europe*, *Washington Times*, & *National Catholic Reporter*, April 2001- present.

"After Roe, Starting Over," *Building a Culture of Life Thirty Years After Roe v. Wade*, Family Research Council, Washington, DC, January 2003.

"Faith and Reason: The New Feminism," talk given at Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, Annual Convention, September 28, 2002. Published in *Voices of the New Springtime*, Edited by Kenneth D. Whitehead, St. Augustine's Press, South Bend, IN, 2004.

"What Does the Natural Law Have to Say to Women?" *Natural Law Today*, sponsored by the Ralph McInerney Center for Thomistic Studies, Washington, DC, July 14, 2006. Proceedings to be published.

Different and Equal, Crossroad Publishing Co., New York, 2010.

Past Talks:

"The New Feminism: A Cultural and Social Renaissance," talk given at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists, Ave Maria Law School, Michigan, October 26-27, 2001.

"The New Feminism: A Philosophical and Epistemological Renaissance," seminar given for the professors of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome, November 9, 2001.

"Woman and Her Capacity for Knowledge of the Mystery of the Cross in Thomas Aquinas and Josemaría Escrivá," talk given at *The Grandeur of Ordinary Life*, an international conference held in Rome, 7-12 January 2002.

"Feminism for Today's Woman," talk given at the Peoria Diocesan Catechetical Conference, June 13-14, 2002. Subsequent versions given in various venues.

"Personhood: The New Feminism" & "The Dignity of Women" talks given at World Youth Day, Toronto, July 24 & 26, 2002, in conjunction with a roundtable discussion on the theology of the body on July 25, 2002.

"Thomism & the New Feminism," *EWTN Live with Mother Angelica [Fr. Mitch Pacwa]*, September 25, 2002.

"Complimentarity in the Thought of Aquinas," *John Paul II and the Renewal of Thomistic Theology*, conference sponsored by The Aquinas Center for Theological Renewal at Ave Maria College, August 8-10, 2003.

"Developing a Coherent Philosophy of Woman," CEU University in Valencia, Spain, the John Paul II Institute, Valencia, Spain, and CEU University in Madrid, Spain, November 1-8, 2003.

"The Authority of Women in the Catholic Church and *Ordinatio sacerdotalis*," *The Call to Holiness and Communion: Vatican Council II on the Church*, conference sponsored by Sacred Heart Major Seminary and the Inter-cultural Forum of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, November 14, 2003. Proceedings published: *Called to Holiness and Communion: Vatican II on the Church*, edited by Rev. Steven Boguslawski, OP and Robert Fastiggi, University of Scranton Press, Chicago, 2009.

"Is 'human dignity' a meaningful concept?," *Science, Faith, and Law*, sponsored by the Integritas Institute, University of Illinois, Chicago, February 28, 2005.

"The Notion of Beauty," *Women, Beauty, and Image*, fashion conference sponsored by Murray Hill Institute, New York, April 9, 2005.

"John Paul II and Natural Law," *Thomistic Understanding of Natural Law as the Foundation of Positive Law*, sponsored by the St. Thomas Education Project, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Law, Budapest, July 12-16, 2005.

"Benedict XVI and the Role of Women in the Church," *Pope Benedict XVI: A New Pontificate*, sponsored by the Christendom College, Summer Institute, Virginia, July 28-29, 2006.

"The Personalism of Pope John Paul II and the Dignity and Vocation of Women," sponsored by the University of St. Francis, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, October 4, 2006.

"Human Sexuality: Being vs. Doing," Annual Conference of the Catholic Physicians Guild and the Sts. Cosmas & Damian Society, Ottawa, Canada, December 9, 2006.

"Il movimento per la famiglia negli stati uniti" ("The Family Movement in the United States,")
Associazione Romana Studi e Solidarietà, Rome, Italy, April 26, 2007.

"Il ruolo della donna all' interno della Chiesa. La questione dell' ordinazione sacerdotale" ("The Role of Women in the Church: the question of priestly ordination.") Corso di specializzazione in informazione religiosa: questioni di attualità giornalistica sulla Chiesa Cattolica (Seminar on particular religious questions for journalists covering the Catholic Church), Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome, Italy, April 27, 2007.

"Abortion, Contraception, and the Well Being of Women," Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, November 12, 2007.

"The Family – Cradle of Life & Love: Reflections on *Humanae Vitae*," Amarillo, Texas, March 9, 2008.

"Human Intentionality and the Marital Act," St. Paul Seminary, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota, June 18, 2008. (To be published in upcoming French and English editions of *Nova et Vetera*.)

"Generations X&Y and *Humanae Vitae*," Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, Michigan, September 20, 2008.

"St. Thomas Aquinas and the Feminine Genius," Siena Conference, St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, October 23, 2008.

"St. Paul and Women," *Faith And Reason* lecture series, Cathedral of St. Paul, St. Paul, Minnesota, December 4, 2008.

"*Mulieris Dignitatem*: Why a document on women affects all of society," given at the conference "Woman, who are you," Ede, Netherlands, May 2, 2009 and at the Universidad Catolica de Valencia, Valencia, Spain, May 6, 2009.

Media Experience- Interviews and Debates:

Topics include a range of social, cultural, and ethical issues such as embryonic stem cell research, abortion and abortion-related themes, the Terri Schiavo case, the death of John Paul II, the election of Benedict XVI, and the exposition of the Catholic faith, including a national response to the *Da Vinci Code*.

TMG Catholic Speaker Services

"Always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that is within you." (1 Peter 3:15)

Radio: Local, national, and international, including National Public Radio, Canadian Radio Broadcasting, and BBC. Weekly commentator on "Catholic Connection," on Sirius Satellite and EWTN Radio.

Television: Local, national, and international, including BBC International, CNN, MSNBC (*Hardball, O'Reilly Factor, Coast to Coast*), ABC News NOW, CNBC, and EWTN.

Print/Internet: In addition to local outlets and publications, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Washington Times*, Associated Press.