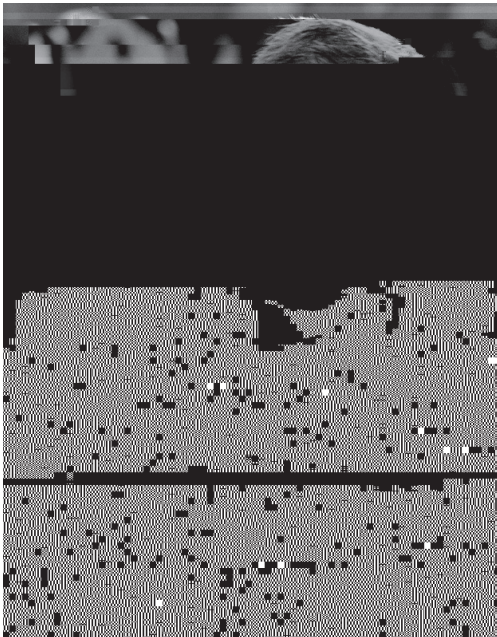

The Boisi Center Report

the boisi center for religion and american public life at boston college

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From the Director



When we began our work at the Boisi Center ten years ago, we had high hopes that the Prophetic Voices Lecture would become our signature event each year. The idea was to invite a prominent person who has demonstrated usual moral courage, and who has thought publically about his or her faith in ways that inspire action in the world. Many distinguished individuals have joined us for this purpose, including Sr. Helen Prejean, Fuller Seminary's Richard Mouw, and Muslim scholar Abdullahi An-Na'im. This year, though, may have been the best we have hosted. Committed to intellectual diversity, I wanted a conservative thinker for the lecture and immediately thought of Professor Robert George, of Princeton University. No sooner did he accept our invitation than the New York Times Magazine ran a major profile of him.

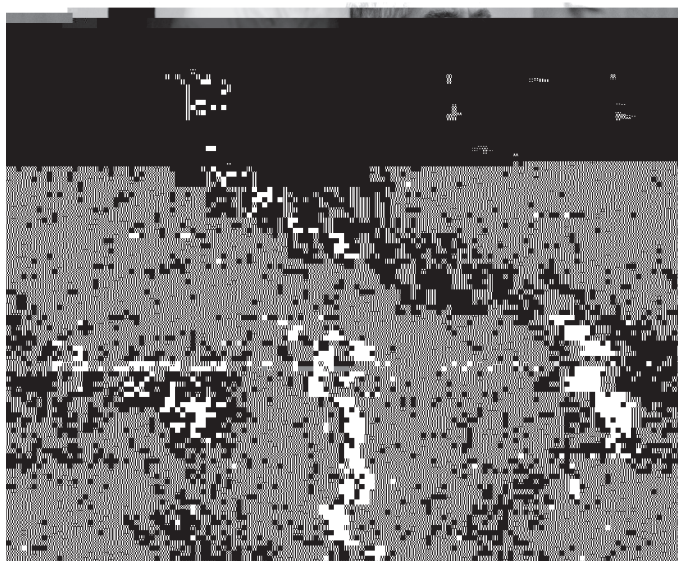
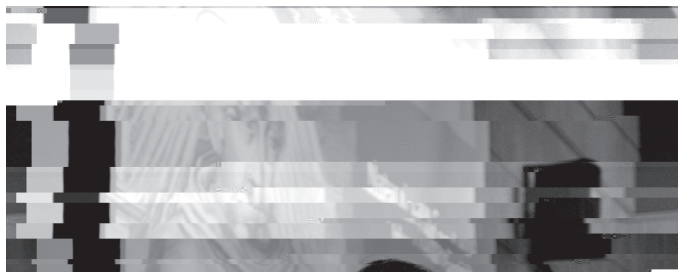
Professor George's talk on natural law and human dignity was deeply nuanced and fascinating. Rarely have I seen so many pay attention for so long. I am enormously grateful to Robby George for joining us, and for saying such gracious things about us afterwards on the Mirror of Justice blog.

causes of the financial crisis

a prophetic voice on natural law

Robert P. George, recently described by the New York Times Magazine as “the country’s most influential conservative-Christian thinker,” presented a talk entitled “Natural Law, God and Human Dignity” as the 9th Annual Prophetic Voices Lecture on March 25th before a large crowd in Higgins Hall.

George, the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Notre Dame, is the author of “The Constitution, Natural Law, and the Sanctity of Human Life” and “The Constitution, Natural Law, and the Sanctity of Human Life.”



On April 8 James Keenan, S.J., Founders Professor of Theology at Boston College, spoke on the importance of public information and education in addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis, and how the epidemic has informed the ethical responses to contemporary global challenges.

Keenan argued that HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts cannot succeed without concurrent attempts to rectify existing structural inequalities in the developing world. HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects women, migrants, and impoverished people, all of whom also have less access to preventative care and treatment options.

To illustrate some of the problems of gender inequity facing isproportion/A

In the industrialized world, where people have access to health care and preventive techniques, AIDS is a chronic but treatable illness. In the developing world, however, AIDS is widely considered terminal. If we have the capability to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS in the West, Keenan concluded, we have capability to treat it in the developing world as well. But, he argued, ethicists won't be able to truly address the issue of HIV/AIDS and other global epidemics until they deal with the structural social and economic inequalities exacerbating the problem.

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