

Catholic Studies Masters of Arts Program Disputation

The New Evangelization: Radical Engagement or Radical Identity?



Wednesday December 7th 7:30-9:30 PM
McNeely Hall Great Room

How should the Church respond to contemporary culture? Is the right response one of radical engagement in the “Jamesian open space,” as Charles Taylor suggests, or is it more along the lines of recovering radical identity through “local forms of community,” as Alasdair MacIntyre proposes? Pope Benedict XVI appears to hold both of these views in tension: on several occasions he has emphasized the importance of monastic aspect of the Church and he has also frequently used the “Court

of the Gentiles” as an image of how the Church should be engaging the world. On Wednesday, December 7, Terence Sweeney (M.A. Catholic Studies, 2011) and Jacob Rhein (M.A. Catholic Studies, ant. 2012) will take up this topic from the standpoint of history, philosophy, and theology, each defending one side of the issue in the hope that, through academic disputation and collegial conversation, we will arrive at a true consensus.