

Hope and Healing

A new lecture series at The Basilica of Saint Mary

BY DAVID LINK



October 3, 2024

Left to right: Robert Vischer, President of the University of St. Thomas; Fr. Daniel Griffith; G. Marcus Cole, Dean of the University of Notre Dame Law School; and David Link



It is a particularly divisive time for our country, for our society, and for our communities. We are confronted with increasing polarization, intolerance, anger, and bigotry. We struggle to have the civil discourse needed to bridge the harmful divides with our neighbors. We see the breakdown of national unity, of communities, often of our friendships and families, and even of our faith congregations.

Many of us are struggling. We are searching for hope. We are in need of healing.

Saint John Paul II recognized that there “are needs and common goods that cannot

be satisfied by the market system.” To find our way through hope to healing, we need to focus on our relationships and look to our faith.

In response to this need, Fr. Daniel Griffith and The Basilica have launched a new lecture series: “Hope and Healing—The Promise of Catholic Social Teaching for a Divided America.” The Hope and Healing series will invite Catholic and non-Catholic thought leaders to The Basilica to discuss significant social issues of our time.

The lecture series will emphasize the power of Catholic Social Teaching toward

building right relationships. This teaching reminds us that we are responsible for each other and offers a divinely inspired understanding of our shared human freedoms, rights, and social obligations. It illuminates a path toward human flourishing and stronger communities. Under a framework of mercy, solidarity, and love, Catholic Social Teaching obligates us to seek justice, to give priority to the poor and marginalized, and practice charity as we look to rebuild our relationships and our communities.

For our inaugural program, held on

“*There has never been a more important time for the Link Lecture Series. The Basilica of Saint Mary is honored to host this series in memory of such an extraordinary man—a man of faith and reason. Like the late Reverend David Link, this series promises to be vital, inspirational, intelligent, and rooted in faith.*”

— Fr. Daniel Griffith, Pastor and Pastor, The Basilica of Saint Mary

October 3, 2024, The Basilica was honored to have G. Marcus Cole, Dean of the University of Notre Dame Law School, and Robert Vischer, President of the University of St. Thomas, as our featured speakers. For a large audience in the Saint Teresa of Calcutta Hall, Dean Cole and President Vischer spoke and answered questions about the power of faith and values for healing our divisions and about essential Catholic Social Teaching principles of shared human dignity, solidarity, and substantiality. The event was a great success and very well received by those who attended.

Going forward, The Basilica will host one or more similar events each year. Distinguished speakers, drawing from the wisdom of Catholic Social Teaching, will lead constructive discussion and



Reverend David T. Link



Fall 2025 Hope and Healing Speaker

Sister Raffaella Petrini, F.S.E. President of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State and President of the Governorate of Vatican City State

Sister Raffaella visited The Basilica in 2024 with Fr. Daniel Griffith and Johan van Parys

offer ideas to overcome the harms of our present polarized culture.

The Hope and Healing lecture series is inspired by and dedicated to my late father, Rev. David T. Link. My father had a remarkable and distinguished career as a lawyer and an educator, including serving as the founding dean for the University of St. Thomas School of Law.

But he and my mother are most remembered and loved for their dedicated service working for peace initiatives, advocating for justice and human and civil rights, and caring for the homeless and the less fortunate. When my mother passed away after a long illness, my father, guided by the Holy Spirit and the spirit of my mother, attended seminary and was ordained a Catholic priest at the age of 71. For the rest of his life, he selflessly served his brothers in prisons across northern Indiana as a beloved priest, advocate, and friend.

My father continues to inspire my own journey of hope and faith through service. I am deeply honored that Fr. Daniel saw fit to recognize my father's legacy as inspiration for the Hope and Healing lecture series.

The next event in the series is scheduled for this fall with Sister Raffaella Petrini, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist, appointed by Pope Francis as head of the Governorate and Commission of Vatican City. Please look for an announcement in the coming months, and we hope you will join us for this transformative programming dedicated to hope and healing. ✚

Learn more at mary.org/hopeandhealing.

David Link has been a parishioner since 2008 and volunteers with several Basilica ministries and committees. He currently serves as Parish Council Chair.