

The Sixth International Seminar on the Study of Fraternity

Fraternity in Public Action for Development and Latin American Integration

The University of St. Thomas in Bogotá and the University Network for the Study of Fraternity have brought together a number of co-sponsors for a seminar, the sixth in a series that began in 2006.

Preliminary Latin American conferences on fraternity in politics were held in Haiti (2002) and in Argentina (2003). Those early conferences gave birth to the University Network for the Study of Fraternity, and a new series of seminars. *Claritas* published a history of this academic movement as well as a bibliography of its work: Mardones Z. Rodrigo (Pontifical Catholic University of Chile), “Fraternity in Politics: New Scholarship and Publications from Latin America,” *Claritas* 1.2 (2012). In its 2.1 issue *Claritas* followed up that article with an “In Focus” collection of articles on fraternity.

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The Bogotá seminar, which will be held from October 14-17, 2014, is supported by the University of Blas Pascal in Argentina, ASCES College in Brazil, the National University of La Plata in Argentina, La Gran University in Colombia, the University of San Buenaventura in Colombia, the Open and Distance National University in Colombia, the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Brazil, and Sophia University Institute in Italy. The purpose of this sixth seminar is to promote collaborative research and dialogue among scholars who see fraternity as an object of academic study, or a value that can be practiced in spheres such as government, communities, and families. This collaborative work, both academic and practical, seeks to achieve new and better conditions for development, reconciliation, and regional integration in Latin America.

While the specific objective of the seminar is to discuss academic and practical fraternal constructs for development and integration among the peoples of Latin America, it also seeks to identify theoretical and practical contributions to the Colombian quest for a lasting peace. *Claritas* will publish selected articles from this important seminar in a future issue.