

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

We welcome all of our readers (especially those who are coming to the Journal for the first time) to the latest issue of *Marcel Studies*. We know we have readers from all over the world, and we appreciate your interest!

Our first article in this issue is by Professor Steven Knepper of the Virginia Military Institute. Steven's article explores some resources Gabriel Marcel offers for describing and cultivating an attuned, responsive relationship to place. Along the way, he draws on writings about place by some Marcelian kindred spirits, such as Henry Bugbee, Walker Percy, William Desmond, and Wendell Berry.

In our second article, Robert Lisowski takes up the vexing problem of evil. He is particularly interested in how a minister or counselor is to serve the dying and the bereaved in a manner that avoids both extremes of pietistic platitudes and despair. Robert suggests that Marcel's philosophy offers a possible solution. Specifically, his contribution lies in viewing evil in general and death in particular as a "mystery" and not as a "problem."

Dutch scholar, Rico Sneller's article attempts to shed some light on the scourge of suicide terrorism from the perspective of Marcel's thought. Rico argues that key concepts in Marcel such as mystery, evil, problem, presence, and intersubjectivity can be illuminating concerning this morally horrific practice, and suggests that suicide terror exemplifies a state of precipitated, albeit flawed, intersubjectivity.

In our "News and Views" section, we remember Marcel scholar and co-founder of the Gabriel Marcel Society, K.R. Hanley, who passed away in October 2019. There is also a reminiscence by distinguished Irish poet Desmond Egan regarding his attendance at a lecture by Marcel in Ireland in 1959, along with a recap of the Marcel Satellite session at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, which was held in Minneapolis. Look out also for a notice of a new Marcelian publication, *The Invisible Threshold: Two Plays* by Gabriel Marcel (published by St. Augustine's Press, 2019).

A reminder that *Marcel Studies* is an on-line peer reviewed, international Journal dedicated to furthering understanding and appreciation of the work of Marcel. We welcome submissions from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives on topics and themes that pertain to any aspect of Marcel's thought. We encourage younger scholars especially to submit their work to the Journal. The editors will make a special effort to work with younger scholars in an attempt to bring the fruits of their scholarship to a worldwide audience.

The aim of our Journal is not only to promote, but to encourage, Marcel scholarship, and, keeping in mind also that the Journal is interdisciplinary, one of our goals is to help prospective authors in a variety of fields to bring their work to publication. A reminder also to publishers and authors that we welcome new books for possible review in our Journal on any topic broadly related to Marcelian themes, or to existentialist thought. All books should be sent to the editor at Rockhurst University.

I wish to thank all of our readers and friends of Marcel for their continued interest and support.

Dr. Brendan Sweetman,
Editor, *Marcel Studies*,
Professor of Philosophy,
Rockhurst University,
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