

# ACTON notes

Acton Institute Newsletter

November / December 2010, Volume 20, Number 6



*“Connecting good intentions with sound economics”*

## **In This Issue**

- 20th Acton Anniversary Dinner Largest Ever • DeVos Honored with Faith & Freedom Award

# President's Message

"The blessing of freedom comes our way, and we take the blessing but forget the source."

Trends in economics and politics have driven many people who favor freedom into a despairing outlook. How could this country so casually throw away the liberty that has created so much wealth and been the source of so much human ingenuity and creativity, the liberty that has also been the foundation for the flourishing of religious faith here as few other places in the world?

The blessing of freedom comes our way, and we take the blessing but forget the source. We study history but do not learn from it, and therefore we try political approaches that have failed and failed again.

A good example here is the way the central bank is trying to use monetary depreciation to give the economy a jolt. This has been tried from the ancient to the modern world, and the tactic fails every time. You cannot create wealth by printing money. The attempt leads to economic disaster. This seems like something everyone should understand, and yet our leaders keep trying it again and again.

It's the same with socialized medicine, centralized state education, trade protectionism, high taxation, and a host of other nostrums. They are failed policies that keep returning due to the human condition of fallibility and hubris. We keep looking for the government to provide magic solutions that only hard work, faith, and freedom can provide.

But for those who despair, I would urge a counsel of looking at longer term trends. The world has opened up to communication, trade, and travel as never before. This means that more people than ever before can contribute to the building of civilization. We've never had more opportunities to evangelize our world for truth and freedom. This is a glorious opportunity.

I see the evidence every year at the Acton University and even every day as I look through who is using the materials produced by the Acton Institute. Our message is covering the world today, a dream come true, and made possible only by generous help from you.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Robert A. Sirico". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Robert A. Sirico, President

The mission of the Acton Institute is to promote a free and virtuous society characterized by individual liberty and sustained by religious principles.

ACTON INSTITUTE

161 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 301 • Grand Rapids, MI 49503 • USA • [www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org)

# 20th Acton Anniversary Dinner Largest Ever

Over 600 guests attended the Acton Institute's Annual Dinner for a special 20th anniversary celebration of the institute in downtown Grand Rapids on October 21.

Rev. Robert A. Sirico delivered the keynote address reminding those gathered that we must get Christian anthropology correct if we are going to get anything correct at all. Rev. Sirico pressed the importance of understanding who we are in our origins, as humans created in the image of God, "and what we are called to in our eternal destiny." Rev. Sirico also declared, "It is not politics that is going to save us, but it is right thinking that is going to save us. And the big elephant in the room is that politicians are followers, not leaders."

To the delight of the attendees, Rev. Sirico was introduced by his brother, film actor Tony Sirico. Tony Sirico is most famous for playing "Paulie Gualtieri" in the television series "The Sopranos."

Kate O'Beirne, who is president of the National

Review Institute, served as the master of ceremonies for the evening.

Mr. David Bahnsen, writing on *The Bahnsen Viewpoint*, offered these kind words about the evening:

...politicians are followers,  
not leaders."

I am inspired, as always, to hear Father Sirico speak. I was entertained to hear his brother, Tony Sirico of "The Sopranos" fame introduce him. But beyond a wonderful evening with like-minded lovers of liberty and market economics, I also leave Grand Rapids tomorrow a more equipped believer. God is working through this Institute.

If you would like to listen and watch clips from Rev. Sirico's address and remarks from other speakers at the dinner, you can visit Acton's YouTube page at [www.youtube.com/user/actoninstitute](http://www.youtube.com/user/actoninstitute).

The Acton Institute would like to extend a special thank you to the many friends and supporters who attended the dinner and helped to make this anniversary event truly memorable.



Actor Tony Sirico and Rev. Robert Sirico

## From Our Conference Participants

I want to extend a word of thanksgiving for those who so thoughtfully care enough to render this opportunity for us to attend this Acton conference.

—Donna Edwards  
Plano, Texas

I had the privilege to hear in-depth and knowledgeable presentations and I am really looking forward to employing that philosophy in my ministry.

—Tom Kinser  
New York, New York

## DeVos Honored with Faith & Freedom Award

Mr. Richard M. DeVos was the recipient of the Acton Institute Faith and Freedom Award at the Annual Dinner on October 21. DeVos spent much of his address giving thanks to God and talking about how the Lord has been a deep influence for not only his business dealings but his personal life.

Rev. Robert A. Sirico praised DeVos for his understanding that the “roots of liberty and the morally charged life are to be found in the eternal truths of the Judeo-Christian tradition.”

The Faith and Freedom Award was established as part of the Acton Institute’s 10th anniversary celebration in 2000. The award recognizes an individual who exemplifies commitment to faith and freedom through outstanding leadership in civic, business, or religious life. Past recipients include, with date of award: John Marks Templeton (2000); Cardinal Van Thuan (2002); Rocco Buttiglione (2004); Charles W. Colson (2006); Mart Laar (2007); and William F. Buckley (2008).

## News Roundup

Just over 200 guests attended the Acton Institute’s “Chicago Open Mic” event at the University Club of Chicago on November 4. Panelists at the event included Acton President Robert A. Sirico, Mr. Joseph A. Morris, who is a partner in the law firm of Morris & De La Rosa and Mr. Brian S. Wesbury, who is the Chief Economist at First Trust Advisers L.P., a financial services firm based in Wheaton, Illinois. The panel discussed and took questions primarily related to government debt and the future of the economy.

Please join us in Naples, Florida on January 22 for an event headlined by Mr. Chuck Colson and Rev. Robert A. Sirico at The Port Royal Club. Please contact Kimberly Brink at [kbrink@acton.org](mailto:kbrink@acton.org) for more information regarding this opportunity.

Soon, you will receive our year-end appeal which accounts for a substantial portion of our income. Our unique and important mission needs your re-investment for continued success. Please know we are deeply humbled and honored by your commitment of friendship and support.

## ACTON News



Mr. Richard M. DeVos accepting the Faith and Freedom Award



## ACTON in the News

“Greece has reached that point. Much of Europe is struggling to avoid following it into the abyss.”

—Excerpted from Dr. Samuel Gregg’s article in *The American Spectator*.

### Rev. Robert A. Sirico

Title: Tea party must define ideas  
Publisher: *The Detroit News*  
Date: 10.19.10

### Rev. Robert A. Sirico

Title: The Tea Party Movement and Catholics  
Program: *Al Kresta in the Afternoon*  
Air Date: 10.18.10

### Dr. Samuel Gregg

Title: Europe’s Broken Economies  
Publisher: *The American Spectator*  
Date: 10.04.10



# 20th

## ANNIVERSARY DINNER

### PICTURE RECAP





# Acton Bookshoppe Christmas Selections

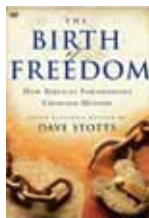


## Call of the Entrepreneur DVD and study guide

*Produced by Acton Media*

Examining several core themes including the pernicious effects of zero-sum-game thinking, the role of entrepreneurs in creating new wealth, the risk-taking element of enterprise, and the role of limited government, property rights, rule of law, and free markets.

**DVD 60 mins    Original Price \$25.00    Sale \$20.00**



## Birth of Freedom Curriculum DVD and Study Guide (set)

*Produced by Zondervan and Acton Media*

Based on the popular documentary The Birth of Freedom, this seven-session DVD study, designed for use with the Birth of Freedom Participants Guide, shows the biblical roots of the concept of freedom and debunks the notion that Christianity held back the development of Western civilization.

**DVD 120 mins    Original Price \$30.00    Sale \$28.00**

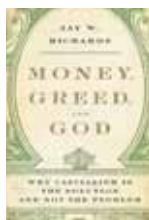


## NIV Stewardship Study Bible

*Published by Zondervan*

The NIV Stewardship Study Bible's goal is to inspire Christians to discover the remarkable privilege we have as stewards of God's design for life through the study of Scripture.

**Hardcover 1,920 pages    Original Price \$40.00    Sale \$35.00**



## Money, Greed, and God

*By Jay Richards*

Jay Richards presents a new approach to capitalism, revealing how it's fully consistent with Jesus's teachings and the Christian tradition, while also showing why this system is our best bet for renewed economic vigor.

**Hardcover 255 pages    Original Price \$28.00    Sale \$24.00**

For our fastest service and a complete list of titles, visit [www.acton.org/bookshoppe](http://www.acton.org/bookshoppe)

	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
<a href="#">Call of the Entrepreneur DVD and study guide</a>	\$20.00		
<a href="#">Birth of Freedom Curriculum DVD and Study Guide</a>	\$28.00		
<a href="#">NIV Stewardship Study Bible</a>	\$35.00		
<a href="#">Money, Greed, and God</a>	\$24.00		

Make checks payable to "Acton Institute." For orders in the United States, Canada, and Mexico: for the first item, add US \$6.75 for shipping; plus US \$1.00 for each additional item. Overseas orders: US \$8.75 for the first item, plus US \$1.75 for each additional item.

Michigan residents add 6% sales tax \_\_\_\_\_  
 (see rates at left) Shipping \_\_\_\_\_  
 (enclose check or credit card information) Total \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_



## Calendar of Events

### ACTON INSTITUTE EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
Jan 22	<b>Naples Dinner</b> Rev. Robert A. Sirico and Mr. Chuck Colson to speak	Naples, FL
Feb 24	<b>Scottsdale Luncheon</b>	Scottsdale, AZ
Feb 25-26	<b>The Virtue of Prosperity</b> Co-sponsored event with Center for Cultural Leadership	Newport Beach, CA

Acton Institute • 161 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 301 • Grand Rapids, MI 49503 • USA

ACTON  
notes

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
PERMIT 986