**Proposal for the Siena Institute**

**for Women, Family, and Culture**

***Institute’s Mission Statement***

The purpose of the Institute is to promote an authentic understanding of the relationship between men and women as well as the indispensable role of the women in rebuilding families and establishing the culture of life and civilization of love through scholarship, curriculum development, and public education.

**Introduction**

We are an interdisciplinary faculty group responding to Blessed John Paul II’s call to develop a new feminism ordered towards reclaiming the culture of life and building the civilization of love both here in America and across the glove. St. Catherine of Siena is our patron saint because, as one of the first woman doctors of the Church, she exemplifies how to work in the world while remaining centered on God.

To accomplish her mission, the Siena Institute must counter national as well as global trends that discount not only the value and dignity of woman and her work, but also the uniqueness of her gender roles as virgin, wife, and mother. These trends include gender nihilism, an utilitarian depersonalization that trivializes the importance of marriage and natural families across the globe, a widespread emotivism that eviscerates love and feeds the culture of death, and a denigration of faith’s relevance.

To meet these challenges, we organize our goals under four themes: Catholic Identity, Research, Education, and Global Leadership. After a brief discussion of these themes, we list our strategic priorities and then our funding needs, provide a brief description of directors and Advisory Board Members, and then conclude with a listing of Existing Efforts and Past Events.

***Four Key Goals and Their Rationale***

**Catholic Identity:** The Institute seeks to understand, develop, and share the Catholic view, consistent with the magisterium, that humans are created to love and to care for each other in ways that advance the welfare of all and that following the insights of faith brings nature to its fullest fulfillment and joy to the soul.

*Rationale:* Siena Institute began as an interdisciplinary faculty group founded by R. Mary Lemmons, Ph.D. and Deborah Savage, Ph.D. to understand and promote the Catholic view of woman and her vocation as primarily set out in *Evangelium Vitae* and *Mulieris Dignitatem.* In these papal documents, Blessed John Paul not only described the vocation of women, the nature of gender, the implications of sexual equality, and the perennial problems caused by Original Sin, but also asked women to use their sensitivity to the human person to develop a new feminism that protects life and advances the civilization of love.

**Research:** To understand not only the problems facing women, families, and culture but also how the feminine sensitivity to the indispensable dignity of person can help structure their resolution requires research into how these problems reflect both a failure to grasp the full truth about men and women and a failure to understand women’s contribution to establishing loving families and a culture of life across the globe.

*Rationale:* The need for research was explained by Blessed John Paul II: “The condition that will assure the rightful presence of woman in the Church and in society is a more penetrating and accurate consideration of the anthropological foundation for masculinity and femininity with the intent of clarifying woman’s personal identity in relation to man, that is, a diversity yet mutual complementarity, not only as it concerns roles to be held and functions to be performed, but also, and more deeply, as it concerns her make-up and meaning as a person.” John Paul II *Christifidelis Laici* #50

**Education:** Siena prides itself on developing programs that educate students as well the public about the value and importance of woman and her work in all areas of human activity. Siena provides unique assistance in attaining the mission of the University of St. Thomas "to educate morally responsible leaders who think critically, act wisely, and work skillfully to advance the common good."

*Rationale:* Education enables one to achieve one’s fullest potential. Neither men nor women can achieve their fullest potential in ignorance of the gifts of woman, the ways of preserving marriages and families, and the ways of promoting human dignity across the globe. As Blessed John Paul II pointed out:

The Bible convinces us of the fact that one can have no adequate hermeneutic of man, or of what is “human,” without appropriate reference to what is “feminine.” There is an analogy in God’s salvific economy: if we wish to understand it fully in relation to the whole of human history, we cannot omit, in the perspective of our faith, the mystery of “woman” “virgin-mother-spouse.” *Mulieris Dignitatem* ch. 6.

This need of the human race to rely on all of its members is a great gift according to St. Catherine of Siena as it nurtures an appreciation for each other that facilitates love.

***Global Leadership:***Siena Institute seeks to become a leading voice on women, families, and culture so as to further the ability of women—and men across the globe to advance the culture of life and the civilization of love.

*Rationale*: The UST Vision statement asserts that the University is to become “a recognized leader in Catholic higher education that excels in . . . responsible engagement with the local community as well as with the national and global communities in which we live.”

The need for such local, national, and global impact is dire; for, as Blessed John Paul II pointed out, the history of the 20th century shows the need for educating peoples in the civilization of love:

Never . . . have such enormous masses of people experienced and continued to experience conditions of life unworthy of man . . . . Today conscience sees the persistence of unjust conditions, underdevelopment and the violation of human rights as an intolerable crime. . . . The contemporary world is definitely being structured into a system of interdependence at the economic, cultural and political levels. . . . a truly universal awareness must be achieved. . . . For this reason . . . focus humanity's sights on the goal of a “civilization of love”, . . . to achieve the ideal of one human family, while respecting the identity of each of its members and with a mutual exchange of gifts. . . . . those who trust in the charity of God that the way of love is open to all men and that the effort to establish a universal brotherhood will not be in vain” (Gaudium et spes, n. 38).

General Audience, 18 November 1998

Universal brotherhood and a global civilization of love require the full participation of women.

***Strategic Priorities***

**Catholic Identity**

# 1: To advance the understanding of Catholicism’s insights into women, families, and culture through the study of Catholic social thought as developed in Church documents, especially those dealing with the feminine vocation, the family, the culture of life, and the civilization of love.

#2: To collaborate with priests and other religious in development of a proper spiritual disposition in our attempts to integrate faith and reason in our understanding of the role of women in the world.

**Research**

#1: To provide opportunities for scholarly research through annual interdisciplinary conferences that respects the autonomy of the sciences while seeking to develop the implications of the magisterium’s insights into women, family, and culture.

#2: To publish the proceedings of our conferences in an e-journal or some other appropriate venue.

#3: To facilitate research into these topics by developing a peer-reviewed electronic journal accessible across the globe.

#4: To bring leading scholars to campus twice a year to lead faculty seminars and to give public lectures.

#5: To encourage students to focus their endeavors on these areas by offering prize money for the best undergraduate paper and the best graduate student paper on related topics.

#6: To provide grants for scholarly research on the feminine vocation and all the ways that the women and men can work together to promote human dignity both here and across the globe.

**Education**

#1: To continue to present public lectures and text-based workshops that advance the understanding of the nature of woman and her role in sustaining families and building the culture of life and the civilization of love across the globe.

#2: To develop curricular modules that professors could use in a variety of courses. These modules would be about the Catholic vision of women, families, and culture as well as John Paul II’s new feminism, women’s rights and the proper role of the state, women countering the culture of death and building the civilization of love.

#3: To use existing courses in Catholic Studies to develop a minor—and eventually a major in “Catholic Thought, Sexual Identity, and Vocations” that will equip students to know how to welcome and facilitate the feminine vocation as well as the masculine vocation in all areas of human endeavor directed towards developing the civilization of love.

**Global Leadership**

#1: To identify and continually update on our website information about current research and church documents on gender, marriage, the family, and culture. This information will enable our website to become a national and international source of information and influence.

#2: To expand the Advisory Board by opening membership to national and even international leaders in Catholic scholarship and outreach.

#3: To develop a national voice by supporting the research and public activities of Siena Fellows.

#4: To develop a Leadership Corp of women leaders from all areas of human life for the sake of fellowship and the discussion of mutual problems and solutions from the Catholic point of view.

**Routine Funding Needs** (\*anticipated needs)

Funding for Speakers and Conference will be through grants and donations.

Administrative Support for Publicity Posters, Website Updating, and Fundraising Events

Postage and Correspondence Expenses ($100/year)

Siena Leadership Corp Spring and Fall Luncheons ($15/person X 10) X 2 = $ 300/year

Siena Humanitarian Leadership Award ($100/year)

Correspondence and Duplicating Expenses ($100/year)

\*Student Research Assistance in updating bibliographical information ($12/hour x 40 = 480)

\*Student Assistance with Programming

\*Prize money for the best student papers (undergraduate and graduate) dealing with an aspect of Siena’s mission ($250 for first prize; $150 for second prize; $50 for third prize)

\*Travel expenses for directors to attend key professional conferences about the Catholic vision of women, family, and culture.

\*Supplemental wage support for developing pedagogical materials about the Catholic vision of women, family, and culture

**Directors and Principal Faculty Members to be Involved**

**Dr. R. Mary H. Lemmons.** Co-director and Co-founder for the Siena Symposium. Associate Professor of Philosophy. Dr. Lemmons turned to philosophy after earning a bachelor’s of science in biochemistry and a bachelors of arts equivalency in political science from the State University of New York at Binghamton. She earned her doctorate from the Center for Thomistic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Texas. She primarily teaches courses in ethics, philosophy of the person, philosophy of law, and in the philosophy of sex and love. Her publications include articles in all these areas, most notably, “Equality, Gender, and John Paul II,” *Logos* 5.3 (2002): 111-130; “Compassion and the Personalism of American Jurisprudence,” Pages 59-74 in *Bioethics with Liberty and Justice,* ed. Christopher Tollefsen. London & New York: Springer 2011; “Are the Love Precepts Really Natural Law’s Primary Precepts?” American Catholic Philosophical Association Proceedings LXVI: 45-71; and *Ultimate Normative Foundations: The Case for Aquinas’s Personalist Natural Law*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2011.

**Professor Teresa S. Collett,** Co-director of Siena Symposium since the fall of 2012. Also the Director of UST Prolife Center. Professor of UST Law. After graduating with honors from the University of Oklahoma College Of Law and beginning her legal career as a member of the law firm of Crowe & Dunlevy, P.C, in Oklahoma City, she taught law for thirteen years at South Texas College of Law. Since 2003 when she joined UST’s law school, she has been teaching bioethics, constitutional law and constitutional litigation. Professor Teresa Collett is a nationally sought-after scholar and speaker on the topics of marriage, religion and bioethics. She has published numerous legal articles and is the co-author of a law casebook on professional responsibility and co-editor of a collection of essays exploring "catholic" and "Catholic" perspectives on American law . She has testified before committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, as well as numerous state legislatures. She has represented numerous individuals and organizations seeking to advance the prolife agenda before the United States Supreme Court including former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, Congressman Ron Paul, Dr. Edmund Pellegrino, the Illinois State Medical Society, the Catholic Medical Association, and the Christian Medical and Dental Association. She has served as special attorney general for the state of Oklahoma, successfully defending that state's laws requiring parental involvement in a minor's decision to obtain an abortion, as well as counsel for the governors of North Dakota and Minnesota as amici curiae before the United States Supreme Court defending the constitutionality of parental involvement laws. Most recently she represented Kansas district attorneys in their defense of that state's statute requiring the reporting of sexual abuse of minors under the age of sixteen.

**Dr. Deborah Savage**. Siena Board of Advisors. Co-founder of the Siena Symposium. Director of the Masters in Pastoral Ministry at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity. After working as production supervisor at AMD, Inc., and at NCR Corporation, owning her own consulting firm *The Triad Group*, Dr. Savage earned her doctorate from Marquette University. She joined SPSSOD where she teaches courses on John Paul II, Vatican II, complementarity and the Church, philosophy, catechetical leadership, administration and stewardship as well as a course in Mission and Community in a Diverse Church. Her publications include “Women and Catholic Social Thought.” Pages 155-170 in *Catholic Social Thought: American Reflections on the Compendium*,” edited by Paul D. Sullins & Anthony J. Blasi. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2009; *The Subjective Dimension of Human Work: The Conversion of the Acting Person According to Karol Wojtyla/John Paul II and Bernard Lonergan*. Peter Lang: 2008; “Is Creating Wealth a Virtue?” *Bridges.* Vol. 8 (spring/summer 2001): 1-32; and “Introduction to Dorothy Sayers’ ‘Are Women Human?’” *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture* Vol. # 8:4 (Fall 2005): 158-164.

**Prof. Lisa Schiltz.** Siena Board of Advisors since 2004. Also a member of the Board of Trustees of The Saint Paul Seminary; Co-Director of the Terrence J. Murphy Institute for Catholic Thought, Law and Public Policy; founding member of the Conference of Catholic Legal Thought; blogger for Mirror of Justice; and, Thomas J. Abood Research Scholar. Professor of UST Law. After graduating magna cum laude from Yale University and receiving her juris doctor from Columbia Law School, she began her legal career working for various law firms specializing in banking law. She then taught at Notre Dame Law School, before she joined UST Law where she teaches classes in contracts, commercial law, and banking regulation. She received the 2007 Dean's Award for Outstanding Scholarship and was elected the 2007 Professor of the Year. Her research interests include the relationship of federal and state law in regulating consumer credit, disability and consumer law theory, and feminist legal theory. Her publications include *Feminism, Law and Religion*  in Gender in Law, Culture and Society Series. Ashgate Press, 2013; Expressivist Arguments in the Context of Selective Abortions after Prenatal Diagnoses of Disability in Search of Common Ground on Abortion and Reproductive Justice (Meredith Esser, Justin Murray, and Robin West, eds, Ashgate Press, forthcoming 2013); A Contemporary Catholic Theory of Complementarity in Feminism, Law And Religion (Marie Failinger, Elizabeth R. Schiltz & Susan J. Stabile, eds, Ashgate Press, forthcoming 2013); Dueling Vocations: Managing the Tensions Between Our Private and Public Callings, in\pard plain Women, Sex, and the Church; A Case for Catholic Teaching (Erika Bachiochi ed., Pauline Books & Media, 2010); The Paradox of the Global and the Local in the Financial Crisis of 2008: Applying the Lessons of Charitas in Veritate to the Regulation of Consumer Credit in the United States and the European Union, 26 J.L. & Religion 173 (2010); *Learning from Mary: The Feminine Vocation and American Law,* 8 Ave Maria L. Rev. 101 (2009); Foreword: Workplace Restructuring to Accommodate Family Life, 4 U. St. Thomas L.J. 343 (2008); “Should Bearing the Child Mean Bearing All the Cost? A Catholic Perspective on the Sacrifice of Motherhood and the Common Good,” 10 *Logos: J. Cath. Thought & Culture* 15 (2007); Motherhood and the Mission: What Catholic Law Schools Could Learn from Harvard about Women, 56 Cath. U. L. Rev. 405 (2007); *West, MacIntyre and Wojtyla: Pope John Paul II’s Contribution to the Development of a Dependency-Based Theory of Justice,* 45 J. Cath. Legal Stud. 369 (2007);, The Disabled Jesus: A Parent Looks at the Logic Behind Prenatal Testing and Stem Cell Research, Am., March 12, 2007 at 16.; Confessions of a Genetic Outlaw, Hum. Life Rev., Summer/Fall 2006, at 139.

**Dr. Jeanne Buckeye**. Siena Board of Advisors since 2004. Associate Professor of Ethics and Business Law. John A. Ryan Institute Fellow. The 2013 recipient of the Business Ethics Award for excellence in bringing reflections on the ethics of business administration to her teaching. She has been division director, acting dean, and associate dean of the College of Business. Dr. Buckeye earned her doctorate from the University of Minnesota and joined UST as an associate professor of management in 1984. She specializes in teaching courses in management and ethics. Her research interests include the Focolare movement. Her papers include "Mundell & Associates, Inc.: Managing When Faith Really Matters," Case Research Journal 31 (2011) :2; *A Business Faculty Perspective on Catholic Mission, Identity, and Social Principles* (2012); *A Paradox in a Good Question* (2012); *Imaging a Catholic School of Business* (2012); *Business as a Vocation: Catholic Social Teaching and Business Education: A Response to Cardinal Turkson* (2012); *Faithful Leaders in Difficult Times: A Response; Hello! From Childhood: Mona Lisa Worked* (2004)

**Dr. Anne Maloney**. Siena Board of Advisors since 2004. Associate Professor of Philosophy and Chair of Philosophy at University of St. Catherine where she teaches courses on feminism. Publications include *Say You Want a Revolution? Pro-life Philosophy and Feminism*; Cassandra’s Fate: Why Feminist Ought to Be Pro-life,” *SisterLife,* Fall 1009

**Dr. Carole Bagely**. Siena Board Member since 2012. Director of an inter-agency e-learning project with the army, navy, coast guard, air force and the Department of Veteran Affairs. Dr. Bagely is an expert in instructional technology and has worked with the Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium (MECC), Control Data Corporation - Plato project, MN Department of Corrections Schools, as a Distinguished Professor for the University of St Thomas, Founder of the Digital Learning Forum(DLF), and as Consultant and Team Leader with The Technology Group, Inc. and work with numerous corporations and law firms, Perfect Access Speer, Future Kids, ISPI, ASCD, MindQuest Virtual School, numerous public, private and charter schools, and the US govt.

**Prof. Liz Briel**. Siena Board Member since 2012. Managing Editor of Logos. Adjunct Professor of Catholic Studies teaching “Woman and Man.” Publications include *2013: A Book of Grace-Filled Days* (Loyola Press 2012); *The Rosary: A Path into Prayer* (Loyola Press 2004); *Heaven in You and You in Heaven: Unveiling Eternity on Earth* (Word Among Us Press 2008; *May Crowning, Mass, and Merton and Other Reasons I Love Being Catholic* (Loyola Press 2006) which won the 2007 Catholic Press Association Award for Popular Presentation of the Catholic Faith.

**Dr. Heidi Geibel.** Siena Board Member since 2012. Associate Professor of Philosophy. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame, Dr. Geibel began teaching ethics, bioethics, and medieval philosophy. Her publications include “Teaching Virtue,” *Teaching Philosophy* 35 (4): 345-366; “The Separate Minds of Church and State,” *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* 80:141-150.

**Existing Efforts and Past Events**

**On-Going Efforts**

Scholars Conference on the 25th Anniversary of Mulieris Dignitatem (grant pending)

Liaison through Dr. Savage with ENDOW, the Argument for Women Club, and Fr. Michael Becker’s undergraduate discussion group on women

**2013**

Spring Colloquim: Prof. Helen Alvare on “Women and the Politics of Freedom”

**2012**

Summer Colloquim: Religious Liberty and the Equality of Women with panelists Profs. Collett, Savage, Lemmons and moderator Dr. Buckeye

Spring Colloquium: Sr. Prudence Allen, "Ransoming Gender: the History of Sex and Gender" (video); "Integral Complementarity of Women and Man: the Catholic Inspiration."

**2011**

Fall Colloquium with Deborah Savage "The Nature of Women in Relation to Man: Genesis 1 and 2 Through the Lens of the Metaphysical Anthropology of Thomas Aquinas."

Summer Workshop on *Women in the Church and in the World* led by Siena Board Members.

**2008**

Scholar’s Conference - *Women and the Recovery of Culture: Mulieris Dignitatem and the Church's Social Vision: The Feminine Genius in the Pursuit of the Common Good.*

**2007**

Summer Seminar - *Reclaiming the Integrated Life: How Does Catholic Social Thought Counsel Women in the Professions?* Led by Siena Board Members

**2006**

|Summer Seminar - *Recasting Catholic Social Thought: Bringing Women's Issues and Contributions to the Forefront.* Led by Siena Board Members

Spring Colloquium, Dr. Sarah Borden - "Sex, Gender, and Vocations in the Contemporary World"; "Difference, Sameness and Sex -and- Sex as a Vocational Response."

**2005**

|Summer Seminar - *The Theotokos and the Vocation of Woman* with Fr. Lee Piche, Deacon John Paul Erickson, and Fr. Mark Dosh.*.*

**2004**

Scholars Conference - John Paul II and the Vocation of the Professional Woman.