

EXPERIENCING FREEDOM

We all talk about freedom. But what is freedom and what is its origin? And what does it have to do with human fulfillment, authority, and power?

A great deal of uncertainty surrounds these questions. As a result, we find ourselves progressively replacing personal risk and responsibility with rules, policies, and risk management directives. It is as if we were afraid of experiencing too much freedom, and thus willing to trade it for one of its many palliatives.

We are approaching what T.S. Eliot predicted in his Chorus from the Rock-- a society that "constantly tries to escape from the darkness outside and within by dreaming of systems so perfect that no one will need to be good" or in our case, free.

But what if freedom were not something to be regulated but plumbed to its depths?

In the land of freedom, in the city that greets the world with a statue of liberty, New York Encounter invites you to a weekend of public discussions, exhibits, presentations and live performances exploring the topic of freedom. Our hope is that through its festivities, people, and life, New York Encounter itself may be, for all who participate, an experience of freedom.

Program

Friday, January 18

6:45pm

"FREEDOM IS THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT THAT HEAVEN HAS BESTOWED UPON MEN" (Miguel De Cervantes)

Opening remarks by Msgr. Lorenzo Albacete, theologian, accompanied by witnesses and poetry reading

8:00pm: Guided tours of exhibits

9:00pm

AMERICA'S LONGING FOR FREEDOM

A homage to our nation's love for liberty, with music, images, and commentaries, directed by Jonathan Fields, musician.

Saturday, January 19

10:00am / 12:00am / 1:00pm / 7:00pm: Guided tours of exhibits

11:00am

FREEDOM IN G.K.CHESTERTON

A conversation and staged reading with Fr. Ian Boyd, President of The Chesterton Institute for Faith and Culture

2:00pm

FREEDOM, RISK, RESPONSIBILITY: WHAT LIES BEHIND A CORPORATE SUCCESS STORY

Face to face with Harold Korell, Chairman of the Board of Southwestern Energy (invited)

3:30pm

LIBERTY IN MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART

A presentation by Francis Greene, art historian

5:00pm

FREEDOM, COMPROMISE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN POLITICS: THE EXAMPLE OF SHAHBAZ BHATTI

The eyewitness account of the life and death of the murdered Pakistani Minister for Minorities Affairs by his brother Paul Bhatti, Pakistan's Minister for National Harmony.

9:00pm

THE KATRINA LETTERS

In the cleanup of Hurricane Katrina, a New Orleans family discovered 500 letters exchanged by their parents at the time of their courtship during World War II. Ensemble piece for actors, singers with music ranging from Schubert to Tango to Broadway. Created and directed by Christopher Vath, musician.

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Sunday, January 20

9:00am / 1:00pm / 7:00pm: Guided tours of exhibits

9:45am

MARIA YUDINA: THE PIANIST WHO MOVED STALIN

A documentary on the life of the Russian pianist, introduced by Olga Meerson, Associate Professor of Slavic Languages, Georgetown University (invited)

11:00am

HOLY MASS

Celebrated by His Eminence Card. Edward M. Egan, Archbishop Emeritus of New York; with the Choir of Communion and Liberation

2:00pm

FAITH, SOUL OF LIFE

A reflection on Christian experience in light of Benedict XVI's writings for the Year of Faith, with Fr. Julián Carrón, President of the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation Movement, and His Excellency Archbishop Charles Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia (invited)

4:00pm

LAW AND FREEDOM PUT TO THE TEST OF EXPERIENCE

A discussion on how law helps to realize, or suppress, freedom in the age of human rights proliferation, with Hadley Arkes, Edward N. Ney Professor in American Institutions, Amherst College (invited), John McCarthy, Dean of the School of Philosophy, Catholic University of America, and Lisa Schiltz, Professor of Law, Thomas J. Abood Research Scholar, and Co-Director of the Terrence J. Murphy Institute for Catholic Thought, Law and Public Policy, University of Saint Thomas

6:00pm

DESIRE, LIBERTY, AND SATISFACTION

A witness by John Waters, Irish Time columnist, on his life-journey from desire to addiction and back to freedom, with concluding remarks by Maurizio Maniscalco, president of New York Encounter

9:00pm

PURE NEW YORK CITY JUICE

Final show with live music

Exhibits:

G. K. CHESTERTON AND FREEDOM

The exhibit gives a biographical outlook of the larger-than-life British author, and offers a synopsis of his art and works, highlighting his views on freedom.

"¡VIVA CRISTO REY!" - CRISTEROS: THE MARTYRS OF MEXICO (1926-1929)

The exhibit documents the persecution and martyrdom of many men, women, and children who, facing an hostile power in Mexico, gave their lives to defend the public presence of the Church in society. Among them, Father Miguel Augustin Pro, who was sentenced and executed without a trial in 1927, and proclaimed saint by the Blessed John Paul II in 1988.