

ACTON notes

Acton Institute Newsletter

November / December 2015, Volume 25, Number 6



“connecting good intentions with sound economics”

Diet Eman was presented the Faith and Freedom Award for her work during World War II.

In This Issue

- Acton celebrates silver anniversary at 25th annual dinner
- *Poverty, Inc.* wins Templeton Award
- Catherine Pakaluk receives Novak Award
- Acton@25 Capital Campaign to close on December 31

President's Message

Freedom sometimes means different things for different people. For the infant, freedom can mean motoring along on all fours across the floor toward the open arms of loving parents. As we age, our respective definitions of freedom expand to include bicycles ridden in youth, cars driven in adolescence, and apartments occupied in young adulthood. In these instances, our burgeoning independence is the only measuring stick for personal freedom.

However, freedom for adults and the countries in which they live is measured differently. Those freedoms classified under the rubric of ordered liberty flourish when accompanied by free-market principles. Time and again, we read objective, peer-reviewed studies concluding that freer markets result in better health care and education throughout the world. We also know countries valuing freedom perform much better at protecting the creation while at the same time recognizing higher incomes and gross domestic product.

The above metrics—while impressive—would be rendered meaningless lacking the concomitant gain of vastly reduced poverty in countries exercising economic freedom. It is as much freedom to virtuously conduct ourselves in governmentally and economically free environments as it is to celebrate freedoms from obstacles to enjoying life to the fullest; namely, the lack of hunger and other necessities of life.

The tremendous strides to eradicate world poverty made in the past 25 years are staggering. Coincidentally, the tools employed to realize such steps are identical to the free-market and faith-based strategies we at the Acton Institute have championed heartily since we opened our doors a quarter of a century ago.

We're not done yet—not by a long shot—but sometimes it's proper to take a breather to reflect on the combined remarkable accomplishments of the free-market and poverty-eradication movements before rolling up our sleeves to continue our honorable endeavors. Among Acton's proud achievements is receiving the 2015 Atlas Network's \$100,000 Templeton Freedom Award for a documentary produced by our PovertyCure initiative: *Poverty, Inc.*

Just as children mature from walking or running to riding and driving toward independence, *Poverty, Inc.* chronicles entrepreneurial efforts to steer the world's poor from becoming dependent on charity while moving toward economic independence. I'm firmly convinced that continuing to implement such entrepreneurial and free-market tactics to combat poverty and injustice throughout the world will net even more outstanding gains throughout Acton's next 25 years.



Sincerely,

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

Rev. Robert Sirico, President

ACTONINSTITUTE

98 E. Fulton Street • Grand Rapids, MI 49503 • USA • www.acton.org

“We’re not done yet—not by a long shot—but sometimes it’s proper to take a breather to reflect ...”

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

Acton celebrates silver anniversary at 25th Annual Dinner

On October 21, the Acton Institute celebrated its silver anniversary with its 25th Annual Dinner at the DeVos Place in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan. Fitting for such a milestone occasion, this was the largest annual dinner and the largest single night event that the Institute has ever held, with over 800 freedom-loving individuals from around the country in attendance.

Kris Mauren, executive director and cofounder of the Acton Institute, emceed the event, which featured speeches, toasts, prayers, and reflections on the past, present, and future of the Institute. To begin the program and as a special surprise for guests, West Michigan singer Tony Reynolds sang an a cappella version of “Oh Freedom!”

The Very Reverend Kęstutis Kėvalas, the Roman Catholic auxiliary bishop of Kauna, Lithuania, gave the opening invocation and reflected on how Acton has inspired him and his work. Following dinner, Roger J. Landry, a Roman Catholic priest from the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, also reflected on how Acton has impacted him.

Diet Eman was presented the Faith and Freedom Award for her work during World War II. This award recognizes an individual who exemplifies commitment to faith and freedom through outstanding leadership. During the war, Eman was a member of the Dutch resistance, helping secure ration cards for Jews, rescuing shot-down Allied airmen and risking her life in Nazi-occupied territory. Eman was arrested and sent to a German concentration camp for four months. After the dinner, Eman was presented with the award by Mauren, Sirico, and Acton Founding Board Member, Alejandro Chafuen.

Acton’s president and cofounder, Rev. Robert Sirico, gave the keynote address, reflecting on how the world has changed in the quarter century since he and Mauren founded the Institute, and on what challenges individuals committed to a free and virtuous society face as Acton embarks on its next 25 years.

To bring an end to the evening, West Michigan pastor Rev. Ren Broekhuizen gave the closing benediction.



Executive Director Kris Mauren starts off the 25th Annual Dinner.



Diet Eman was presented the Faith and Freedom Award.

From Our Conference Participants

You’ve collected such an impressive group of presenters who are rooted in their churches, who have walked the walk and who have hearts for equipping saints for the work of ministry.

—Christopher
Wyoming, Michigan

I can unequivocally state that [“Thriving Churches”] was one of the best [conferences] I have ever attended. The Acton staff produced a conference that was well run and ensured that everyone who attended the event was engaged with each other and the subject matter.

—Don
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Poverty, Inc. wins Templeton Freedom Award

Aid has failed to end poverty in developing nations, but unleashing entrepreneurs to help themselves may prove more successful. This is the message of *Poverty, Inc.*, the new documentary from the Acton Institute's initiative, PovertyCure. "[*Poverty, Inc.*] contains good news," says Atlas Network CEO Brad Lips. "The solution to poverty already exists in the entrepreneurialism of the poor themselves. It also conveys a challenge: to retire the top-down systems of aid delivery that bring as many problems as benefits."

On November 12, at the closing ceremony of Atlas Network's Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner, Acton Institute was named the winner of the 2015 Templeton Freedom Award for *Poverty, Inc.* This honor, named for Sir John Templeton, the late investor and philanthropist, has been given yearly since 2004. It honors his legacy by recognizing the most exceptional and innovative contributions to the understanding of free enterprise and the public policies that encourage prosperity, innovation and

"People of all political stripes [are questioning] whether their actions are really helping the poor," says Acton's executive director, Kris Mauren. "Operating under the conviction that thoughtful documentaries change culture, we designed *Poverty, Inc.* to spearhead a broad reconsideration of poverty that is nonpartisan but pro-market." For winning this award, Acton will receive a \$100,000 prize, and the runners-up will receive \$5,000.

Novak Award winner, Catherine Pakaluk, gives Calihan Lecture

On November 18, the 2015 Novak Award winner Catherine Ruth Pakaluk presented her newest academic paper and lecture at the 15th Annual Calihan Lecture. She gave the lecture in the Demetree Auditorium at Ave Maria University in Ave Maria, Florida.

In her lecture, titled "Liberty and Dependence," Pakaluk argued that the very concept of liberty rests on an idea of human nature. "Man is both a rational actor with free will, a responsible agent," Pakaluk said, "and a dependent creature, governed, like the

ACTON News



Acton Institute accepting the 2015 Templeton Award for *Poverty, Inc.*

human fulfillment via free competition.

Drawing from more than 200 interviews filmed in 20 countries, this feature-length documentary unearths an uncomfortable side of charity that we can no longer ignore. By tracing paternalism from the colonial era to contemporary times, *Poverty, Inc.* helps viewers abandon the worn-out standard of aid in favor of change centered on free enterprise and human dignity. It makes the case that the most effective solutions to poverty lie in allowing entrepreneurs to find new, innovative and efficient ways to meet people's needs.



Catherine Ruth Pakaluk (center) wins the 2015 Novak award.

beasts, by rules and laws he doesn't get to make up." She continued:

On these terms, then, liberty is characterized by paradoxical willed dependence that seems to be oriented toward uniting the rational and animal natures of man: the free man rightly discerns the laws that govern him and wills to be subject to them.

Pakaluk was presented with the Novak Award and the \$10,000 prize. She is assistant professor of economics and founder-director of the Stein Center for Social Research at Ave Maria University.

Acton@25 Capital Campaign to close on December 31

The Acton@25 Capital Campaign is nearly complete, with 98 percent of the funds raised toward the \$12.5 million goal. To help close out the effort, two generous donors have offered to match all donations two-to-one from now until the end of the year.

This capital campaign will help Acton complete some exciting and important projects in the community. It will outfit Acton's media center, bolstering the production of podcasts, televised interviews and radio programming. The generous support of donors will improve the events in the Mark Murray Auditorium by allowing Acton to continue to bring in the best speakers from around the world and eventually support the live streaming of these events. These new resources will also allow for the expansion of the Acton internship program, which educates and shapes future business, academic and religious leaders.

As a special thank-you, all donors to the campaign will be listed in a commemorative video

documenting the Acton Building's transformation. Donors who have given \$1,000 or more to the campaign will forever be a part of the building by having their name engraved on a plaque to be installed in Acton's main lobby. Acton's history would not be what it is without the generous contributions of our many, many donors. We want to cement in our building how much these individuals mean to us as an institute by making their names a part of our future.

The success of this campaign will improve Acton's commitment to serving not just the Grand Rapids community but communities all across the nation and the world that believe in liberty and virtue.

Thank you all for your continued support and confidence in Acton's mission to promote a free and virtuous society. Everyone at Acton hopes and strives to continue to bring you high-quality curricula, monographs, events, books, educational programs, various conferences series and more.

“Acton's history would not be what it is without the generous contributions of our many, many donors.”



This capital campaign will help Acton complete some exciting and important projects in the community.

ACTON in the News

“The pope is trying to call us to something beyond politics. Something beyond the domination of politics in our lives.”

—Excerpted from Rev. Robert Sirico's appearance on *Fox Business*.

Rev. Robert Sirico

Title: Pope Francis and the Vocation of Business

Program: *Fox Business*

Air Date: 9.26.15

Kishore Jayabalan

Title: Pope Francis Visits America

Program: *France24*

Air Date: 9.24.15

Samuel Gregg

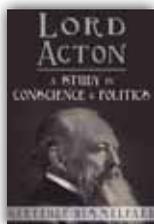
Title: Why the left keeps winning

Publication: *The American Spectator*

Date: 10.19.15



Acton Institute Bookshop Sale



Lord Acton: A Study in Conscience and Politics

By Gertrude Himmelfarb

In this intellectual biography, Gertrude Himmelfarb regards Acton as a man more of our age than of his own. He was a Liberal Catholic and a distinguished historian, and his vigorous denunciations of nationalism, racism, statism and bigotry rank among the classics of political and social thought.

Softcover 251 pages Original Price \$14.95 Sale \$10.99

Kuyper Bundle

Wisdom & Wonder, Scholarship, Rooted & Grounded



Collecting some of Kuyper's greatest works and speeches, the Kuyper Bundle brings together a treasury of wisdom and theological truths to your library. *Wisdom & Wonder*, *Rooted & Grounded*, and *Scholarship*, will make great additions to your home.

Softcover Collection Original Price \$20.99 Sale \$14.99

ReThink Missions Bundle

Produced by PovertyCure



Already have access to the PovertyCure Video Series or have access to RightNow Media? Take advantage of the ReThink Missions bundle to complete your ReThink Missions Toolkit! Gain a deeper understanding of the principles discussed in the PovertyCure Video Series by pairing it with the Navigation Guide.

DVD Navigation Guide Original Price \$19.99 Sale \$14.99

PovertyCure Missions Toolkit

Produced by PovertyCure



The PovertyCure ReThink Missions Toolkit is a dynamic and practical set of tools and resources to equip you or your team or organization to have a conversation about how to have the maximum possible impact upon those you want to serve, whether at home or abroad.

DVD and Field Guide Original Price \$44.99 Sale \$34.99

Work: The Meaning of Your Life

By Lester DeKoster



Where do we find the core of life's meaning? Right on the job! At whatever work we do—with head or hand, from kitchen to executive suite, from your house to the White House. New foreword by Stephen J. Grabill and afterword by Greg Forster.

Softcover 110 pages Original Price \$9.95 Sale \$5.99

For the Life of the World: Leader's Edition

Produced by Acton



For the Life of the World is an entertaining film series that explores the deeper meaning of Salvation. Have you ever wondered, "What is my Salvation actually FOR?" Is it only about personal atonement, about getting to heaven, or something that comes later? Is it just to have a "friend in Jesus"?

DVD and Field Guide Original Price \$64.99 Sale \$55.99

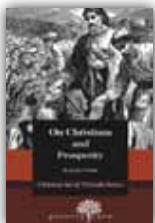


Cure for Consumerism

By Rev. Gregory Jensen

Rev. Gregory Jensen synthesizes insights from the spiritual tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church with modern social science to craft a clear understanding of consumerism, to offer real solutions to the problems, and to put faith and economic freedom to work for both the common good and the kingdom of God.

Softcover 154 pages Original Price \$6.00 Sale \$4.99

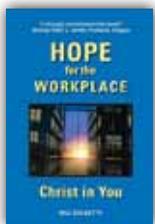


On Christians and Prosperity

By James V. Schall

Concern for the poor is at the heart of Christianity. Christians are also called to contribute to human flourishing and create the wealth necessary to alleviate poverty. In this wide-ranging essay, one of the great teachers of political philosophy of our time calls us to think prudently about poverty and prosperity.

Softcover 109 pages Original Price \$8.00 Sale \$5.99



Hope for the Workplace

By Bill Dalgetty

Relying on Scripture, Church teaching, the writings of both Catholic and Protestant leaders and 50 real-life stories of people in the workplace, God's solutions to these common workplace issues are set forth in a straightforward, conversational style.

Softcover 142 pages Original Price \$11.00 Sale \$4.99

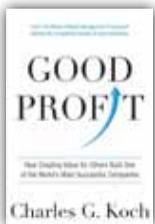


The Conservative Heart

By Arthur C. Brooks

In Brooks's daring vision, this conservative movement fights poverty, promotes equal opportunity, celebrates earned success and values spiritual enlightenment. It is an inclusive movement with a positive agenda to help people lead happier, more hopeful and more satisfied lives.

Softcover 256 pages Original Price \$27.99 Sale \$19.99



Good Profit

By Charles G. Koch

In 1961, Charles Koch joined his father's Wichita-based company, then valued at \$21 million. Today, Koch Industries' estimated worth is \$100 billion. Koch exceeds the S&P 500's five-decade growth by 27-fold and plans to double its value on average every six years.

Softcover 288 pages Original Price \$28.00 Sale \$19.99



Becoming Europe

By Samuel Gregg

In *Becoming Europe*, Gregg examines economic culture—the values and institutions that inform our economic priorities—to explain how European economic life has drifted in the direction of what Alexis de Tocqueville called “soft despotism” and the ways in which similar trends are manifesting themselves in the United States.

Softcover 384 pages Original Price \$25.00 Sale \$19.99

For our fastest service, please order online at:

shop.acton.org/books/christmas.html



ACTON notes

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

Acton Institute • 98 E. Fulton Street • Grand Rapids, MI 49503 • USA

ACTON notes

Calendar of Events

ACTON INSTITUTE EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
Jan 14	Dog Days: The Micro-Entrepreneurial World of Street Vending Acton Lecture Series - Film Screening	Grand Rapids, MI
Feb 11	Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom Acton Lecture Series - Ryan T. Anderson to speak	Grand Rapids, MI
Feb 18	Debate: Distributism vs. Free markets Acton Lecture Series - Jay Richards & Joseph Pearce to debate	Grand Rapids, MI
Mar 3	PovertyCure Acton Lecture Series - Michael M. Miller to speak	Grand Rapids, MI
Mar 17	The New Totalitarian Temptation Acton Lecture Series - Todd Huizinga to speak	Grand Rapids, MI
Mar 30	Pope Francis, Poverty and the Economy Acton Lecture Series - Samuel Gregg to speak	Grand Rapids, MI