

THE URBAN VILLAGE

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 19-20, 2018

CALL FOR PAPERS

In a 2017 article tracing the modern Catholic account of marriage, regime, and Church, Russell Hittinger describes a “scenario from below” for the “demise” of these institutions. When we seek to use political power to create “the ‘liberal’ utopia,” “the three necessary societies are reduced, in Leo [XIII]’s words, ‘to the genus of commercial contracts, which can rightly be revoked by the will of those who made them.’” In such a world, every human promise is worth only the power required to break it.

Many of us are persuaded that this “scenario from below” describes our culture, today. Americans from all backgrounds and stations of life, of various faiths or professing none, suffer growing disaffection and dislocation. Institutions bound together by realities invisible to the dominant culture encounter increasing hostility and antagonism, or blandly accede to their own elimination. These conditions drive interest in works such as Rod Dreher’s *The Benedict Option* and John Senior’s *The Restoration of Christian Culture*, which contemplate immediate responses but also urge us to play the “long game” in our families and neighborhoods.

The Servi Institute therefore issues a creative challenge to our friends and neighbors: How do we do build “The Urban Village”? How do we move “from cloud-castles to blueprints”?

Seeking Academic & Practical Presentations

- **Academic Presentations** will help us understand the principles and problems more clearly, with a special focus on specific proposals for building multigenerational transmission of faith, learning, and trade skills within families and neighborhoods.
- **Practical Presentations** will put in front of us concrete skills that can be used to earn or supplement a living and provide some tangible good that can be shared by others. Practical presentations may also discuss how to organize communities in which such lives flourish (in some cases, these papers may be reclassified as academic).

Guidelines for Presentation Proposals

Submit presentation proposals of 150-500 words to weserve@serviokc.org, please!

Presentations should be **15-20 minutes** in length. All presentations will be indoors, so plan skills demonstrations accordingly. Please specify in your proposal any **equipment** you hope to use.

Deadline for proposals is July 15th, 2018.

Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City has graciously donated their conference space for the use of “The Urban Village.” *Together, we’re making a difference.*