



Chester Ronning Centre
for the Study of Religion and Public Life

Poverty, Philanthropy and the Quest to Shape an Empire: Gregory Nazianzen and Emperor Julian 'the Apostate'

Jeremy Siemens

A Ronning Centre Seminar



Julian and Gregory had much in common: they studied philosophy and rhetoric in Athens, gained prime positions of leadership, and recognized the importance of philanthropy in their mutual desire to influence Greek culture. Julian tried to stem the growing influence of Christianity, pushed for the revival of pagan Hellenism, and admonished his pagan priests to be of better character and more philanthropic. Gregory, on the other hand, attempted to steer the culture in a more Christian direction, often criticized the state of the episcopate, and preached on behalf of the poor and the lepers. Both recognized the importance of genuine authority--which was authenticated by action and integrity--for they knew that power alone could not shape an Empire.

Jeremy Siemens works with the homeless as a Career Development Facilitator at the Mustard Seed in Calgary. He completed his MA at the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto, focusing on early Church History. His thesis compared pagan and early Christian approaches to poverty and philanthropy in the Roman Empire.

Wednesday, 13 October 2010, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

2nd floor meeting room, Forum, Augustana Campus

4901 - 46 Avenue, Camrose

No pre-registration is required, and there is no fee to attend this event.

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