

Religion, Culture, and the Intellectual Origins of the Sexual Revolution

Theresa Farnan, PhD
Professor
St. Paul Seminary

In my paper, I will focus on the fact that the sexual revolution was eagerly received and quickly became entrenched in popular culture in the twentieth century. Why would so many women and men embrace ideas that upended traditional teachings about marriage and family? Primarily, I will draw on Augusto del Noce's insights about the Sexual Revolution, his critique of cultural Marxism, and his observations about the role of religious thinkers in facilitating the sexual revolution. Finally, I will consider his observations about American culture as fertile ground for the sexual revolution in light of Patrick Dineen's analysis, *Why Liberalism Failed*. These questions are not merely of historical significance – a sexual counter-revolution needs to address not only the ideology of the sexual revolution, but also the cultural and intellectual currents which enabled these ideas to take root.