

THE MAURIN ACADEMY FOR REGENERATIVE STUDIES

THE REGENERATIVE READER

VOLUME. 2 ISSUE 2 • FEBRUARY 2024

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This issue of the Regenerative Reader features several descriptions of upcoming classes for the next several months, an announcement of Laurie Johnson's upcoming book, *The Gap in God's Country: A Longer View on Our Culture Wars*, and other important announcements about Dustbowl Diatribes, Political Philosophy Monthly Chats, and our Marx Reading Group with Jakob Hanschu.

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More information about the JPPII Catholic Worker Farm at jpniecatholicworkerfarm.com

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AND MORE!

Growing, Fermenting, Canning, & Why

Ryan Dostal and Deacon Chris May



Session Schedule

February 20: Garden Planning 1: Ryan Dostal

February 27: Garden Planning 2: Ryan Dostal

March 12: Canning Techniques: Why We Should Preserve Food: Deacon Chris May

March 19: How to Ferment Food: Ryan Dostal

March 26: Roundtable Q & A: The Politics & Economics of Food Preservation, with Ryan, Chris and the Maurin Academy Team

The Maurin Academy wants to inspire you to take action in your own backyard, someone else's backyard, or your community garden. Any of these five sessions can be attended singularly, but you can also think of them as one big event. All sessions will be held live on Zoom starting at 7 p.m. Central Time, starting February 20. We will also record all sessions. Registrants on [Eventbrite](#), and [Maurin Academy patrons](#) who subscribe to all our sessions and courses for one low monthly price on Patreon, will receive the full playlist to view again at the end of the series.

Registration Information:

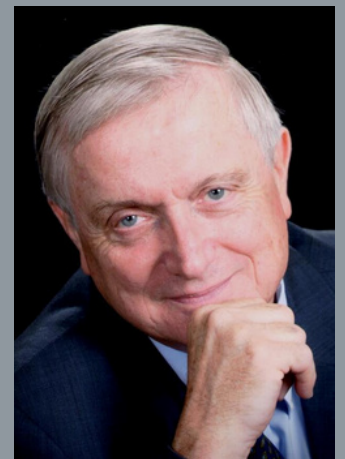
Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/the-maurin-academy-311669>

Patreon:

<https://www.patreon.com/maurinacademy>

Teaching Team



Ryan Dostal & Deacon Chris May

Personalism Roundtable

Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. US Central Time



We are so excited to be hosting another roundtable discussion and this time over Personalism! This is being put on in part with our friends at Canterbury House in Chicago, Illinois to promote their upcoming Peter Maurin conference this Spring.

Join us on Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. US Central Time, live on Zoom.

Further details will be posted on our Patreon page and website as we near the discussion. Catholic Workers are free to attend, just email us!

Chris Cutrone on the 1848 Revolutions

Monday, April 22 at 7 p.m. US Central Time



The world's last Marxist Chris Cutrone will be giving a lecture and fielding questions on the topic of the 1848 Revolutions--the so-called "Springtime of Nations--and the lessons they taught Marx and Engels.

The topics under discussion are relevant to anyone who's living under the regime of a rickety bourgeois nation-state and bearing the contradictions, burdens, dissatisfactions, and foreclosed possibilities resulting therefrom; i.e. You!

Catholic Workers are also free to attend, just email us!

Eating Up Easter

Film Screening and Conversation with the Filmmakers
Monday, June 24 at 7 p.m. US Central Time

THE MAURIN ACADEMY FOR REGENERATIVE STUDIES PRESENTS

A GLOBAL WAKE-UP CALL
FROM THE REMOTE PACIFIC

FILM & CONVERSATION WITH THE
FILMMAKERS
**SCREENING
JUNE 24 2024
7 PM CST**



**EATING UP
EASTER**

SCREENING AND CONVERSATION
WITH FILMMAKERS:
**SERGIO MATA'U RAPU
& ELENA KOUNESKI RAPU**

PMAURIN.ORG EATINGUPEASTER.COM

Eating up Easter Trailer:
<https://eatingupeaster.com/trailer-1>

Sergio and Elena Rapu will screen their film documentary *Eating Up Easter* for The Maurin Academy and participate in a discussion and Q & A session on June 24 at 7 PM CST. Stay tuned for an interview with the filmmakers and the details on how to participate on our first movie event!

The Filmmakers:

SERGIO MATA'U RAPU

Native Rapanui Producer/Director Sergio Mata'u Rapu is the only Easter Islander working in production in an English speaking country. He has spent the last 15 years shooting, and producing documentaries that have aired on History Channel, Travel Channel, National Geographic, and NOVA. Through his work, Sergio aims to show the diversity of life through thought provoking media to inspire resolutions to social, economic, and environmental conflicts.

ELENA RAPU

Elena Rapu is an anthropologist and filmmaker. She received her MA in Anthropology from SUNY Binghamton, specializing in the Pacific. She has 15 years of experience on Easter Island working in archaeology, the hotel industry, and guiding tours. She is passionate about exploring the complex realities faced by living cultures as they grow and change in a globalized world.

Documenting resiliency and ingenuity

By: Dr. Miriam Dominguez

The most remote inhabited island in the Pacific Ocean, Rapa Nui (Easter Island, Chile), occupies a place in the popular imagination with its iconic stone statues. It is in the remoteness and beauty of this landscape that filmmakers Sergio Mata'u Rapu and Elena Kouneski Rapu documented the paradoxes that arise when indigenous and local communities seek both economic development and ecological sustainability.



SERGIO MATA'U RAPU



ELENA RAPU

More Real than the World: Ancient Insights into the Nature of God

Dr. Laurie M. Johnson

THE MAURIN ACADEMY FOR REGENERATIVE STUDIES

**MORE REAL THAN
THE WORLD:
ANCIENT INSIGHTS
INTO THE NATURE
OF GOD**

WITH LAURIE M. JOHNSON



Mondays at 7 p.m. US Central Time
May 20, 27, June 3 and 10



Greek philosophy was important to the early Christians as they developed their understanding of God. To understand why Christians thought pagan philosophers had insights worth weaving into theology, we need to know what these ancient philosophers taught. In this four-week class, Laurie Johnson will introduce participants to some of the major ideas and imagery from Plato and Aristotle. Short readings from both authors will be supplied but reading ahead of time is not necessary. Laurie will guide participants to understanding what these thinkers had in mind and why their ideas could be combined with Christianity. There will be plenty of time for questions and open discussion.

Registration on our Patreon,
patreon.com/maurinacademy

Catholic Workers may email us for access at
maurinacademy@gmail.com

for more details and other information
visit our website
pmaurin.org

Session Schedule

May 20

May 27

June 3

June 10

This four-part course is being put on in collaboration with Word of Life Church (WOLC). WOLC is a Church in St. Joseph, Missouri that represents the movement of deconstructing evangelical Christians.

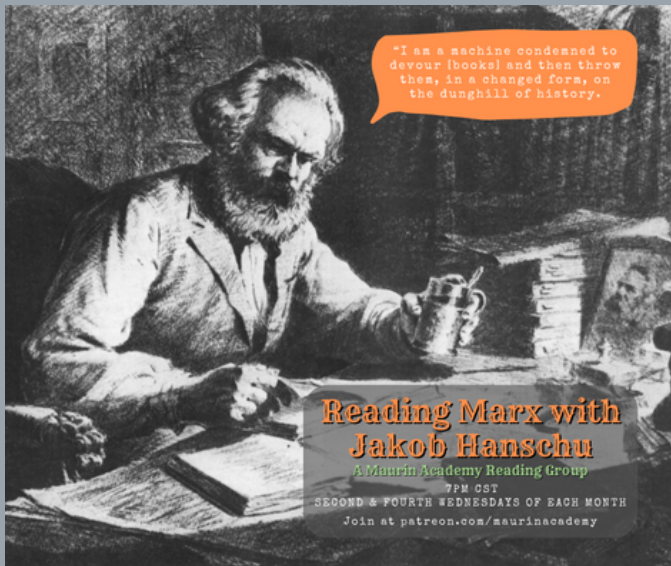
Course Description:

Greek philosophy was important to the early Christians as they developed their understanding of God. To understand why Christians thought pagan philosophers had insights worth weaving into theology, we need to know what these ancient philosophers taught. In this four-week class, Laurie Johnson will introduce participants to some of the major ideas and imagery from Plato and Aristotle. Short readings from both authors will be supplied but reading ahead of time is not necessary. Laurie will guide participants to understanding what these thinkers had in mind and why their ideas could be combined with Christianity. There will be plenty of time for questions and open discussion.

To learn more about WOLC you can visit wolc.com



Reading Marx with Jakob Hanschu



Upcoming Sessions

February 28: Marx's German Ideology

March 14

March 27

The focus for the 2024 Marx Reading Group will be Marx's writings on Non-Capitalist Social Formations. Topics discussed will include the transition from feudalism to capitalism, the accelerationist vibes of Marx and Engels' 1840s writings, modes of production and non-linear history, Marx's later rejection of evolutionary models, Marx's Ethnological Notebooks, and Marx's comments on several of the actually-existing non-capitalist social formations of his time. These discussions will be supplemented by concrete examples of non-capitalist social formations drawn from the historic and ethnographic record. Patrons interested in attending the 2024 sessions of the Marx Reading Group should subscribe at either the "Salt of the Earth" or "Worker-Scholar" levels.

Announcement:

On Wednesday, February 28th, the Marx Reading Group will be engaging with *The German Ideology* by Marx and Engels. For many, this text is foundational for historical materialism. The session will especially focus on how Marx and Engels present non-capitalist societies, historical development, and human nature in the text via a reading of key selected passages.



Image Credit: Vedran Stimac

Dustbowl Diatribes

Spencer Hess and Laurie Johnson



Dustbowl Diatribes podcast can be found on our website, YouTube, iTunes, Google Podcasts, and Audible. Spotify thought we were a music business.

For season three we're covering the various theories about Techno-Feudalism and looking into the current state of the Catholic Worker movement. In short, our hypotheses are that the coming period of capitalism can be accurately characterized as quasi-feudal and that the Catholic Worker movement is currently hamstrung by a radical split between those adhering to Peter Maurin's comprehensive vision for constructing a Christian social order and those adhering to Ammon Hennacy's Tolstoyan/Radical Liberal vision for protesting our way towards social justice. We're seeking to explore the people and ideas, question our priors, and learn what we can along the way.

Along those lines, Laurie and Spencer have recently talked to some farmers, Michael Martin of the Regeneration Podcast and Nat Bjerke-Harvey of Piccalilli Farm about the fraught nature of localist farming, and are about to release several with Catholic Workers.

THE SECRET GRANGE REVEAL

Starting this January, we're starting a new section for our DBD podcast tongue-in-cheekly named in reference to the historical Granger movement. Patrons will have access to our digest/recap episodes as well as access to the Granger Danger Hotline, where they can field comments, queries, criticisms (constructive or destructive), or even errant musings.

We look forward to engaging more with patrons and seeing where the dustbowl will take us in the coming year.



Political Philosophy Monthly Chats

The Longer View

Dr. Laurie M. Johnson



Laurie's changing the format of her monthly sessions for 2024. On the first Thursday of each month, from 7-8:30 p.m. US Central Time, she'll be on Zoom live to discuss a current event or topic with Patreon members only. These discussions will draw on the Longer View of the history of political philosophy. Patrons can suggest new topics they'd like to discuss by messaging us on Patreon or by joining our free Slack group and going to the political philosophy channel there (which has the added benefit of more interaction with our crew and other members). She'll announce the month's topic about a week ahead of time, on our Patreon feed. Here's your Slack invitation: https://join.slack.com/t/maurin-community/shared_invite/zt-286u5xkok-sls~l3D0MmO0onXotjyMig.



Upcoming Political Philosophy

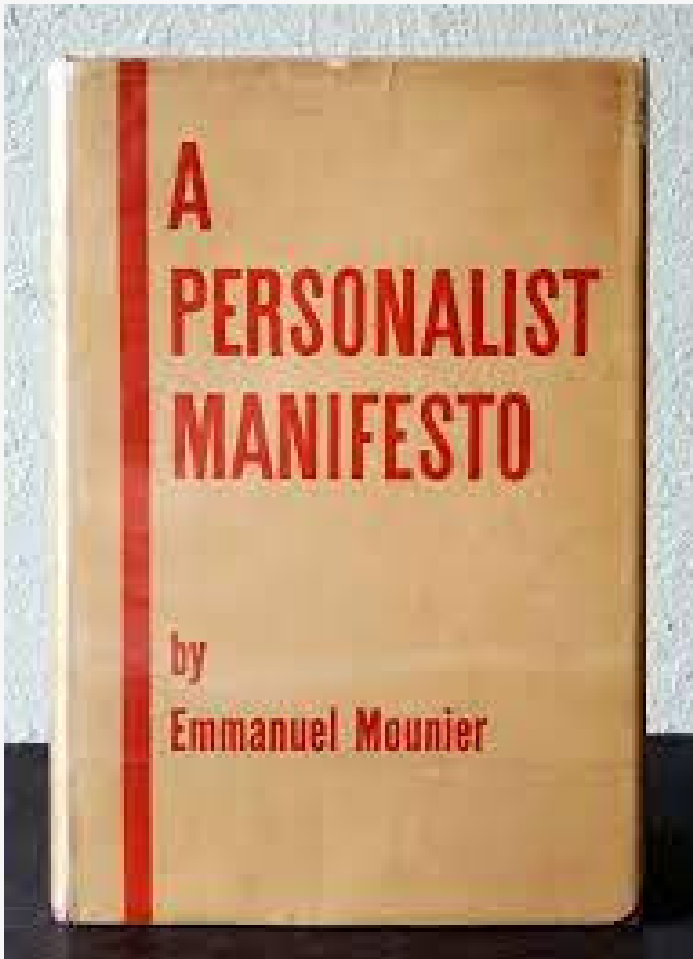
Monthly talks:

- February 15
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2

Laurie will continue to meet with patrons live online on the first Thursday of each month, but she'll either be doing a Q & A session over what she's discussing on her channel or talking about a current issue or problem. Topics will be announced a few days in advance on Patreon and on our social media!

All of the past recordings of these talks are available to our patrons at the Salt-of-the-Earth and Worker-Scholar tier. Join Laurie on Zoom at 7 p.m. CT by registering on Eventbrite, or supporting the Maurin Academy on Patreon.

Communio Study Circle



This group will focus on Ressourcement theology and how it can change our understanding of the world and our own way of life. Ressourcement means returning to the original, authoritative sources of Christianity and bringing them to bear on our own times.

We'll meet monthly on the third Saturday in person and on Zoom to discuss a book, article or other selection, and once per quarter, we will discuss the latest issue of *Communio: International Catholic Review*, focusing on one or two articles. This group is Catholic-weighted but not exclusively so, because Ressourcement theology is of great interest to many Protestants and people of other faiths. Our sessions will meet for approximately two hours, starting at 4 p.m. US CT. We will record for those who have to miss a meeting.

As of late, some updates:

Our reading group recently finished the late David L. Schindler's, *Heart of the World, Center of the Church*, at our November meeting. In December we read and discussed a *Communio* article related to the encyclical, *Laudato Si*. As for January and February, we are reading *The Personalist Manifesto*.

Now (and always) would be a great time to join this reading group!

You can sign up for this group by joining our Patreon, Salt of the Earth, tier patreon.com/maurinacademy, or emailing us at maurinacademy@gmail.com.

The next meeting of this group is Saturday, February 16 at 4 p.m. US Central Time, in person and on Zoom.

The Gap in God's Country: A Longer View on Our Culture Wars

Dr. Laurie M. Johnson has been diligently working this past year on her upcoming book, *The Gap in God's Country: A Longer View on Our Culture Wars*. She recently sent this off to Wipf & Stock Publishers and is waiting on an ETA from them, but she is hoping it comes out this Summer. So stay tuned for the announcement!



We'll also be offering the book for purchase through our Maurin Academy Store page along with all of our previous courses.

Check it out at <https://pmaurin.org/store/>

From the jacket:

"America is deeply divided along ideological and religious lines that threaten to tear the country apart. Laurie Johnson explains that America's culture wars may seem to have erupted in the past couple of decades, but they go back for decades and even centuries. For those who think that Christian nationalism (or populist nationalism) is the problem to be solved, that some people simply need to understand Christianity or politics better and become reasonable, read on.



Christian nationalism and other ideological extremisms are symptoms of major economic, technological, spiritual, and psychological shifts that have left too many people uprooted, disenchanted and precarious. There are no easy answers, but Johnson tries to show a path out that enlists church and state. Without leadership and structure provided at the levels of church and state, Christians and those impacted by them will remain parts of the problem and not the solution. Christians: change is not talk, it's action, and Christian action can only happen with leadership that leads and creates a context where we can work together, rather than wasting our time in culture wars."

John Paul II Catholic Worker Farm

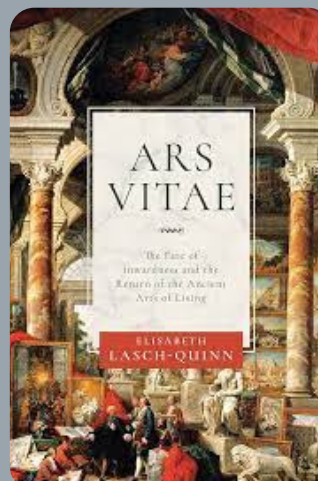
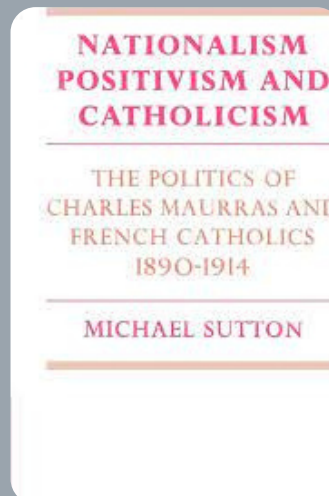
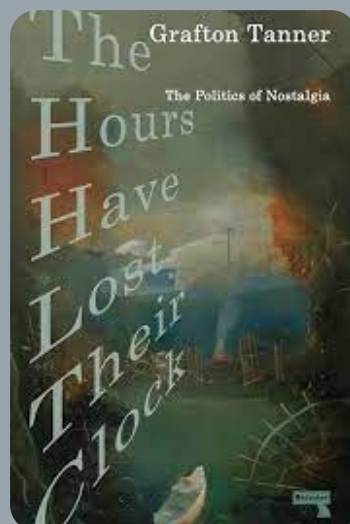
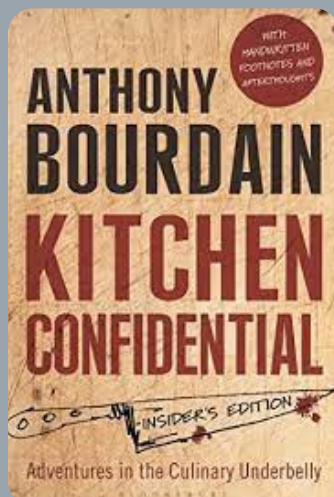
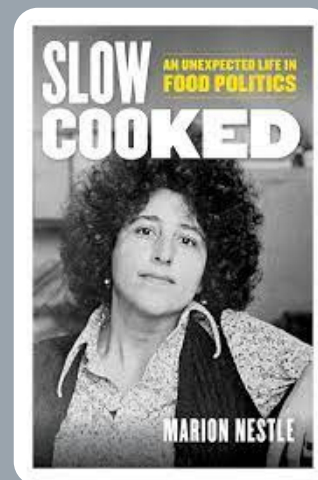
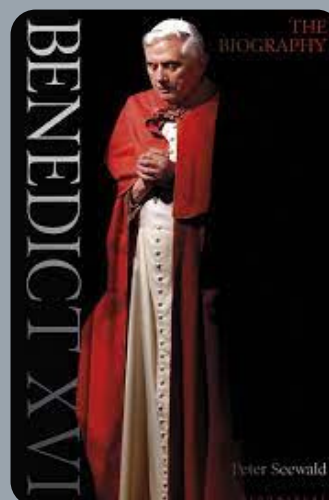
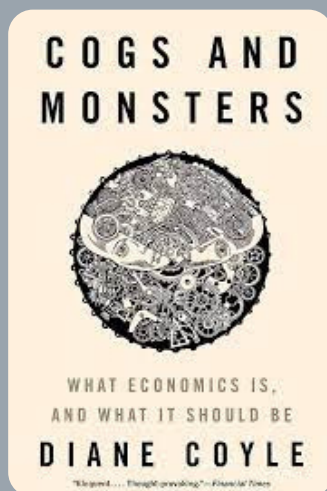
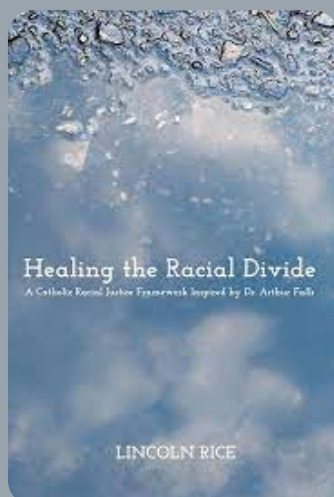
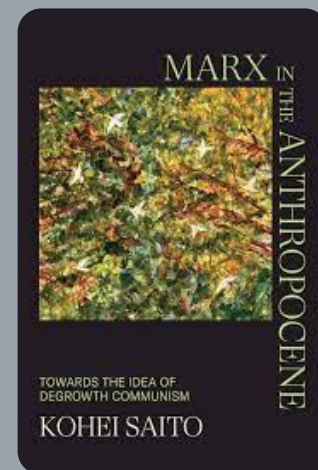
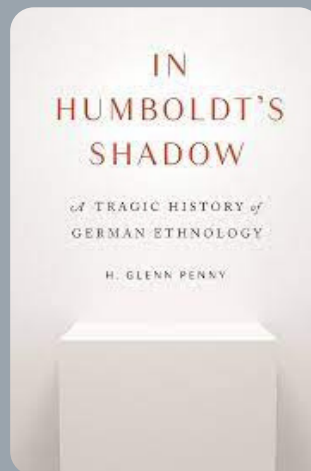
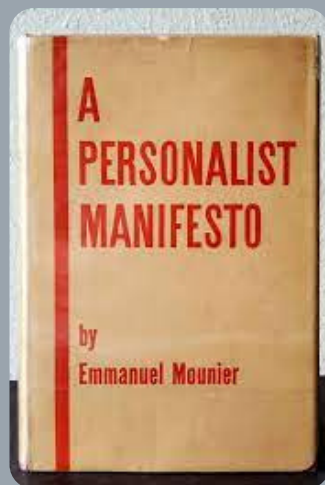
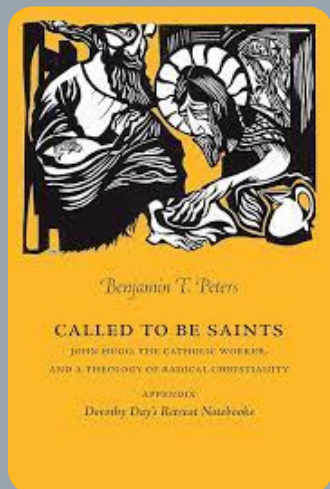
Little has happened around the farm since it's winter, but the little lambkins made it through a cold spell, and after much debate have been named (in a nod to the early Catholic Worker days) Catholic Action and Social Justice. Also, one of our chicks has revealed himself to be a rooster and we've christened him The Kaiser. Behold His Majesty.



We are making even more progress in our future guest house! More painting and new floors in half of the house will be installed by the middle of March. We also have plans to install a half-bath in the guest room closet.

It's been a fun and challenging project fixing up this house, but we are really excited about the future of this house and how it can help further our plans with the JP II Farm.

What we've been Reading



Membership & How to Support Us



We are working hard to provide top quality participative and distributed media experiences. Becoming a Patreon member has benefits for us all, and it helps us to increase our offerings. You can become a member today and experience all of our member benefits immediately. Non-members are always welcome to sign-up for course participation through Eventbrite or to purchase a download from our course archive on our website. Please, sign up on:

<https://www.patreon.com/maurinacademy>

Patreon Tiers:

Salt of the Earth (\$5/month)

- Access to Laurie's monthly live sessions "Pints with Plato," our growing course content archive, and all previously recorded content.

Worker-Scholar (\$10/month)

- Access to all new (live) course content, and all previous content.

Find us on [Eventbrite](#) by searching "The Maurin Academy" for upcoming events. Events go live on Eventbrite one month before the start date.

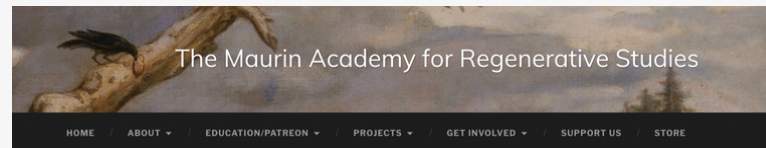
Catholic Workers worldwide have access to all the programming we do at The Maurin Academy. Simply email us at maurinacademy@gmail.com to request entry to an upcoming event or recordings or past events.

Donations:

- The Maurin Academy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donations are tax-deductible.
- Scan the QR code below with your smartphone camera or go to <https://pmaurin.org/support-us/>
- Checks can be made out to "The Maurin Academy" and mailed to:
 - The Maurin Academy, 1828 NEWTON AVE, KANSAS CITY, MO 64126-2762



The Maurin Academy Store:



Use the links on our Store page to purchase video recordings of our classes. Pricing is based on \$5 per session (so, for instance, a 5 session course will cost \$25). You will be directed to a Square link to complete your purchase. A link to the unlisted playlist for the course will be emailed to you from the Maurin Academy.

