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Opening Remarks: Symposium: The Splendor of Truth

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Cover Page Footnote

Symposium sponsored by the Hersher Center for Applied Ethics, the Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Studies, and the Campus Ministry at Sacred Heart University.

***The Splendor of Truth:
An Introductory Look at
Pope John Paul II's Encyclical Veritatis Splendor***

***Symposium
February 9, 1994***

Opening remarks by Msgr. Gregory Smith

Good evening and welcome to the Special Lecture on Pope John Paul II's encyclical Veritatis Splendor (The Splendor of Truth). This opportunity for delving deeply into a significant teaching is sponsored by the Hersher Center for Applied Ethics, the Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Studies, and the Campus Ministry at Sacred Heart University. I'm Msgr. Smith, Director of the Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Studies, and it is my privilege to welcome you to this event.

On October 5, 1993 Pope John Paul II released his tenth and latest encyclical or letter to the Church and world. It is written to speak to the Pope's concern about "calling into question traditional moral doctrine." His goal is to "recall certain fundamental truths of Catholic doctrine, which, in the present circumstances, risk being distorted or denied."

In writing this encyclical Pope John Paul makes central to the moral life the notion of truth, which is universal and absolute. In addition, he stresses the need to resist the temptation that authentic human development requires the kind of freedom, individual autonomy, personal fulfillment, and basic good will that cannot be constrained by divine or natural law, obedience, or authoritative teaching. Real human freedom, the Pope states, acknowledges God's plan for persons as written in our hearts, accessible to our reason, and illuminated by revelation.

This special seminar, in an academic environment, serves the purpose of expanding the pursuit of truth in the light of what is humanly good and divinely centered.