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## INTRODUCING...VITTORIO HÖSLE

*An interview conducted by Pamela J. Reeve (St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto School of Theology) and Antonio Calcagno (King's University College at UWO, Editor of Symposium)*

Professor Hösle is currently Paul Kimball Chair of Arts and Letters. He is also Professor of German and has concurrent appointments in Philosophy and Political Science at Notre Dame. He is the Director of the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study.

Professor Vittorio Hösle, welcome to Symposium! We are very grateful that you agreed to this interview. Your reputation has grown immensely over the past few years, especially outside of the German-speaking world. You managed to secure *Habilitation* and a professorship at a remarkably young age, and your work, especially *Morals and Politics*, has caused quite a stir in Germany and abroad. We are pleased to be able to introduce you and your ideas to our readership.

1. Professor Hösle, could you tell us a bit about your life, where you were born, what you studied and the general foci of your work?

Autobiographical remarks often sound vain, but since they help to understand the underlying motivations of a philosopher, they may be justifiable. I was born in 1960 in Milan, Italy; I am the son of an Italian mother and a German father. My father was director of the Goethe Institute of Milan, but later he decided to become a professor and so we moved to Germany: First Tübingen, then Regensburg, where he taught Romance literatures at the University. We maintained Italian as our language at home—we were more an Italian family, living abroad and returning at every possible occasion to Italy, than true Germans. I learned German with great difficulties at the age of six and felt as a child always more Italian, even if I only had German citizenship, for Germany did not allow dual citizenship at that time. Today it is different: Now I am both a U.S. and a German citizen.