“AESTIVA MILVAVCHIAE LATINITAS”

(SUMMER LATIN IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, U.S.A.)

~ Not any kind of rushed immersion into Latin nor a high-pressure tour of so-called ‘Latin Grammar’, rather: a slow and thorough, real and immediate experience of the whole Latin language in all its historical periods and types of literature from the past 2300 years – through a total, daily conscious involvement in precise comprehension of original texts and unprepared first-sight Latin readings, in personal composition and extemporaneous Latin Conversation, in discussions about classroom pedagogy and teaching methods: (all joined with a solid reliving of the Roman world by means of simple, virtual literary trips with the aid of real, pertinent Latin sources and writings.)

~ Projected and provided only for very well trained Latin teachers and/or fully educated high-level advanced Latin scholars (at least 21 years of age – to be proven by official documentation) who have decided to develop further and are determined to advance in Latin mastery and competence through serious, joyful, constant application. Consequently: = The summer program is for sure not advisable nor available to inexperienced beginners, to first-level students, to fresh grammar-victims, even with the best of intentions.

~ A minimum of two encounters of 90 minutes, every day according to a separately printed outline of class material, six days a week, for eight complete weeks, from Monday, June 3rd, 2019 until the conclusion on Saturday, July 27th, 2019. In two sections or on two levels which occupy, at a slower pace: ‘iuniores’ = rusty scholars, antiquated Latinists and first-time summer-schoolers; at a faster pace: ‘seniores’ = better equipped, tested Latin veterans or perhaps former Foster subjects: to whom, upon request, a document can be given after the proper completion of each one’s complete course. Except for very special cases, no person may take any Summer Experience more than twice nor attend two years in succession: and this is simply in order to avoid many disgusting repetitions and inevitable boredom.

~ Required, personal undertakings and assignments outside of class times – both in writing and by memory: enriched by spontaneous, casual, evening meetings ‘sub arboribus’ in nearby gardens with various Latin readings and free Latin conversations, and also complemented with economical Latin excursions to meaningful places in and around the area.
Therefore: even if guests and observers, relatives and friends of the approved participants are always welcome to share the summer Latin event together and the outside activities, nevertheless officially inscribed members who arbitrarily drift in and out, who inconsistently appear and disappear because of some private cause, some outside rule of observance or of the weather, who are on a summer vacation with Latin thrown in or a honeymoon, who neglect their weekly ‘Ludi Aestivi’, who do not normally interact with the others in the ‘experience’ are neither tolerated nor recognized, and will be told publicly to abandon summer Latin for the greater consolation and encouragement of the remaining faithful associates.

You will not even dream of coming without two books. Every year some short-sighted, arrogant individuals are effectively excluded and left alone because they insist they have a better idea about what they need for summer Latin. The experiences of the past years have proven that, if we are not all together in this regard, we waste lots of time and energy trying to supply for various deficiencies, or lack of cooperation. The books which hopefully will remain with you for your entire Latin life, are precisely:

LEWIS AND SHORT, Latin Dictionary  
[= large, complete, unabridged edition; not shorter school versions, after 1960]  
The most recent reprint of this book after the Oxford Classical Dictionary, attests to its perennial lasting value and validity. A more affordable edition may be available and is encouraged to be found on Amazon or other internet sources.

GILDERSLEEVE AND LODGE, Latin Grammar  
[= any edition is fine; the latest seems to be ‘Bolchazy-Carducci’ – 2014]

Besides these two essential works for daily consultation and study, which are going to be used in class and for your personal home-projects every week, you can bring any other items you may personally want, but no dictionary today has the range [200 ante – 500 post Chr.] of Lewis and Short, and it will be impossible to consult varying Latin sources unless we are all studying the same book. So if you do not plan on having these books with you in Milwaukee and in class, then you had better stay at home. And do not bring up that nonsense about these volumes being so heavy that they are deforming your back-bone. Orthopedic expenses will be reimbursed.

Because we shall also be using the Latin Language actively every day, you will need some simple but basic vernacular [English]-to-Latin vocabulary list, a dictionary to get your fundamental words. The last pages of most books like: Cassell, Smith, Traupman, Collins, Oxford – is enough for now. You may also need some writing instrument, and a notebook for daily mounds of new Latin items and details which we shall be learning and reviewing continually. All the other summer materials will be given to you printed up-on a silver platter. All that is required is fervor, daily effort, simplicity and humility plus the determination to become and be the world’s greatest LATINISTS.

Each week, on your level, you will have a personal ‘ludus aestivus’ of analysis – composition – practice to be done in a matter of a few days, and submitted for
correction and discussion in class. Besides our daily, free-spoken Latin, these experiences will make us get everything down in black-on-white. I would not plan on doing summer school Latin with us and another dozen undertakings at the same time. It usually does not work – and as said before, this is NOT a crash course of Latin or some sort of AP nightmare which has killed Latin as a mature and serious study of a whole world of wonder.

~ If you do not receive some urgent message about my death or incapacity, we shall all meet fresh to go on MONDAY, JUNE 3rd, 2019 AT 1:30 PM in front of the St. Anne’s Salvatorian Campus complex at the street address: 3800 N. 92nd Street, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222. Our Latin center can by reached by city transit lines. This will be the exact site of our summer sessions. This will be our 34th year of this aspect of our Latin adventure. We shall begin our study – exercise – experience immediately and see our whole Latin language just to get warmed up. There are some stores, bars, commercial points nearby. All that will be pointed out on our opening day.

~ While lodging arrangements in the Midwest and surrounding area for the time of the summer school are the exclusive responsibility of the partakers themselves (confidently entrusted to their ingenuity and good luck, especially by employing the many offerings on the Internet), and so housing arrangements have been left to the participants’ diligence, one of our zealous and competent participants has contacted MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY in downtown Milwaukee and has negotiated about accommodations in their facilities for June and July on a varying price range. Any and all questions or decisions regarding this are to be handled through Carrie Enea: carrie.enea@marquette.edu. All other classroom materials and the instruction itself are supplied without any financial obligations or strings attached by Reginald Foster, near the address provided below, in keeping with the spirit, conditions and principles indicated above; accordingly – without any fixed fees or tuitions at all, even though spontaneous and completely anonymous contributions to the ‘good Latin cause’ are certainly presumed and most gratefully received.

~ Anyone interested in this adventure and undertaking can contact – for answers and information:

Reginald Thomas Foster
3800 N. 92nd Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin – 53222-2504
U.S.A.
Mobile Phone: USA 414-755-9686
http://www.thelatinlanguage.org

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