

Preface

SINCE 2005, THE CENTRE of Theology and Philosophy at the University of Nottingham has held semi-annual conferences on a number of topics, providing space for theologians, philosophers, Scripture scholars, scientists, politicians, political analysts, and literary scholars to come together and engage in lively dialogue. Under a “wide umbrella” of themes, the Centre primarily aims to bring faith and reason into conversation with one another to see what kind of fruit emerges from such soil. In 2011 in Krakow, Poland, at the Centre’s “What is Life?” conference, a number of threads converged amidst especially scientific, philosophical, and theological papers that left us continuing to consider dimensions of the human person. The simple—and intentionally general—topic of “The Soul” readily presented itself as the theme for our next conference almost immediately. From June 28th to July 1st in 2013, a delegation of over 130 persons convened at St. Anne’s College at the University of Oxford to present various papers relating to this theme. The following essays selected from this conference include Keynote addresses by John Milbank, Mary Midgley, and William Desmond along with a number of other papers selected through blind peer review.