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Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you to express my deepest gratitude for an opportunity to participate the Phoenix Summer Seminar in Gaming in August 2004.

The courses offered by the Institute were extremely interesting and at high academic level. They made me aware how profound are the sources of the Western Civilization, what constitutes the foundations of today's World and how important is the role of Christian religion and ancient philosophy in it.

The course on heroism of Dr Evans encouraged me, basing on the heroes of the Antique World, to reconsider the presence of the heroes in all the events that take place around me. Heroes are not those who make big, spectacular things. Jesus said: "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me", inviting us in this way to heroism and authentic humanity. During lively discussions I learned that we should always stress what is really good and virtuous in us. And if we want to change the World, we should start with changing ourselves. The World nowadays needs courageous people who do not hesitate to take the risk and make decision to prove that real heroism is still feasible.

Living in determined reality in my country, I was never thinking about such virtue like justice, asking following questions. Why do men behave justly? Is it because they fear societal punishment? Or because it is good for them to do so? Is justice a good thing in and of itself? How do we define justice? In the Republic Plato sets out to answer these questions. He wants to define justice, and to define it in such a way as to show that justice is worthwhile in and of itself. A passage through this book begot a lot of question in me and at the same time gave the answers.

A third pillar of the Phoenix Institute is friendship. My stay in Gaming permitted me to meet wonderful people from different parts of the World, cultures, with various experiences and histories. Despite these differences I noticed that young people are the same in the whole World. No matters where they live, they face similar problems, are not afraid of ask not easy questions and discuss them. With their youthful enthusiasm and sensibility, great strength and heroic ideas, they are willing and well prepared for changing the World.

In the end I would like to thank to the Phoenix Institute for a scholarship that enable my participation in the Seminar. Without it I would not spend this unusual time in such a beautiful place, meet all these fantastic people and experience so many wonderful events.

Yours faithfully,

Monika Kowalska