



I O T A
INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX
THEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
ANGELICVM
ECUMENICUM
INSTITUTE FOR ECUMENICAL STUDIES

Nicaea and the Church of the Third Millennium: Towards Catholic-Orthodox Unity

Conference Program

4–7 June 2025
Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas
Rome, Italy



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***Conference Co-Organized by the International Orthodox Theological Association
and the Œcumenicum – Institute for Ecumenical Studies of the Angelicum***

Under the Patronage of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity

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Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue Between the Catholic Church and the
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Society for the Law of the Eastern Churches

United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, USA

Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Volos, Greece

About the Conference

The Council of Nicaea (325) is foundational for Orthodox-Catholic unity. The Council inaugurated a synodal way of addressing theological and canonical issues at the universal level. The Nicene Creed provided a theological vision of the triune God that continues to guide the common faith of Christians, in particular, of the Orthodox and Catholic Churches. The conference will focus on articulating this common faith in today's world with a view of moving the two churches closer to full communion. Over 100 experts from different Christian traditions will discuss such topics as the doctrines of the trinity and incarnation, synodality and primacy, heresy and schism, the date of Easter, and other practical matters in light of the First Ecumenical Council.

The conference will bring together members of bilateral dialogues and ecumenical organizations, such as the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue Between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue Between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches, Conference of European Churches, Huffington Ecumenical Institute, Pro Oriente Foundation, St Irenaeus Joint Orthodox-Catholic Working Group, Society for the Law of the Eastern Churches, and Center of Ecumenical, Missiological, and Environmental Studies.

Session Format and Visual Aids

In order to provide enough time for discussion, each paper in the plenary sessions (sessions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9) is limited to 20 minutes or 2,500 words of the main text. Each paper in the breakout sessions (sessions 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11) is limited to 15 minutes or 1,900 words of the main text. The discussion of the papers will take place at the end of each session.

If you would like to show a PowerPoint presentation or distribute a printed handout at your session, please email it to the conference coordinator, Ms. Alejandra Salvatierra at marialesalva@pust.it.

Angelicum Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi network for the Angelicum's guests: Pust-Guest; password: Pust2019!

Conference Updates

For program changes and updates, follow the conference WhatsApp Channel by scanning this code:



Questions

See the "Practical Information" at the end of this program or contact Ms. Salvatierra at marialesalva@pust.it for questions pertaining to conference logistics.

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About IOTA

Mission

IOTA is a community of scholars and professionals dedicated to the worldwide exchange of knowledge within the context of the Orthodox tradition.

IOTA's goals are:

- 1) Organize international conferences and facilitate group research projects;
- 2) Partner with people and institutions around the world in order to contribute to their mission of teaching and transmitting the faith;
- 3) Engage contemporary culture in light of the Orthodox tradition;
- 4) Contribute to the growth and renewal of the Orthodox Church; and
- 5) Support pan-Orthodox unity and conciliarity.

Board of Directors

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Dr. Gayle E. Woloschak (Vice President and Treasurer)
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About ÆCUMENICUM

Mission

The ÆCUMENICUM – Institute for Ecumenical Studies of the Angelicum is a specialized institute of the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

Purpose:

- 1) To offer a complete university **education** in ecumenism. The ÆCUMENICUM provides academic qualifications for clergy, religious, and laity preparing to teach ecumenism or to serve as ecumenical officers.
- 2) To promote theological **research** in ecumenism through doctoral and postdoctoral programs, academic conferences, and public lectures.

Direction

Rev. Prof. Hyacinthe Destivelle, O.P., Director
Mgr. Prof. Juan Usma Gómez, Vice-Director
Prof. Dimitrios Keramidas, Academic Coordinator

Wednesday, June 4: Opening Day

Arrival 14:00	
14:00 Information Point	Conference check-in open Pick up your conference packet at the Information Point Address: Largo Angelicum, 1, 00184 Roma RM (follow the signs up the stairs)
Refreshments 15:00-16:00	
15:00-16:00 Angelicum Garden	Coffee and refreshments
Opening Session 16:00-18:15	
16:00-16:15 Aula Magna	Ecumenical Service Co-presiding: Cardinal Kurt Koch , Metropolitan Job (Getcha) of Pisidia, Bishop Kyrillos of Los Angeles, and Archbishop Rowan Williams
16:15-16:20 Aula Magna	Welcome Address Rev. Prof. Thomas Joseph White , O.P. (Rector Magnificus, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy)
16:20-16:35 Aula Magna	Presidential Address Prof. Paul L. Gavrilyuk (President, International Orthodox Theological Association; Aquinas Chair in Theology and Philosophy, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA)
16:35-16:40 Aula Magna	Welcome Address Rev. Prof. Hyacinthe Destivelle , O.P. (Director, Institute for Ecumenical Studies, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy)
16:40-17:10 Aula Magna	“The 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea: An Ecumenical Opportunity and Challenge” Cardinal Kurt Koch (Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, Vatican)
17:10-17:15 Aula Magna	Musical Interlude Dominican Choir of the Angelicum

17:15-17:45 Aula Magna	“Towards Unity in Faith: Nicaea and the Question of Restoring Ecclesial Unity Today” Metropolitan Job (Getcha) of Pisidia (Ecumenical Patriarchate)
17:45-18:15 Aula Magna	“Nicaea, the New Creation, and the Body of Christ” Archbishop Rowan Williams (Church of England)

Dinner | 18:30-20:00

18:30-20:00 Angelicum Garden	Dinner <i>Sponsored by Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University (New York, USA)</i>
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Thursday, June 5: The Nicene Faith

Breakfast

Thursday, June 5	Breakfast on your own
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Morning Prayer | 8:50-9:00

Thursday, June 5 8:50-9:00 Aula Magna	Morning Prayer Coptic Orthodox Choir of Rome directed by Fr. Barnaba
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Session 1 | 9:00-11:00

<p align="center">Session 1: The Divinity of Christ as the Foundation of Christian Unity</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Gayle E. Woloschak (IOTA Vice-President and Treasurer, Associate Dean for Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Affairs, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, USA)</p>	
<p>Thursday, June 5 9:00-11:00 Aula Magna</p>	<p>Bishop Kyrillos (Coptic Orthodox Church, Los Angeles, California, USA): “The Apostolic Tradition and the Mystery of Salvation in the Council of Nicaea”</p> <p>Prof. Aristotle Papanikolaou (Archbishop Demetrios Chair in Orthodox Theology and Culture and Co-Founding Director, Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University, New York City, New York, USA): “Nicaea’s Ontological Revolution”</p> <p>Prof. David Luy (Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, North American Lutheran Seminary, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, USA): “The Promise of Nicene Christocentrism”</p> <p>Prof. Matthew Levering (James N. Jr. and Mary D. Perry Chair of Theology, Mundelein Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, USA): “What Sense Does the Doctrine of the Incarnation Make Today?”</p>

Morning Break | 11:00-11:30

<p>Thursday, June 5 11:00-11:30 Angelicum Garden</p>	<p>Coffee break <i>Sponsored by Sankt Ignatios College (Södertälje, Sweden)</i></p>
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Session 2 | 11:30-13:00

Session 2: Nicaea: Trinitarian Faith and Christian Unity

Chair: Prof. **David F. Watson** (Academic Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs, United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, USA)

Session sponsored by United Theological Seminary (Dayton, Ohio, USA)

Thursday, June 5
11:30-13:00
Aula Magna

Rev. Prof. **Thomas Joseph White**, O.P. (Rector Magnificus, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy): “Homooousios: Ecclesiological and Ecumenical Implications of the Nicene Confession of the Trinity”

Prof. **Richard Swinburne** (Emeritus Professor of Philosophy of Religion, University of Oxford, UK): “The Doctrine of the Trinity, Common to East and West”

Rev. Prof. **Cyril Hovorun** (Professor of Ecclesiology, International Relations, and Ecumenism, University College Stockholm, Sweden): “Nicaea and Its Relevance to Orthodox-Catholic Relations”

Lunch Break | 13:00-14:20

Thursday, June 5
13:00-14:20
Angelicum Garden

Lunch

Afternoon Prayer | 14:20-14:30

Thursday, June 5
14:20-14:30
Aula Magna

Afternoon Prayer

Presiding: Metropolitan **Mor Polycarpus Aydin** (Syrian Orthodox Church, Netherlands)

Session 3 | 14:30-16:30

Session 3: A Council Unanimously Received?

Chair: Prof. **Lori Peterson Branch** (Associate Professor, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA)

Thursday, June 5
14:30-16:30
Aula Magna

Prof. **Mark DelCogliano** (Department Chair and Professor of Theology, Theology Department, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA): “The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed of 381 as a Compromise Document”

Prof. **Lewis Ayres** (McDonald Agape Distinguished Chair in Early Christian Theology, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy): “How to Remember the Creed, or, Lessons from Nicaea’s Providential Surplus”

Rev. Dr. **Mark S. Smith** (Affiliated Lecturer, Dean, and Director of Studies, Clare College, University of Cambridge, UK): “The Complex Reception of the ‘Faith of Nicaea’: An Anglican Perspective”

	<p>Prof. Young Kim (Associate Professor and Department Head, Classics and Mediterranean Studies, University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois, USA): “Receptions and Rejections of Nicaea: Perspectives from Protestant and Other Christian Traditions in North America”</p>
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Afternoon Break | 16:30-17:00

<p>Thursday, June 5 16:30-17:00 Angelicum Garden</p>	<p>Coffee Break <i>Sponsored by The Episcopal Church in Southeast Florida, USA</i></p>
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Session 4 (Breakout) | 17:00-18:30

<p>Session 4A: Nicaea and Christology Chair: Prof. Timothy J. Pawl (Professor of Philosophy, Philosophy Department, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA)</p>	
<p>Thursday, June 5 17:00-18:30 Aula 2</p>	<p>Prof. Paul Allen (Academic Dean, Corpus Christi College, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada): “Christ as Lord and King: A Post-Imperial Christology”</p> <p>Dr. Nathaniel Wood (Associate Director, Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University, New York City, New York, USA): “Nicaea, Consubstantiality, and Dogmatic Social Theory: A Sophiological Approach”</p> <p>Dr. Gheorgios Stavropoulos (Associate Professor, Department of Theology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece): “The Topical Importance of the Consubstantiality of the Son”</p> <p>Fr. Prof. Antonios Kaldas (Lecturer in Philosophy, St. Cyril’s Coptic Theological College, Sydney College of Divinity, Sydney, Australia): “Stranger Than We Can Imagine: How Recent Developments in Consciousness Studies Give Us New Ways to Express Nicene Christology, Revive Ancient Metaphysics, and Make Mystery Cool Again”</p>

<p>Session 4B: Nicaea and the Trinity Chair: Prof. Dr. Giorgi Khuroshvili (Professor of Philosophy, New Georgian University, Poti, Republic of Georgia)</p>	
<p>Thursday, June 5 17:00-18:30 Aula 3</p>	<p>Prof. Ryan Haecker (University Librarian and Assistant Professor of Theology, University of Austin, Texas, USA): “From God to God: The Trinitarian Ontology of Gregory of Nyssa”</p> <p>Fr. Joseph Hudson, O.S.B. (Ph.D. Candidate, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy): “Didymus the Blind on the Holy Spirit: An Alexandrian Foundation for the Filioque?”</p>

	<p>Mr. Anthony Hernandez (Doctoral Student, Ave Maria University, Ave Maria, Florida, USA): “Homooousios, Metaphysics as Theological Handmaid, and the Catholic-Orthodox Controversy over the Filioque”</p> <p>Rev. Dr. James Dominic Rooney, O.P. (Assistant Professor, Department of Religion and Philosophy, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong): “Trinitarian Metaphysics without Modeling”</p>
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Session 4C: The Nicene Creed and Church Unity Chair: Dr. Anna Briskina-Müller (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Leipzig, Germany)	
Thursday, June 5 17:00-18:30 Aula 7	<p>Mr. Yousef Sawires (Trinity College, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada): “Extra-Biblical Language: Athanasius’s Ecumenical Model for Doctrinal Unity”</p> <p>Rev. Prof. Radu Bordeianu (Professor of Theology and Director of Graduate Studies in Theology, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA): “Pan-Orthodox Synodality Reimagined: Lessons from Nicaea and the Catholic Church”</p> <p>Dr. Joshua Sijuwade (Visiting Lecturer, London School of Theology, London, UK): “The Metaphysics of Eternal Generation”</p>

Session 4D: Nicaea, Lex Orandi and Lex Credendi Chair: Rev. Dr. Harry Pappas (Archangels Greek Orthodox Church, Stamford, Connecticut, USA)	
Thursday, June 5 17:00-18:30 Aula 5	<p>Dr. Ephrem Aboud Ishac (Senior Postdoc, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria): “The Presence of Nicaea 325 in Syriac Liturgical Prayers”</p> <p>Fr. Paul Karamel-Koyickal (STL Student, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy): “West Syriac Theological Reflections on the Hymn Ὁ μονογενὴς Υἱὸς Attributed to Patriarch Severus of Antioch (465–538)”</p> <p>Dr. Pantelis Levakos (University of Athens, Greece): “From the ‘Great Mystery of Piety’ to the ‘Mystery of Salvation’: The First Ecumenical Council as the Basis of the Synodikon of Orthodoxy”</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Philip Zymaris (Associate Professor of Liturgics, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, Massachusetts, USA): “The Liturgical Ramifications of Nicaea I: A Forgotten Approach”</p>

Session 4E: The Vienna Christological Formula: A Landmark for Ecumenical Dialogue

Chair: Prof. Dr. **Andrea Riedl** (Professor of Medieval and Modern Church History, Department of Catholic Theology, University of Regensburg, Germany)

Session sponsored by Pro Oriente

Thursday, June 5
17:00-18:30
Aula 8

Prof. Dr. **Dietmar W. Winkler** (Professor of Patristic Studies and History of Christianity, University of Salzburg, Austria): “Common Faith in New Language? Theology and Sources of the Vienna Christological Formula”

Metropolitan Dr. **Mor Polycarpus Aydin** (Syrian Orthodox Church, Netherlands): “The Impact of the Vienna Christological Formula on Contemporary Church Unity”

Dinner

Thursday, June 5

Dinner on your own

Friday, June 6: Nicaea and Synodality

Breakfast

Friday, June 6	Breakfast on your own
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Morning Prayer | 8:50-9:00

Friday, June 6 8:50-9:00 Aula Magna	Morning Prayer St. Dennis the Little's Byzantine Choir of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Italy directed by Fr. Marian Jianu
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Session 5 | 9:00-11:00

Session 5: Synodality in the Light of Nicaea

Chair: Dr. **Pantelis Kalaitzidis** (Director, Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Volos, Greece)
Session sponsored by the Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Volos, Greece

Friday, June 6 9:00-11:00 Aula Magna	<p>Prof. Irina Paert (Chair of Church History and Associate Professor of Orthodox Church History, School of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia): "Different Models of Synodality"</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Myriam Wijlens (Professor of Canon Law, Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany): "The 2021–2024 Synod on Synodality in the Roman Catholic Church: Achievements – Opportunities – Challenges"</p> <p>Prof. Julija Naett Vidovic (Professeur d'Histoire des Conciles Œcuméniques et de Bioéthique, Institut St Serge, Paris, France): "The 'Synod on Synodality' of the Catholic Church: An Orthodox Assessment"</p> <p>Ms. Katerina Pekridou (Programme Officer for Theology and Studies, Conference of European Churches, Brussels, Belgium): "All Disciples, All Missionaries: All Called to Ministry. Revisiting Synodality from the Perspective of Mission"</p> <p>Dr. Andrej Jeftić (Director, Commission on Faith and Order, World Council of Churches): "Nicaea and the Quest for Christian Unity: A Faith and Order Perspective on the Council's Ecumenical Significance"</p>
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Morning Break | 11:00-11:30

Friday, June 6 11:00-11:30 Angelicum Garden	Coffee Break <i>Sponsored by Anglican and Eastern Churches Association, London, UK</i>
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Session 6 | 11:30-13:30

Session 6: Primacy in the Light of Nicaea

Chair: Prof. **Effie Fokas** (Assistant Professor of International Relations and European Affairs, American College of Greece, Athens, Greece)

Friday, June 6
11:30-13:30
Aula Magna

Prof. **George Demacopoulos** (Fr. John Meyendorff & Patterson Family Chair of Orthodox Christian Studies and Co-Founding Director, Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University, New York City, New York, USA):
“What Is More Important for the Future of Nicaea, an Emperor or a Pope?”

Rev. Prof. **Hyacinthe Destivelle**, O.P. (Director, Institute for Ecumenical Studies, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy) and Msgr. Prof. **Juan Usma Gómez** (Head of Western Section, Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, Vatican): Presentation of “The Bishop of Rome: Primacy and Synodality in the Responses to *Ut Unum Sint* and Ecumenical Dialogue Documents”

Prof. **Dimitrios Keramidas** (Academic Coordinator, Institute for Ecumenical Studies, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy): “The Study Document ‘The Bishop of Rome’: An Orthodox Evaluation”

Rev. Dr. **Amfilochios Miltos** (Member of the Academic Team, Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Volos, Greece, and Member of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church): “Synodality and Primacy in Light of Nicaea I: Canonical and Ecclesiological Challenges for Catholic-Orthodox Unity”

Group Photo | 13:35-13:40

Friday, June 6
13:35-13:40
Aula Magna

Group photo

Lunch Break | 13:40-15:00

Friday, June 6
13:40-15:00
Angelicum Garden

Lunch

Session 7 (Breakout) | 15:00-16:30

Session 7A: Nicaea and Synodality

Chair: Prof. **Paul J. Contino** (Distinguished Professor of Great Books, Seaver College, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, USA)

Sponsored by Seaver College, Pepperdine University (Malibu, California, USA)

Friday, June 6
15:00-16:30
Aula 2

Dr. **Anastacia Wooden** (Adjunct Instructor, School of Theology and Religious Studies, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, USA): “Is Nicaea *Really* Over? Conciliarity and Reception in the Eucharistic Ecclesiology of Nicholas Afanasiev”

Prof. **Vladimir Cvetković** (Senior Research Associate, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, Serbia): “Nicaea, Sobornost, and Orthodox-Catholic Dialogue on Ecclesiology”

Dr. **Natacha-Ingrid Tinteroff** (Institut Catholique de Paris, France): “The Significance of the First Ecumenical Council for the Understanding and Practice of Synodality in the Church of England and the Anglican Communion”

Session 7B: Church Unity at Risk: Towards a Typology of Schisms

Chairs: Prof. Dr. **Assaad Elias Kattan** (Professor of Orthodox Theology, University of Münster, Germany) and Dr. **Johannes Oeldemann** (Director, Johann Adam Moehler Institute for Ecumenism, Paderborn, Germany)

Session sponsored by St Irenaeus Joint Orthodox-Catholic Working Group

Friday, June 6
15:00-16:30
Aula 3

Prof. Dr. **Andrea Riedl** (Professor of Medieval and Modern Church History, Department of Catholic Theology, University of Regensburg, Germany): “The Making of a Schism: Criteria from Theological Sources”

Dr. **Marie-Hélène Blanchet** (Directrice de Recherche, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, France): “Is a Schism the Result of a Break in Ecclesiastical Obedience? Overlap and Interference Between the Notions of Schism and Heresy”

Prof. Dr. **Marcus Plested** (Professor of Greek Patristics and Byzantine Theology, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA): “The *Sophia* Controversy and the Typology of Schism”

Prof. Dr. **Vladan Perišić** (Professor of Philosophy and Department Chair of Patristics, Orthodox Theological Faculty, University of Belgrade, Serbia): “Towards a Typology of Schisms: A Systematic Approach”

Session 7C: Autocephaly: Evolution, Challenges, and Typologies

Chair: Rev. Prof. **Željko Paša**, S.J. (Dean of the Faculty of Eastern Christian Studies, Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, Italy)

Session sponsored by Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, Italy

Friday, June 6
15:00-16:30
Aula 5

Rev. Prof. **Edward G. Farrugia**, S.J. (Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Eastern Patrology, Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, Italy): “Autocephaly: Evolution or Involution of the Idea of Church Governance?”

Prof. **Basilus J. Groen** (Professor of Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology, University of Graz, Austria): “Autocephaly, A-Cephalic, Hetero-Cephalic, and Ortho-Cephalic: Towards a Typology”

Prof. **Gaga Shurgaia** (Professor, Department of Asian, African, and Mediterranean Studies, University of Naples “L’Orientale,” Naples, Italy): “Autocephaly: The Ideal and the Realization”

Dr. **Daniela Kalkandjieva** (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski,” Sofia, Bulgaria): “Autocephaly and Schism”

Session 7D: Rediscovering Nicaea in the Churches Today

Chair: Prof. Dr. **Simone Sinn** (Professor of Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology, Faculty of Protestant Theology, University of Münster, Germany and President of Societas Oecumenica)

Session sponsored by Societas Oecumenica

Friday, June 6
15:00-16:30
Aula 7

Rev. Dr. **Heta Hurskainen** (Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, University of Eastern Finland, Finland, and Member of the Standing Committee of Societas Oecumenica): “Nicaea and Lutheran Approaches to Ecumenism”

Dr. **Robert Svaton** (Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Ecumenism, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology, Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic, and Secretary of Societas Oecumenica): “Nicaea: A Roman Catholic and Ecumenical Perspective”

Fr. Dr. **Aleksei Volchkov** (Researcher, University of Tübingen, Germany): “Phantom Pains of Orthodox Christians: The Council of Nicaea in Contemporary Reflections on Society and State”

Prof. Dr. **Joshua Searle** (Professor of Mission Studies and Intercultural Theology, Theology Seminary Elstal, Germany): “Rediscovering Nicaea: The Significance of the Nicene Creed for Baptists”

Session 7E: Right of Appeal to the Bishop of Rome

Chair: Prof. Dr. **Astrid Kaptijn** (Professor of Canon Law, Faculty of Theology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland)

Session sponsored by the Society for the Law of the Eastern Churches

Friday, June 6
15:00-16:30
Aula 8

Metropolitan Dr. **Kyrillos of Krinis (Katerelos)** (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople): “Appeal to the Bishop of Rome and Synodality: An Orthodox Perspective”

Prof. Dr. **Orazio Condorelli** (Professor of Ecclesiastical Law and of Canon Law, Department of Jurisprudence, University of Catania, Italy): “The Appeals to the Bishop of Rome from the Council of Sardica till the 9th Century”

Rev. Prof. Dr. **Giorgi Zviadadze** (Rector, Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia): “Principles of Primacy and Synodality in the Light of the First Ecumenical Council”

Afternoon Break | 16:30-17:00

Friday, June 6
16:30-17:00
Angelicum Garden

Coffee Break

Session 8 (Breakout) | 17:00-18:30

Session 8A: Nicaea and the Oriental Orthodox Traditions

Chair: Archbishop **Khajag Barsamian** (Representative of the Armenian Apostolic Church near the Holy See – Catholicosate of Etchmiadzin)

Friday, June 6
17:00-18:30
Aula 2

Ms. **Julia Hintlian** (Ph.D. Candidate, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA) and Prof. **Roberta R. Ervine** (Professor of Armenian Christian Studies and Director of Studies, St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, Armonk, New York, USA): “The Nicene Creed in Armenian Polemics: A Case-Study Approach with Hovhan Mayragomets‘i, Anania Narekats‘i, and Nerses Lambronats‘i”

Dr. **Ralph Lee** (Facilitator, Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative and Associate Faculty, The Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, Oxford, UK): “The Council of the 318: Nicaea and the Defining of an Epoch for the Ethiopian Orthodox Täwəḥədo Church”

Rev. Dr. **Calum Samuelson** (Postdoctoral Fellow, Sankt Ignatios College, Södertälje, Sweden): “Täwəḥədo Theologizing as a Guide for Ecumenical Fellowship”

Session 8B: Nicaea, Material Culture, and Iconography

Chair: Revd. Dr. **Jamie Hawkey** (Canon Theologian, Westminster Abbey, London, UK)

Friday, June 6
17:00-18:30
Aula 3

Rev. Prof. **Dyron B. Daugherty** (Professor of Religion, Seaver College, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, USA): “The Physical Circumstances and Material Culture of the First Nicene Council”

Dr. **Jennifer Awes Freeman** (Associate Professor and Director of the Theology and the Arts Program, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA): “Iconography of the Nicene Council”

Prof. Dr. **Notker Baumann** (Professor of Ancient Church History, Patrology, and Eastern Church Studies, Universität Erfurt Katholisch-Theologische Fakultät, Erfurt, Germany): “Synods and Letters or Imperial Decrees in the Service of Unity”

Session 8C: Ascetical Theology and the Debate over Clerical Celibacy

Chair: Prof. **Michael Hjälme** (Rector, Sankt Ignatios College, Södertälje, Sweden)

Session sponsored by Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, Stockton University, Galloway, New Jersey, USA

Friday, June 6
17:00-18:30
Aula 7

Ms. **Sarah Wagner-Wassen** (Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany): “The Man, the Myth, the Legend: Paphnutius at Nicaea and the Debate over Clerical Celibacy”

Prof. **A. Edward Siecienski** (Professor of Religion and Clement and Helen Pappas Professor of Byzantine Civilization and Religion, School of Arts and Humanities, Stockton University, Galloway, New Jersey, USA): “The Council of Nicaea and the Debate over Clerical Celibacy”

Rev. **Benjamin Wyatt** (Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Nativity [Episcopal], Indianapolis, Indiana, USA): “Sainthood, Schism, and Self-Denial: Basil of Caesarea and an Ascetical Theology of Synodal Politics”

Session 8D: Contemporary Practices of Synodality

Chair: Prof. Dr. **Myriam Wijlens** (Professor of Canon Law, Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany)

Friday, June 6
17:00-18:30
Aula 8

Prof. Dr. **Andrés J. Valencia Pérez** (Catholic University of Valencia, Spain): “Nicaea, a Council Inspiring Unity among Christians in a Hermeneutic of Reconciliation and Synodality”

Mr. **Václav Ježek** (Associate Professor, Department of Church History and Byzantine Studies, University of Prešov, Slovakia): “Unity in Disunity: Experimental Synodality and Practical Primacy in the Orthodox Church in Central Europe within the Context of the Ecclesiological Spirit of Nicaea”

	<p>Rev. Ihor Rantsya (Ph.D. Candidate, Institut Catholique de Paris, France): “The Council of Nicaea 325 and Territorial Organization of Eastern Catholics in the Context of Orthodox-Catholic Dialogue: Implications for Geo-Ecclesiology of the Third Millennium”</p> <p>Dr. John Stayne (Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Ecumenical Studies, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome; Honorary Fellow, Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University, UK): “The Council of Nicaea and the Tradition of Non-Episcopal Conciliar Voting”</p>
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Dinner	
Friday, June 6	Dinner on your own

Saturday, June 7: Date of Easter

Breakfast

Saturday, June 7	Breakfast on your own
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Papal Audience | 8:30-11:00

Saturday, June 7 8:30-11:00 Meeting spot to be determined	Private Audience with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican. The event is open to registered conference attendees only. Conference name tags are required to attend the Audience. We will assemble at 8:30 am. The exact meeting spot will be announced at the conference.
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Session 9 | 12:00-13:30

Session 9: Towards a Common Date of Easter Chair: Rev. Prof. Joseph Carola , S.J. (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy) <i>Session sponsored by the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences</i>	
Saturday, June 7 12:00-13:30 Aula Magna	Prof. Gayle E. Woloschak (IOTA Vice-President and Treasurer, Associate Dean for Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Affairs, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, USA): "Nicaea and the Ongoing Controversy Over the Date of Easter" Rev. Prof. Carlo Dell'Oso (Patristic Institute "Augustinianum" and the Pontifical Institute of Christian Archaeology, Rome, Italy): "African Computists: Around the Pseudo-Cyprian <i>De Pascha Computus</i> " Prof. Paul Mattei (Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences): "Nicaea: Mathematical Rules and Historical-Theological Questions"

Lunch Break | 13:30-14:30

Saturday, June 7 13:30-14:30 Angelicum Garden	Lunch
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Session 10 (Breakout) | 14:30-16:00

Session 10A: Date of Easter Chair: Rev. Prof. Rocco Ronzani , O.S.A. (Prefect of the Vatican Apostolic Archive, Vatican) <i>Session sponsored by the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences</i>	
Saturday, June 7 14:30-16:00	Rev. Prof. Francesco Braschi (Venerable Ambrosian Library, Milan, Italy): "Ambrose, <i>Lettera extra collectionem</i> 13 (Maurists 23)"

Aula 2	<p>Prof. Alberto Camplani (Sapienza University, Rome, Italy): “Leo the Great and the Alexandrian Computus (<i>Ep.</i> 121 to the Emperor Marcian; <i>Ep.</i> 122 to Julian, Bishop of Cos)”</p> <p>S.E.R. Mons. Carlos Azevedo (Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences): “Late Computists, Including Martin of Braga, <i>De Pascha</i>”</p>
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<p>Session 10B: Orthodox Synodality after the Council of Crete (2016) Chair: Prof. Carrie Frederick Frost (Assistant Professor, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington, USA) <i>Session sponsored by the Center for Ecumenical, Missiological and Environmental Studies (CEMES)</i></p>	
<p>Saturday, June 7 14:30-16:00 Aula 3</p>	<p>Prof. Nikolaos Dimitriadis (CEMES / American College of Thessaloniki, Greece): “Recent Orthodox Discussion on Synodality”</p> <p>Rev. Prof. Augustinos Bairactaris (CEMES, Thessaloniki / Associate Professor of Ecumenical Studies, Patriarchal Ecclesiastical Academy of Crete, Greece): “The Council of Crete and Christian Unity”</p> <p>Dr. Eleni Kasselouri-Hatzivassiliadi (Lecturer, International Hellenic University, Thessaloniki, Greece): “Open Questions: Laity and Women Participation in the Synods”</p>

<p>Session 10C: Liturgical Uses of the Creed Chair: Rev. Prof. Nicholas Denysenko (Emil and Elfriede Jochum Professor and Chair, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, USA) <i>Session sponsored by Emil and Elfriede Jochum Professor and Chair, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, USA</i></p>	
<p>Saturday, June 7 14:30-16:00 Aula 5</p>	<p>Rev. Prof. Mark Morozowich, S.E.O.D. (Associate Professor of Liturgical Studies / Sacramental Theology, School of Theology and Religious Studies, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, USA): “Post Nicaea: An Exploration of the Creed and Liturgy in Light of the Arians”</p> <p>Rev. Prof. Daniel Galadza (Professor of Byzantine Liturgy, Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, Italy): “The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed in Communion with Rome: Historical Problems and Current Challenges”</p> <p>Rev. Prof. Nicholas Denysenko (Emil and Elfriede Jochum Professor and Chair, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, USA): “Contemporary Practice: The Catechumenate, the Creed, and Receiving Christians into the Church”</p>

Session 10D: Nicaea and Contemporary Practices Chair: Bishop Gerasim (Eliel) of Fort Worth, Auxiliary to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America	
Saturday, June 7 14:30-16:00 Aula 7	<p>Ms. Rachel Contos (Fordham University, New York City, New York, USA): “Catechism as a Site of Unity: Teaching the Councils and Catechism as Ecumenism”</p> <p>Dr. Jelisei Heikkilä (Theological Secretary of the Archbishop of Helsinki, Orthodox Church of Finland): “Is Synodality Possible in Cyberspace?”</p> <p>Rev. Prof. Dr. Peter Ben Smit (Chair in Ancient Catholic Church Structures and the History and Doctrine of the Old Catholic Churches, University of Utrecht / Old Catholic Seminary, Utrecht, Netherlands): “Believing in the Church as a Resource for Ecumenical Rapprochement: A Prefigurative Perspective”</p> <p>Fr. Dr. Elraheb Kyrillos ElMacari (Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy): “The Descending Christology of the Nicene Creed and How It Shaped Christology in the East and the West”</p>
Session 10E: Nicaea and Christian Unity Chair: Rev. Dr. Sergei Nikolaev (President and E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism, Moscow Theological Seminary of the United Methodist Church, Moscow, Russia)	
Saturday, June 7 14:30-16:00 Aula 8	<p>Dr. Paul G. Monson (Vice President for Intellectual Formation and Chief Academic Officer, Associate Professor of Church History, Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, Hales Corners, Wisconsin, USA): “Toward an Ecumenical <i>Sensus Fidelium</i>: Newman and Nicaea Revisited”</p> <p>Prof. Thomas Cattoi (William and Barbara Moran Chair in Early Christian Theology and Interreligious Relations, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy): “Judgment or Horizon? Nicene Christology as Ecumenical Framework for Contemporary Theological Reflection”</p> <p>Prof. Alberto Melloni (Secretary, Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose, Bologna, Italy): “The Unaccomplished Agreement of Concelebration between Athenagoras and Paul VI, June 1970”</p>

Afternoon Break | 16:00-16:30

Saturday, June 7 16:00-16:30 Angelicum Garden	Coffee Break
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Session 11 (Breakout) | 16:30-18:00

Session 11A: The Significance of a Common Easter Celebration for Christian Unity

Chair: Prof. Dr. **Gayle E. Woloschak** (IOTA Vice-President and Treasurer, Associate Dean for Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Affairs, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, USA)

Session sponsored by Pro Oriente

Saturday, June 7
16:30-18:00
Aula 2

Dr. **Christian Gastgeber** (Dozent, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria): “Calculating the Easter Date: Differences, Frictions, and Solutions in Medieval Christianity”

Dr. **Aho Shemunkasho** (Director of the MA Program in Syriac Theology, University of Salzburg, Austria): “The Challenges of the Different Easter Dates and the Urgent Need for a Common Date: The Current Situation for Syriac Christians in Ecumenical Contexts”

Dr. **Aleksandr Andreev** (Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Oslo, Norway): “From Nicaea to Milanković and Beyond: Practical and Liturgical Considerations for an Astronomical Determination of Easter”

Session 11B: Nicaea and Exegetical Issues

Chair: Archbishop **Nikitas (Loulias)** of Thyateira and Great Britain, Ecumenical Patriarchate (President, Conference of European Churches, Brussels, Belgium)

Saturday, June 7
16:30-18:00
Aula 3

Prof. **Alexander H. Pierce** (Assistant Professor of Historical Theology, North American Lutheran Seminary, Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, USA): “Nicene Trinitarian Alignment and the Question of Theophanic Exegesis: A Study of the Cappadocians and Augustine of Hippo”

Dr. **Tiffany Butler** (University of Edinburgh, UK): “From the Tower to the Throne: Migration and the Church’s Eschatological Hope”

Session 11C: Heresy, Unity, and Diversity Chair: Prof. Justus Hunter (United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, USA)	
Saturday, June 7 16:30-18:00 Aula 5	<p>Dr. Martin Dudley (Honorary Research Fellow, The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham, UK): "Is There a Future for Heresiology? Nicaea and the Nature of Heresy"</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Tomi Karttunen (Docent in Dogmatics, University of Helsinki, Finland): "Witnesses of the Apostolic Faith in the East and West: An Ecumenical Reading of the Dogmatic Decisions of the Council of Nicaea 325"</p> <p>Rev. Athanase Bukin (KU Leuven, Belgium): "Unity without Union in True Diversity: An Augustinian Question"</p>
Session 11D: Witness and Holiness Chair: Prof. Thomas Cattoi (William and Barbara Moran Chair in Early Christian Theology and Interreligious Relations, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy)	
Saturday, June 7 16:30-18:00 Aula 7	<p>Dr. Riad Ghobrial (Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, Oxford, UK): "The Poor and the Martyr as Catalysts of Nicene Ecumenism: Roman Catholic and Coptic Orthodox Perspectives"</p> <p>Mr. Karim Guirguis (University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada): "Hagiography and the Recognition of Holiness"</p> <p>Dr. Elke B. Speliopoulos (Independent Scholar, Prescott, Arizona, USA): "Contemporary Witnesses: Conveying the Lordship and Divinity of Jesus Christ to 21st Century Faithful in a Syriac Orthodox Context"</p>
Session 11E: Creeds, Councils and Unity: From Nicaea to the 21st Century Chair: Dr. Costanza Bianchi (Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose, Bologna, Italy) <i>Session sponsored by Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose, Bologna, Italy</i>	
Saturday, June 7 16:30-18:00 Aula 8	<p>Metropolitan Emmanuel (Adamakis) of Chalcedon (Ecumenical Patriarchate): "The 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, the Profession of Faith, and the Expectations of the Churches"</p> <p>Cardinal Claudio Gugerotti (Pontifical Oriental Institute; Dicastery for the Oriental Churches, Rome, Italy): "Creeds, Councils and Unity: From Nicaea to the 21st Century"</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Jennifer Wasmuth (Göttingen Universität, Germany): "The Nicene Creed as One of the Central Confessional Texts of Reformation Theology"</p> <p>Dr. Luca Ferracci (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy): "On the Origins of the Ecumenical Re-Appropriation of the Nicæan Faith (19th Century)"</p>

Session 12 | 18:00-18:30

Session 12: Round Table Discussion: Where Do We Go from Here?

<p>Saturday, June 7 18:00-18:30 Aula Magna</p>	<p>Rev. Prof. Hyacinthe Destivelle, O.P. (Director, Institute for Ecumenical Studies, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy)</p> <p>Prof. Paul L. Gavrilyuk (IOTA President)</p>
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Closing Prayer | 18:30-18:40

<p>Saturday, June 7 18:30-18:40 Aula Magna</p>	<p>Closing Prayer</p> <p>Choir of the Ukrainian Pontifical College of St. Josaphat directed by Mr. Vasyl Koval</p>
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Closing Reception | 18:40-20:30

<p>Saturday, June 7 18:40-20:30 Angelicum Garden</p>	<p>Closing Reception</p> <p><i>Sponsored by the Huffington Ecumenical Institute, Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles, California, USA) and the Theology Department, University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, Minnesota, USA)</i></p>
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Practical Information

Registration

All conference attendees, including all speakers, session chairs, support staff, volunteers, and guests, are required to register on this page: <https://iota-web.org/2025-nicaea-conference-registration/>

Conference Protocol

All participants are advised to secure their belongings. No one should leave their property unattended.

Location

Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome, Italy.

Address

Largo Angelicum, 1, 00184 Roma RM, Italy

Arrival and Departure

- Conference Start Date & Time: Wednesday, June 4, 15:00.
- Conference End Date & Time: Saturday, June 7, 21:00.
- Recommended arrival and departure times: Attendees should plan to arrive in Rome before 13:00 on June 4, and depart at any convenient time on Sunday, June 8. Attendees outside Europe are advised to arrive in Rome the day before the conference starts, on Tuesday, June 3.

Airport Transfers

- All transportation costs are approximate and subject to change without notice.
- **Fiumicino Airport.** The center of Rome may be reached by train, bus, and taxi. Train from the Fiumicino airport to the Termini station is €14. For Bus Shuttle options, visit this page: <https://www.sitbusshuttle.com/en/>. Taxi from the Fiumicino airport to the hotels in the city center is €55 (note: this is a city tariff; depending upon the hotel's location, metered fare could be higher or lower).
- **Ciampino Airport.** The center of Rome may be reached by bus or taxi. For Bus Shuttle options, visit this page: <https://www.sitbusshuttle.com/en/>. SitBus from the Ciampino Airport to Via Masala 5 (near Termini train station) is €6 one-way or €8 (return ticket). Taxi from the Ciampino Airport to the hotels in the city center is approximately €35. Taxi service may not be available after 22:00.

Dining Recommendations

- Restaurants on Piazza della Madonna dei Monti (10-min walk from the Angelicum);
- Baccano (Via delle Muratte 23, 15-min walk from the Angelicum);
- Enoteca Corsi (a 15-min walk from the Angelicum; a 5-min walk from Pantheon);
- Armando al Pantheon (a 17-min walk from the Angelicum; a 1-minute walk from Pantheon);
- Osteria da zi Umberto (in Trastevere);
- Ill Sorpasso (a 5-min walk from Domus Romana Sacerdotalis);
- Girarrosto Fiorentino (a 30-min walk from the Angelicum).

Suggested Hotels and Religious Houses

June is the high tourist season in Rome. Attendees should plan to book their hotels early. We recommend the following area hotels and religious houses:

Hotel Forum

Via Tor de' Conti 25 - 00184 Rome
Tel: +39 066792446
info@hotelforum.com
<https://www.hotelforum.com/en/>

Basilica Hotel

Via Cavour 85/A - 00184 Rome
T. +39 0647824414
E. info@basilicahotel.it
www.basilicahotel.it

Hotel Fiori

Via Nazionale 163 - 00184 Rome
<https://www.booking.com/hotel/it/hotelfiorirome.html>

Hotel Patria

Via Torino 36 - 00184 Rome
<https://www.booking.com/hotel/it/patria-roma.html>

Hotel Gea di Vulcano

Via Nazionale 243 - 00184 Rome
<https://www.booking.com/hotel/it/gea-di-vulcano.html>

Hotel Hiberia

Via XXIV Maggio 7 - 00187 Rome
<https://www.booking.com/hotel/it/hiberiahotelrome.html>

Casa per Ferie - Suore Salesiane dei Sacri Cuori

Via Guicciardini 4 - 00184 Rome
WhatsApp +39 3760040003
casaroma@salesianesacricuori.org
www.casaromassc.it

Casa per Ferie - Mysterium Christi

Via Merulana 174 - 00185 Rome
Tel: +39 0670492421
suoredicristo@virgilio.it
www.suoredicristo.it

Casa per Ferie - Istituto Immacolata Concezione N.S. di Lourdes

Via Sistina 113 - 00187 Rome
Tel. + 39.06.4745324 - fax + 39.06.4741422
sr.sistina@gmail.com
WhatsApp +39 3533486202
<https://www.casaperferie-suorelourdes.it/casa-per-ferie-barberini/>

For a Wi-Fi connection at the Angelicum, choose network “Pust-Guest” and enter password: Pust2019!

For program changes and updates, follow the conference WhatsApp Channel by scanning this code:



Sessions taking place in Aula Magna will be streamed on the Angelicum’s YouTube Channel. To watch the sessions online, scan this code:

