The Way Forward: Pope Francis, Vatican II, and Synodality

Boston College | Chestnut Hill, MA
March 3-4, 2023

Co-sponsored by:
The Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, Boston College
The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Loyola University Chicago
The Center on Religion and Culture, Fordham University
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome! We are delighted that you will be part of our two-day gathering of church leaders to discuss synodality, the call by Pope Francis to "walk together" in considering the continuing reception of Vatican II, and embrace the ecclesiological challenges facing our beloved church. Our meeting includes bishops, theologians, historians, journalists, and other church leaders, and follows our initial meeting last year, hosted by Loyola University Chicago.

The eighty participants will consider and discuss four keynote addresses by theologians and Bishop Daniel Flores of Brownsville, Texas, who chairs the doctrine committee of the U.S. Bishops' Conference and who led the drafting of the U.S. synodal synthesis. A crucial component (and hope) for the success of our gathering will be all of us "listening with the ear of the heart," as St. Benedict famously said.

Ad majorem Dei gloriam,

Mark Massa, S.J.
Director
The Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life

Michael P. Murphy
Director
The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage

David Gibson
Director
The Center on Religion and Culture
Thursday, March 2nd, 2023

3:00 PM | Hotel Check-In
*AC Hotel by Marriott | Cleveland Circle, 395 Chestnut Hill Ave, Boston, MA*

5:30 PM | Buses Depart Hotel for Dinner

6:00 PM | Dinner
*La Voile Restaurant | 1627 Beacon St., Brookline, MA*

Friday, March 3rd, 2023

7:15 AM | Buses Depart Hotel for Boston College

7:30 AM | Breakfast and Welcome

8:00 - 8:45 AM | Keynote with Rafael Luciani, Boston College
"Synodality: A New Phase in the Reception of the Council"

8:45 - 9:30 AM | Response
*Jaisy Joseph, Villanova University*
*Bishop Christopher Coyne, Diocese of Burlington*

9:30 - 9:45 AM | Coffee Break

9:45 - 10:30 AM | Discussion
*Facilitated by Michael P. Murphy, Loyola University Chicago*

10:50 AM | Mass
*St. Mary's Chapel*
*Principal Celebrant: Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap., Archbishop of Boston*

12:00 PM | Lunch
1:00 - 1:45 PM | Keynote with Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of America
"Synodality in the Early Church"

1:45 - 3:15 PM | Panel "Synodality Then and Now"
Moderator: Grant Gallicho, Archdiocese of Chicago
Panelists:
  - Maria Clara Bingemer, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro
  - John McGreevy, University of Notre Dame
  - Aristotle Papanikolaou, Fordham University

3:15 - 3:30 PM | Coffee Break

3:30 - 4:30 PM | Panel "Challenges to Synodality"
Moderator: Anne Thompson, NBC News
Panelists:
  - Kathleen Cummings, University of Notre Dame
  - Massimo Faggioli, Villanova University
  - M. Cathleen Kaveny, Boston College

4:30 - 5:30 PM | Discussion
Facilitated by David Gibson, Fordham University

5:30 PM | Buses Return to Hotel

6:15 PM | Buses Depart Hotel for Dinner

6:30 PM | Dinner
Tartufo Restaurant | 22 Union Street, Newton Center, MA
Saturday, March 4th, 2023

8:15 AM | Buses Depart Hotel for Boston College

8:30 AM | Breakfast and Welcome

9:00 - 9:45 AM | Keynote with Hosffman Ospino, Boston College
"Practical and Pastoral Theology"

9:45 - 10:05 AM | Response
Susan B. Reynolds, Emory University

10:05 - 10:25 AM | Coffee Break

10:25 - 11:45 AM | Discussion
Facilitated by Richard Coll, USCCB
Mark Massa, S.J., Boston College

12:00 PM | Mass
St. Mary’s Chapel
Principal Celebrant: Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington

1:00 PM | Lunch

2:00 PM | Keynote with Bishop Daniel Flores, Diocese of Brownsville
"Collegiality, Synodality, and the Pastoral Vision of Pope Francis"

2:45 PM | Closing Remarks
Buses Depart for Hotel Immediately Following Closing Remarks
The Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life was created at Boston College in 1999 with an endowment from Geoffrey T. Boisi ’69 and his wife Rene (Isacco) Boisi ’69. From the outset its mission has been to create opportunities where a community of scholars, policymakers, media, and religious leaders can connect in conversation and scholarly reflection around issues at the intersection of religion and American public life. Our hope is that such conversations can clarify the moral consequences of public policies in ways that help to maintain the common good while respecting America’s increasing religious diversity.

The mission of the Boisi Center commits it to fostering rigorous, civil, and constructive conversations about religion in American public life, in pursuit of the common good of a religiously diverse society. We bring exceptional scholarship into dialogue with engaged citizenship and the creative arts, in order to produce meaningful exchanges that inform, challenge, and inspire. In doing this we support Boston College’s Jesuit and Catholic commitment to education that shapes minds and souls alike for service to others.

We feel that in the current social and political climate this work is more important than ever, and we invite you to join us.

Our Staff:
Mark Massa, S.J. – Director
Susan Richard – Administrative Assistant
R. Zachary Karanovich – Graduate Research Assistant
Emily Caffrey – 2022-23 Undergraduate Research Assistant
Fallon Jones – 2022-23 Undergraduate Research Assistant
Ann McClenahan – Special Volunteer Assistant to the Director
Founded in 2006, the Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage (CCIH) serves as venue for Loyola University Chicago faculty, students, and staff to learn about and investigate Roman Catholic thought and its links to all academic disciplines. With its strong emphasis on scholarly research and discussion, CCIH is a productive space where the fruits of that research can be engaged, debated, and shared. CCIH also has a larger footprint—locally, nationally, and internationally—and conducts numerous programs, conferences, and symposia that cultivate reflective experiences of:

- Connecting to Catholic Thought
- Researching Catholic Thought
- Communicating Catholic Thought

On April 24, 2007, Loyola University Chicago renamed this Center of Excellence in honor of two generous friends and benefactors—Joan Los (BS’54) and Bill Hank.

The Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage stewards the Jesuit principle of finding God in all things, which is at the core of the mission of Loyola University Chicago. At the Center, the rich and variant lines of the Catholic intellectual tradition are explored, communicated, and renewed.

Our Staff:
Dr. Michael P. Murphy – Director
Katie Arnold – Office Manager
Adam Hii – Graduate Student Assistant
Grace Beene – Undergraduate Student Assistant
Mary Countryman – Undergraduate Student Assistant
Matthew McKenna – Undergraduate Student Assistant
Connor Quaglino – Undergraduate Student Assistant
At a time when religion’s role in American life is both praised and contested, Fordham’s Center on Religion and Culture (CRC) explores the complex relationship between faith and contemporary life.

Through public events and conversations with experts and artists, scholars and faith leaders, the CRC seeks to engage and elevate the public dialogue about religion and culture, the mind and the soul, inclusion and identity, politics, and the arts.

The Fordham Center on Religion and Culture was founded in 2004 by journalists Peter Steinfels and Margaret O’Brien Steinfels. James P. McCartin, a historian of American Catholicism at Fordham, succeeded them as director in 2011. The current director is David Gibson, a veteran journalist and author, who joined the CRC in 2017.

Our Staff:
David Gibson – Director
David Goodwin – Assistant Director
Presenters

Maria Clara Bingemer, Ph.D.
Maria Clara Lucchetti Bingemer is a full professor in the department of theology at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, where she also ran the Loyola Faith and Culture Center and was dean of the Center for Theology and Human Sciences at PUC-Rio. Her research has an emphasis on systematic theology, focusing mainly on the following themes: God, otherness, woman, violence, and spirituality. Recently, she has been researching and publishing on the thought of the French philosopher Simone Weil. Nowadays, her studies and research are primarily directed towards the thinking and writing of contemporary mystics and the interface between theology and literature.

Richard Coll, J.D.
Richard Coll is executive director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development for the USCCB, which provides staff support to the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, the Committee on International Justice and Peace, and the Committee on Religious Liberty, as well as the Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. Coll began with the USCCB after a distinguished career in law, where he worked in banking and international economic policy. He is a parishioner of Holy Trinity Church in Washington and is a former member of the parish pastoral council.

Bishop Christopher Coyne, S.T.D.
Bishop Christopher Coyne was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Boston. After receiving his Licentiate and Doctorate in Sacred Liturgy from the Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant’Anselmo, Rome, Bishop Coyne served as Professor of Sacred Liturgy and Homiletics at St. John’s Seminary, Director of the Office of Worship for the Archdiocese of Boston and Principal Spokesman for the Archdiocese of Boston. In January 2011, Pope Benedict XVI named Coyne Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis where he also served as apostolic administrator for the archdiocese from late 2011 – 2012. On December 22, 2014, Pope Francis named Bishop Coyne the tenth Bishop of Burlington, Vermont. He has served on numerous national committees including as chair of the Committee on Communication of the USCCB.

Kathleen Sprows Cummings, Ph.D.
Kathleen Sprows Cummings is professor of American studies and history at the University of Notre Dame and the director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. She holds a concurrent appointment in the departments of theology and gender studies. Cummings’ publications include, *A Saint of Our Own: How the Quest for a Holy Hero Helped Catholics Become American, New Women of the Old Faith: Gender and American Catholicism in the Progressive Era* as well as numerous scholarly articles and book chapters. With Robert Orsi, Cummings co-directed the Cushwa Center’s Project, “Gender, Sex, and Power: Toward a History of Clergy Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church.” She also oversees the Conference on the History of Women Religious and frequently serves as a media commentator on contemporary events in the Church.

Massimo Faggioli, Ph.D.
Massimo Faggioli is professor in the department of theology and religious studies at Villanova University. He is a columnist for the magazines *Commonweal* and *La Croix International*. He was founding co-chair of the study group “Vatican II Studies” for the American Academy of Religion. He is a member of the steering committee for the project “Vatican II: Legacy and Mandate” for a multi-volume, intercontinental commentary of Vatican II. His most recent publications include *The Liminal Papacy of Pope Francis: Moving Toward Global Catholicity*. With Catherine Clifford, he is the co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Vatican II*, and is under contract for the book *God’s Bureaucrats: A History of the Roman Curia*.
Bishop Daniel Flores, S.T.D.

Bishop Daniel Flores has served as the Bishop of the Diocese of Brownsville since 2009. He studied at the University of Dallas, and Holy Trinity Seminary, completing a B.A. in Philosophy and a Masters of Divinity. In 1988 he was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Corpus Christi. He completed work on a doctoral dissertation in Sacred Theology at the Angelicum in 2000. In 2006, he was appointed and ordained as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Presently, Bishop Flores serves as committee member on several USCCB Committees as well as chair of the Doctrine Committee.

Grant Gallicho, Ph.D.

Grant Gallicho is director of publications and media for the Archdiocese of Chicago, where he serves as associate publisher of Chicago Catholic, the English-language newspaper of the archdiocese. He also serves as an adviser to the Communications Commission of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops. Before returning to his home diocese of Chicago in 2015, he was an associate editor of Commonweal magazine, where he began working as an intern in 1998. He received a bachelor of arts in English literature and theology from Fordham University, studied at Blackfriars Hall in Oxford, and received a master of arts in theology from the University of Chicago. His writing has appeared in America magazine, the National Catholic Reporter, the Tablet of London, El Ciervo of Barcelona, Religion News Service, the New York Times, and elsewhere.

David Gibson

David Gibson, director of the Center on Religion and Culture, arrived at Fordham University in 2017 after a long career as a religion reporter, author, and filmmaker. He began his journalism career at Vatican Radio in 1986 and after returning to the New York area in 1990 wrote for a variety of newspapers and magazines. He is the author of two books on Catholicism: The Coming Catholic Church: How the Faithful are Shaping a New American Catholicism and The Rule of Benedict: Pope Benedict XVI and His Battle with the Modern World. He has written and produced several documentaries and co-authored a book on biblical archeology, Finding Jesus: Faith. Fact. Forgery.—the basis of a popular CNN series.

Jaisy Joseph, Ph.D.

Jaisy A. Joseph is an assistant professor of systematic/constructive theology at Villanova University. With interests primarily in ecclesiology and theological anthropology, her main areas of research involve understandings of unity and difference in the Catholic church, how these definitions have shifted over the centuries, and how erroneous expressions have wounded the bonds of communion between different peoples. These differences are not only intercultural and ecumenical, but also involve the almost-invisible ancient Eastern Catholic churches that have been present since the first centuries in North Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and Eastern Europe. She is also committed to understanding how globalization and migration have brought all of these differences to the United States in the past fifty years and how these diasporas influence understandings of catholicity for the church of the third millennium.

M. Cathleen Kaveny, J.D., Ph.D.

Cathleen Kaveny is the Darald and Juliet Libby Professor of Law and Theology at Boston College. After teaching for many years at the University of Notre Dame, she joined the faculty of Boston College in 2014. She has been a visiting professor at Georgetown, Princeton, and Yale, and has served as the Carey and Ann Maguire Chair in Ethics and American History at the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. Kaveny's interests lie at the intersection of law, morality, and politics in American Life. Her books include Law's Virtues: Fostering Autonomy and Solidarity in American Life, Prophecy without Contempt: Religious Discourse in the Public Square, and Ethics at the Edges of Law: Christian Moralists and American Legal Thought.
Presenters

Rafael Luciani, Ph.D.
Venezuelan layman, Rafael Luciani is professor at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Caracas and Extraordinary Professor at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. He serves as expert of CELAM and member of the Theological Advisory Team of the Presidency of CLAR. He coordinates the Ibero-American Theology Project. He is a member of the Intercontinental Seminar Group Peter & Paul for the reform of the Catholic Church and is an expert of the Theological Commission of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops. Among his most recent publications are Synodality: A new way of proceeding in the Church, and Sinodalità e riforma: Una sfida ecclesiale.

Mark Massa, S.J., Th.D.
Mark Massa, S.J. is director of the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life. He is a church historian who studies Catholicism in the U.S. in the twentieth century. He is the author of seven books, the most recent of which is The Structure of Theological Revolutions: How Humanae Vitae Shaped Debates About Natural Law.

John McGreevy, Ph.D.
John T. McGreevy has served as the Charles and Jill Fischer Provost since July 2022. He is the Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame and served as the I.A. O'Shaughnessy Dean of the College of Arts and Letters from 2008 to 2018. He is an acclaimed historian, with a focus on both American and global religion and politics, and has authored four books that explore the people and the impact of the Catholic Church. McGreevy has received major fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Louisville Institute, and the Erasmus Institute. He served on the 2010 jury for the Pulitzer Prize for History and, since 2018, has been the co-chair of the Commonweal Foundation board.

Michael P. Murphy, Ph.D.
Michael P. Murphy is director of Loyola's Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage. His research interests are in theology and literature, sacramental theology, and Catholic educational leadership—but he also thinks, writes, and engages public media about issues in eco-theology, social ethics, and the literary/political cultures of Catholicism. Murphy is a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow and was also the second director of Loyola University Chicago’s Catholic Studies Interdisciplinary Minor Program (2012-2021). His first book, A Theology of Criticism: Balthasar, Postmodernism, and the Catholic Imagination, was named a "Distinguished Publication" in 2008 by the American Academy of Religion. His most recent scholarly work is an edited volume, this need to dance/this need to kneel: Denise Levertov and the Poetics of Faith.

Hosffman Ospino, Ph.D.
Hosffman Ospino is an associate professor of theology and religious education at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry where he is also chair of the department of religious education and pastoral ministry. He is director of the university's Graduate Programs in Hispanic Ministry. Ospino is the principal investigator for several national studies on Hispanic Catholics. He has authored/edited 15 books and more than 150 essays, academic and general. Ospino serves on the boards of several national organizations, including the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). He is president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS) and an officer of the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA).
Presenters

Aristotle Papanikolaou, Ph.D.

Aristotle Papanikolaou is professor of theology, the Archbishop Demetrios Chair of Orthodox Theology and Culture, and the co-director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University. He is also senior fellow at the Emory University Center for the Study of Law and Religion. Among his numerous publications, he is the author of Being with God: Trinity, Apophaticism, and Divine-Human Communion; and The Mystical as Political: Democracy and Non-Radical Orthodoxy. He is also co-editor of Orthodox Tradition and Human Sexuality, Political Theologies in Orthodox Christianity: Fundamentalism or Tradition: Christianity after Secularism; Christianity, Democracy and the Shadow of Constantine (Winner of 2017 Alpha Sigma Nu Award in Theology); Orthodox Constructions of the West, Orthodox Readings of Augustine; and Thinking Through Faith: New Perspectives from Orthodox Christian Scholars. He enjoys Russian literature, Byzantine and Greek music.

Susan B. Reynolds, Ph.D.

Susan Reynolds is an assistant professor of Catholic studies at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology, where she teaches courses in U.S. Catholicism, theology, and congregational studies. She is the author of People Get Ready: Ritual, Solidarity, and Lived Ecclesiology in Catholic Roxbury and a contributing writer on religion and public life for Commonweal magazine. She is at work on her second book, an ethnographic study of community stations of the cross, which is supported by a grant from the Louisville Institute. She and her husband, Drew, are the parents of three young daughters.

Anne Thompson

Anne Thompson is an award winning correspondent for NBC News. In 25 years, she has covered everything from school shootings to presidential campaigns, but today focuses her attention on the environment and the Catholic Church. Based in New York, she began her career with the network at its Chicago bureau. Prior to that she worked for WDIV-TV in Detroit, KSDK-TV in St. Louis, and WNDU-TV in South Bend, Indiana. Thompson is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and currently serves on its Board of Trustees. Raised and educated in Europe, she graduated from the International School of Brussels. Before that she attended grammar school at the Academy of the Assumption in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts.

Robin Darling Young, Ph.D.

Robin Darling Young is associate professor of Church history/history of Christianity at The Catholic University of America. She has previously held faculty positions at the University of Notre Dame (2002-2013), Catholic University, and Wesley Theological Seminary, and has been visiting associate professor at the University of Virginia and in the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, with a membership in the Common Room of Wolfson College, Oxford. Darling Young specializes in the history and literature of early Christianity in the east, with a focus on Armenian, Greek, and Syriac texts. Her most recent publication is Evagrius Ponticus, Letters: Armenian Translation (with Hovsep Karapetyan); she is the lead editor/translator of the Gnostic Trilogy (Syriac and Greek) of Evagrius Ponticus, and of a new English translation of Origen’s Contra Celsum/Defense of Christianity. She has been a member of the International Theological Commission since 2022, and has served on official bilateral dialogues in the United States (Eastern Orthodox-Roman Catholic and Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic) and as a consultant to the USCCB Committee on Doctrine.
Thank you!

The Way Forward was made possible by the generous support of:

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