

SYMPOSIUM

Church leadership for a Post-Christendom Era

Formation, Partnership, Accountability



CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
OF DIVINITY



'Brothers and sisters, Christendom no longer exists!' Pope Francis reminded the Roman Curia in his recent Christmas address. Western societies no longer look first to the churches for their unifying vision and public ethics. Yet new spaces of encounter between Christians and others are opening up in the multicultural and pluralistic societies of today.

This epochal change calls for a deep rethinking of the role of church communities and their leaders, of how they speak and act in public today. In this post-Royal Commission time, the credibility and mission of the church require leaders who are equipped for and committed to this new moment in history.

What is being asked of us today is a new presence in the world, conformed to the cross of Christ, one that takes concrete shape in service to the men and women of our time.

—Pope Francis, letter to US bishops, 1 January 2019

In this symposium, three scholars with international expertise will share their vision for church leadership and governance in today's complex and demanding environment, and join in discussion with a panel of local respondents about the major challenges facing church communities today.

RSVP

Tuesday 25 February 2020

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Sunday 1 March 2020
1.30–4.30pm

Catholic Theological College
278 Victoria Parade
East Melbourne 3001

International speakers

Professor Massimo Faggioli

Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
University of Villanova

Professor Richard Lennan

Professor of Systematic Theology
Boston College

Professor Myriam Wijlens

Professor of Canon Law
University of Erfurt
Member of Pontifical Commission for the Protection
of Minors

A panel of local respondents will discuss the main themes with the presenters. An opportunity for open discussion will follow.

Afternoon tea will be served.

Presenters



Massimo Faggioli, PhD

Professor of Theology and Religious Studies, Villanova University

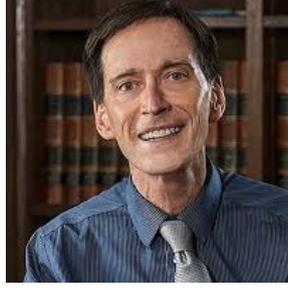
Massimo worked at the John XXIII Foundation for Religious Studies in Bologna from 1996 until 2008, when he moved to the United States. He was visiting fellow at Boston College's Jesuit Institute (2008–2009) and taught at the University of St Thomas, St Paul, Minnesota (2009–2016), where he was founding director of the Institute for Catholicism and Citizenship. He has also been Vatican II Studies co-chair for the American Academy of Religion (2012–2017).

Massimo writes regularly for Italian- and English-speaking newspapers and journals on the Church, religion and politics. He has columns in the Italian Catholic magazine *Jesus* and *La Croix International*. He has been a contributing writer for *Commonweal* since September 2016 and on the staff of the Italian magazine *Il Regno* since September 2017. His books and articles have been published in ten languages. His scholarly essays focus on Vatican II, Church history in Italy, application of the council of Trent, Vatican diplomacy, and new Catholic movements.

Among Massimo's numerous books are *The Rising Laity: Ecclesial Movements since Vatican II* (Paulist Press, 2016), *Catholicism and Citizenship: Political Cultures of the Church in the Twenty-First Century* (Liturgical Press, 2017) and *La onda larga del Vaticano II. Por un nuevo posconcilio* (Universidad Alberto Hurtado: Santiago de Chile, 2017).

Massimo received his PhD from the University of Turin in 2002. His doctoral dissertation discussed the history of the appointment of bishops after the Council of Trent. He studied theology at the KarlEberhards-Universität Tübingen, 1999–2000, and was invited to work as a post-doctoral researcher in the Faculté de Théologie et Sciences Religieuses at the Université Laval, Québec, in spring 2002.

Massimo lives in the Philadelphia area with his wife and their two children.



Professor Richard Lennan, PhD

Professor of Systematic Theology, Boston College

Richard Lennan, who is Professor of Systematic Theology in the School of Theology and Ministry and Professor Ordinarius, grew up in Newcastle, on the east coast of Australia, and has been a priest of the Diocese of Maitland–Newcastle (Australia) since 1983.

Richard has a degree in history from the University of Newcastle, a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology from the Catholic Institute of Sydney, a Master of Philosophy degree from the University of Oxford and a doctorate in theology from the University of Innsbruck in Austria, where his dissertation was on Karl Rahner's ecclesiology. From 1992 to 2007, he taught Systematic Theology in the Catholic Institute of Sydney; from 2005 to 2007, he was President of the Australian Catholic Theological Association.

Richard taught at Weston Jesuit School of Theology (2007–2008), before becoming part of Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry at its foundation in 2008; from 2010 to 2013, he was chair of the STM's Ecclesiastical Faculty. He currently directs the STM's Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) program, serves on the editorial board of *Theological Studies* and chairs the steering committee of the Karl Rahner Society. Richard has authored two books and edited five others.

Beyond theology, Richard's interests are movies, politics, modern history and trying to get fit (or less unfit) by running. On weekends, he assists with the liturgy in Sacred Heart parish in North Quincy, Massachusetts.



Myriam Wijlens, PhD

Professor for Canon Law at the Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Erfurt.

Myriam obtained a licentiate in Catholic theology at the Catholic University of Nijmegen (the Netherlands) in 1986, and studied canon law at Saint Paul University, Ottawa, and at the University of Ottawa, earning her Master and Licentiate in 1988, and her PhD and Doctor of Canon Law (JCD) in 1990. In 1997 she completed the habilitation at the Westfälische-Wilhelms-Universität Münster (Germany).

After visiting professorships at the Catholic University of America (Washington DC) in 2001–2003 and at Saint Paul University, Ottawa, in 2004–2006, as well as being an assistant professor at the University of Tilburg (1999–2005), Myriam was appointed Professor for Canon Law at the University of Erfurt in 2005. serving as Vice President of the University of Erfurt from 2008 to 2011.

In 2008, the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity (Vatican) appointed Myriam as its delegate to the Standing Commission of Faith and Order at the World Council of Churches. In 2019 she was appointed as an expert to the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC).

Myriam is also honorary professor for Ecumenism and Canon Law at the University of Durham (UK), where she attends in particular to Receptive Ecumenism. Her own research focuses on ecclesiological and ecumenical themes, paying particular attention to canonical issues. Other research interests include sexual abuse of minors and the law on consecrated life in religious institutes.

Since 1988 Myriam has engaged with the topic of child abuse in the Catholic Church. In 2018, Pope Francis appointed her as a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.