



VATICAN II and Catholic Higher Education: Leading Forward

A conference at Sacred Heart University

Fairfield, Connecticut

October 13-15, 2022

A Call for Papers

Sacred Heart University celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, as well as the 60th anniversary of the University's founding in the spirit of Vatican II. Both the first session of Vatican II and Bishop Walter W. Curtis' founding of Sacred Heart University took place during October 1962.

To celebrate this landmark moment in the history of Catholic higher education and the Catholic intellectual tradition, **Sacred Heart University**, sponsored by a grant from the **Lilly Fellows Program**, and supported by the **Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities** is assembling a conference of thinkers, writers, and artists who will offer deep, creative, and interpretive reflection on the impact of Vatican II on Catholic higher education. We want to examine and imagine how Vatican II can lead and move Catholic higher education forward. We want to explore how our reading and understanding of Vatican II documents, as well as the formative thinkers of Vatican II and the Catholic intellectual tradition, can deepen and expand our vision of Catholic higher education, addressing new and old challenges.

We look for papers that explore, examine, and engage the importance of how we can best preserve, transmit, and cultivate the Catholic intellectual tradition and its ongoing development, moving it forward into a global, pluralistic 21st century. We invite papers that consider the importance of how our institutions of higher learning can foster a vital and robust Catholic identity and mission while at the same time embrace diversity and inclusion. We seek presentations that consider the value of the formation of our students - intellectual, spiritual, and social – at our institutions of higher education. We seek papers that promote the project of Catholic higher education into the future.

Keynote Speakers:

Massimo Faggioli, Villanova University

Grant Kaplan, St. Louis University

Susan Reynolds, Emory University

Patricia McGuire, Trinity Washington University



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Topics to consider might include:

- The implementation of Vatican II through U.S. gatherings such as the Land O'Lakes conference of college and university leaders, as well as later shifts from John Paul II's *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* to Pope Francis' pontificate
- The impact of women religious and lay people studying theology on Catholic universities and Catholic intellectual life
- The relationship between theology and other approaches such as Catholic Studies, Catholicism across the disciplines
- The work of Alice Gallin, O.S.U., Monika Hellwig, and other pioneering scholars and leaders in U.S. Catholic higher education since this period
- Collaboration of the laity in the Catholic mission of institutions run by religious orders
- The relationship between the liberal arts and professional education in Catholic institutions of higher education
- The effects of social movements – Civil rights/Black lives Matter, antiwar protests, LGBTQ advocacy, disability rights – on Catholic institutions of higher education
- The role of Catholic scholars in non-Catholic schools and the role of non-Catholic scholars in Catholic mission at Catholic colleges and universities
- Religious diversity among students and faculty at Catholic universities in relation to Vatican II

ABSTRACTS:

Abstracts of no more than 500 words should be sent to:

SHU-VaticanIIConference@sacredheart.edu no later than Monday April 4, 2022.



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