

Building on the two Angelicum symposia 'Listening to the East' and 'Listening to the West' (2022–2023), and in light of the Catholic Synod on Synodality (2021–2024), the conference aims to reflect ecumenically on the canonical implications of synodal ecclesiology, with a view to Christian unity. The programme will consider the various synodal institutions at all levels of the Church, as well as synodal decision-making processes in both the Eastern and Western canonical traditions.

The conference is co-organized by the Ecumenicum – Institute for Ecumenical Studies and the Faculty of Canon Law of the Angelicum.

PROGRAMMA

Wednesday 30 September

16.00–17.15 – Opening Session

Welcome addresses:

- Rev. Prof. **Thomas Joseph White**, O.P., Rector Magnificus, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy
- Cardinal **Kurt Koch**, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian, Vatican
- Archbishop **Anthony Randazzo**, Prefect of the Dicastery for Legislative Texts, Vatican

Keynote:

- Cardinal **Mario Grech**, Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the Synod, Vatican

17.15–17.45 – Coffee-break

17.45–19.00 – Session 2

The role of Canon Law in a synodal church in an ecumenical perspective

- Orthodox perspective: Metropolitan **Job (Getcha)** of Pisidia, Ecumenical Patriarchate
- Anglican perspective: Rev. Prof. **Russell Dewhurst**, Cardiff University
- Q & A

19.00 – Dinner at the Angelicum

Thursday 1 October

SYNODAL INSTITUTIONS IN ECUMENICAL PERSPECTIVE

9.00–10.30 – Session 3

Synodal institutions at local level

- Orthodox perspective: Rev. Prof. **Razvan Perşa**, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Reformed perspective: Prof. **Leon van den Broeke**, Theologische Universiteit Utrecht, Netherlands
- Catholic learnings: Rev. Prof. **Pablo Gefaell Chamochín**, Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome, Italy
- Q & A

10.30–11.00 – Coffee break

11.00–12.30 – Session 4

Synodal institutions at regional level

- Orthodox perspective: Rev. Prof. **Sorin Şelaru**, University of Bucharest, Romania
- Lutheran perspective: Prof. **Andreas Henriksen Aarflot**, Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society, Oslo, Norway
- Catholic learnings: Rev. Prof. **Eugene Duffy**, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland
- Q & A

12.30–14.00 – Lunch at the Angelicum

14.00–15.30 – Session 5

Synodal institutions at the level of the whole church

- Orthodox perspective: Rev. Dr. **Nicolas Kazarian**, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, New York, USA
- Anglican perspective: Prof. **Mark Hill KC**, University of Notre Dame London, Anglican Dioceses of Chichester, Leeds and Europe
- Catholic learnings: Rev. Prof. **Thierry Sol**, Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome
- Q & A

15.30–16.00 – Coffee break

16.00–17.30 – Session 6

Synodal institutions and the process according to the CODE OF CANONS OF THE ORIENTAL CHURCHES

- Institutions : Prof. **Péter Szabó**, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest, Hungary
- Processes: Rev. Prof. **Sunny Kokkaravalayil**, SJ, Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome
- Latin learnings: Prof. **Astrid Kaptijn**, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
- Q & A

Dinner: on your own

Friday 2 October

SYNODAL PROCESS IN ECUMENICAL PERSPECTIVE

9.00–10.30 – Session 7

Synodal governing models in religious life

- Catholic consecrated life: Rev. Sr. Dr. **Tiziana Merletti**, SFP, Secretary of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life, Vatican
- Orthodox monastic life: Rev. Dr. **Aetios Nikiforos**, Ecumenical Patriarchate, Istanbul
- Catholic learnings: Rev. Prof. **Loïc-Marie Le Bot**, O.P., Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy
- Q & A

10.30–11.00 – Coffee break

11.00–12.30 – Session 8

Ecumenical decision-making processing and institutions

- WCC consensus processes: Rev. Dr. **Kuzipa Nalwamba**, World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland
- Institutional procedures of reception of ecumenical documents: Rev. Prof. **Octavian Mihoc**, World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland
- Catholic learnings: Dr. **Johannes Oeldemann**, Johann Adam Moehler Institute for Ecumenism, Paderborn, Germany
- Q & A

12.30–14.00 – Lunch at the Angelicum

14.00-15.30 - Session 9

Decision making processes in eastern and oriental orthodox canonical traditions

- Orthodox perspective: Rev. Prof. Patriciu Vlaicu, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Oriental Orthodox perspective: Rev. Prof. Kyrillos El Macari, Monastery of Saint Macarius the Great, Egypt/Œcumenicum, Rome, Italy
- Catholic learnings: Fr. Dr. Adalberto Mainardi, Monastic fraternity of Cellole, Italy
- Q & A

15.30-16.00 - Coffee break

16.00-17.30 - Session 10

Decision making processes in western canonical traditions

- Old Catholic perspective: Prof. Jan Hallebeek, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Baptist perspective: Rev. Dr. Paul Goodliff, Baptist Union of Great Britain
- Catholic learnings: Rev. Prof. Ulrich Rhode, SJ, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy
- Q & A

Dinner: on your own

Scientific committee of the conference:

- Rev. Prof. Hyacinthe Destivelle, O.P., Director, Institute for Ecumenical Studies, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy
- Prof. Astrid Kaptijn, Professor of Canon Law, Faculty of Theology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
- Prof. Dimitrios Keramidias, Academic Coordinator, Institute for Ecumenical Studies, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy
- Rev. Prof. Loïc-Marie Le Bot, O.P., Dean, Faculty of Canon Law, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy
- Msgr. Prof. Juan Usma Gómez, Oecumenicum, Head of Western Section, Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, Vatican
- Prof. Myriam Wijlens, Professor of Canon Law, Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany

Saturday 3 October

9.00-10.30 - Session 11

Possible catholic learnings – Synthesis

- Institutions: Rev. Prof. John Renken, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada
- Processes: Prof. Andrea Ponzzone, Boston College, Archdiocese of Boston, USA
- Q & A

10.30-11.00 - Coffee break

11.00-12.30 - Concluding Session 12

For a possible renewal of catholic canon law?

- Proposals in the light of the Final Document of the 2021-2024 Synod: Rev. Prof. Gilles Routhier, Université Laval, Québec, Canada
- Developing a synodal style in articulating Canon Law: Prof. Myriam Wijlens, University of Erfurt, Germany
- Q & A

12.30 - Lunch at the Angelicum

Registration:
ecumenism@pust.it



AULA MINOR

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Largo Angelicum 1 – 00184 Rome



30 SEPTEMBER-3 OCTOBER 2026

FROM LISTENING TO PRACTICE

ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE ON
CANONICAL PRACTICES OF SYNODALITY