

The Apologetics Institute with the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross:

Pontificia
Università
della
**SANTA
CROCE**

“Recovering a Lost Anthropology: A Study of the Ancient Church”

An apologetics conference in Rome, June 5-10, 2022



The goals of our conference: to rediscover the church of antiquity and the Christocentric anthropology of the Church fathers, and especially to appreciate the beauty and power of our faith. Religion depends on memory. A lively faith requires that we ever refresh our Christian heritage, through learning and personal experience of the Magnalia Dei. For one full week in the Eternal City, with a side trip to Florence, we will explore the writings and savor the art treasures of the ancient Church. In the seminars we will discuss the impact of faith in Christ on the first Christians, their experience of the transformative power of the Risen Christ, and their boldness in bringing their new faith into the pagan world. We will look for parallels today as we face the challenges of re-Christianizing our society.

Program

Saturday, June 4 – a.m. arrival; 11:30 transfer to attend noon Mass if possible at Viale 75 Bruno Buozzi, the Opus Dei headquarters. Greet Msgr Fernando Ocariz, the Prelate., at 12:45. Prayertime and Confessions at the chapel of Our Lady of Peace. Lunch nearby 2 p.m. Proceed to our pensione hotel: *Casa Per Ferie Piccole Ancelle Di Cristo Re*. Alternate Mass at St. Eugenio church 5 p.m.

Sunday, June 5 – Feast of Pentecost. Celebration of the Liturgy of Pentecost at St. Peter's Basilica. Tour the Vatican and the PUSC university. 2 p.m. meditation at St. Appollinare church, and main meal nearby.

6 p.m. Rev. Prof. Robert Gahl: "Masculine and feminine anthropology; the radical nature of Christian chastity."

Monday, June 6

9:30 a.m. Rev. Prof. John Wauck:
the task of apologetics:
confronting paganism today

10:45 a.m. Mike Aquilina: The
Christian in the world: Letter to
Diognetus. Conversion experience
of first Christians

4 p.m. Prof. Jeffrey Morrow: Christ
is alive – The Incarnation and the
Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist
Evening tour of Rome / The Forum

Tuesday, June 7

9:30 a.m. Mike Aquilina: The
Fathers on marriage and family—
our Christian witness today

10:45 a.m. Jeffrey Morrow: the
coming of the Kingdom: Christ in
His Church, members of the
Mystical Body, unity of the faithful

4 p.m. Prof. Grzegorz Blicharz:
Early Polish Apologetics
5:30 p.m. Jonathan Tanaka: Finding
meaning in the Catacombs

Wednesday, June 8

9 a.m. Audience with Pope
Francis; tour Vatican

4 p.m. Rev. Prof. Paul O'Callaghan
The conversion of St. Augustine: his
Christo-centric anthropology; the
experience of grace and freedom

6 p.m. Prof. David Alvis:
The Meaning of Martyrdom
(Tour: Coliseum, San Clemente,
and Quattro Coronati)

Thursday, June 9

Excursion to Florence
7:30 a.m to 7:30 p.m.

9:30am Basilica of Santa Maria Novella
11:00am San Giovanni Baptistry and the Cathedral
2:30pm Orsanmichele and Palazzo Vecchio (outside only)
3:30pm Basilica of Santa Croce
Matias Sur: Appreciating Dante
7:30pm Return to Rome

Friday, June 10

9:30 a.m. Rev. Prof. Federico
Requena: on the history of Opus Dei

10:45 a.m.. Fr. John Wauck: unmasking
false religions of our culture;
evangelization through literature

4 p.m. Marco Carroggio -
media apostolate

6 p.m. Fr. Christian Mendoza:
On the universal call to holiness

Saturday, June 11 Open day: touring of churches in Rome. Get-togethers with American Opus Dei members studying in Rome

Departures:

some Saturday a.m. , June 11 –

Others Sunday a.m., June 12

Daily midday meditation and Holy Mass at the Chapel of San Girolamo della Carita: near the University. Lunch at a local restaurant.

St. Josemaria Escriva's early vision of the future of Opus Dei:

"I see the Work projected down through the centuries, always youthful, elegant, beautiful and fruitful, defending Christ's peace, so that all may come to possess it. We will help society recognize the rights of the person, the family, and the Church. Our efforts will help lessen fratricidal hatred and mistrust among peoples." Letter, 1933.

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Click on titles to open the texts:

RECOMMENDED LIGHT READING

Anonymous, The Letter to Diognetus.

Minucius Felix, The Octavius

Ignatius of Antioch, Epistle to the Romans

OPTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Rodney Stark, The Rise of Christianity

Robert L. Wilken, The Christians as the Romans Saw Them

Rod Bennett, Four Witnesses: The Early Church in Her Own Words