

• *The Vatican and the Escape of Nazi War Criminals from Allied Justice*
DR. GERALD STEINACHER, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

• *The Holy See and the Postwar Clemency Campaign*
DR. SUZANNE BROWN-FLEMING
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

• *Il soccorso pontificio ai profughi e ai rifugiati nel dopoguerra*
DR. LUCA CARBONI, Vatican Apostolic Archive

• *Criticizing our Sacred Institutions and Figures*
RABBI DAVID MEYER, Pontifical Gregorian University

DISCUSSION

13:45-15:15 **Lunch**

15:15-16:45 **Session VII – The Uncertain Road to Nostra Aetate**

In 1965, twenty years after the Holocaust, the Second Vatican Council rejected antisemitism and underlined the deep bond between Christianity and Judaism. How did Nostra Aetate come to be? Who developed it, and why? How did the Church understand her relations to the Jewish people, especially after the birth of the modern state of Israel?

Moderator: PROF. DR. DR. DR. JAN MIKRUT
Pontifical Gregorian University

• *The Theological Journey of Notre Dame de Sion: From Conversion to Dialogue,*
SR. CELIA DEUTSCH, Sister of Our Lady of Sion

• *From Amici Israel to Nostra Aetate: Changes in the Theological Understanding of the Jewish People in the Catholic Church*
DR. CLAIRE MALIGOT

• *Self-Understanding and Understanding the Other: Nostra Aetate and a Theology of Dialogue*
RABBI DAVID MAAYAN, Saint Leo University

DISCUSSION

16:45-17:00 **Break**

17:00-19:00 **Closing Session**

This session consists of **AUXILIARY BISHOP ÉTIENNE VETÖ** in conversation with **RABBI DR. DAVID SANDMEL** (Past Chair, International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations), **DR. ALBERTO MELLONI** (Unesco Chairholder of the Chair on Religious Pluralism & Peace/FSCIRE, University of Bologna); the **HONORABLE DEBORAH LIPSTADT** (United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism and Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies, Emory University); and **REV. FATHER MARK LEWIS, SJ**, (Rector, Pontifical Gregorian University)

19:00-21:00 **Reception**

Welcome by The **HONORABLE RAPHAEL SCHUTZ**, Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See
Remarks by **DR. NOEMI DI SEGNI**, President, Union of Italian Jewish Communities

In March 2020, Pope Francis opened millions of documents pertaining to the Pontificate of Pope Pius XII (1939-1958). It will take decades of scrutiny and analysis to ascertain the full significance of these archives estimated to be at least 16 million pages, but some important discoveries have been made and must be shared to the wider public. These documents can be approached from the point of view of a variety of historical and theological questions. The present conference focuses on how they shed light on historical controversies over Pope Pius XII and the Vatican during the Holocaust, and on Jewish-Christian relations at multiple levels - from ordinary people to authority figures in Jewish and Catholic milieus, institutions and power structures. In 1965, the Catholic Church issued a renewed teaching, Nostra Aetate, that rejected antisemitism and presented the Jewish people as blessed by God. What can the new documents tell us about the encounters that led up to this watershed moment in Church teaching? This conference brings together historians and theologians, Christians and Jews, studying together to further both historical knowledge and Jewish-Christian relations.

NEW DOCUMENTS FROM THE PONTIFICATE OF POPE PIUS XII AND THEIR MEANING FOR JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN HISTORIANS AND THEOLOGIANs

9-11 October 2023

International Conference

For more information on the conference, please visit the dedicated page by scanning the QR code.



Illustration: "Incontri", Francesco Caizzone 2023



PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY - ROME
Piazza della Pilotta, 4 - Rome
Aula Magna C021

MONDAY 9 OCTOBER

12:20-12:55 **Special pre-conference event
Jews Rescued in Ecclesial Houses
During the Nazi Occupation of Rome:
A Documentation Discovered at the
Pontifical Biblical Institute**
(at Pontifical Biblical Institute)

*Dr. Claudio Procaccia, Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto,
Prof. Sr. Grazia Loparco, FMA,
Dr. Paul Oberholzer, SJ and Dr. Dominik Markl, SJ*

15:00-15:45 **WELCOME AND OPENING REFLECTIONS**

AUXILIARY BISHOP ÉTIENNE VETÖ
Reims, France, previously Cardinal Bea Centre
for Judaic Studies, Pontifical Gregorian University
DR. IAEL NIDAM-ORVIETO
Institute for International Research, Yad Vashem
DR. SUZANNE BROWN-FLEMING
Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center
for Advanced Holocaust Studies,
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL PIETRO PAROLIN
Secretary of State, The Holy See
RABBI RICCARDO DI SEGNI
Chief Rabbi of Rome

16:00-18.30 **Session I - The Motivations and Decisions
of Pope Pius XII**
In the face of fascism, Nazism and Communism,
among other major political changes in Europe and
the world, why did Pope Pius XII make the
decisions that he did? How did the Roman Pontiff
balance his roles as head of the Church and head
of the Holy See?

Moderator: DR. SUZANNE BROWN-FLEMING
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

• *Parole, silenzi e incomprensioni
nei documenti di Pio XII (1939-1958)*
DR. GIOVANNI COCO, Vatican Apostolic Archive

• *Pius XII and the November 30, 1943,
Italian Social Republic Order to Arrest All of Italy's Jews*
DR. DAVID I. KERTZER, Brown University

• *Pope Pius XII, Head of Vatican Diplomacy
and the Holocaust: Insights from the Archives*
DR. NINA VALBOUSQUET, École française de Rome/CNRS

17:10-17:25 **Break**

• *The Catholic Church and the Holocaust.
Sectarianism, Universalism, and Theology
of the Relations between Church and State*
DR. MASSIMO FAGGIOLI, Villanova University

DISCUSSION

18:45-20:00 **Reception** - Sponsored by the
Pontifical Gregorian University
Welcome by **REV. FATHER MARK LEWIS, SJ**
Rector, Pontifical Gregorian University

Remarks by **REV. FATHER NORBERT HOFMANN, SDB**
Secretary of the Commission for Religious Relations
with the Jews of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity

TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER

9:30-11:20 **Session II - The Vatican's Worldview
and the Holocaust**
Pope Pius XII did not operate alone. The Vatican as
both a temporal and spiritual institution was shaped
over centuries by particular views of the world, the
church's role in it, and its position toward other
nations and religions. When confronted with the
unprecedented atrocities of the Holocaust, these
views shaped the response of the officials around
Pope Pius XII and prelates and laypersons.

Moderator: DR. UMBERTO GENTILONI
Sapienza University of Rome

• *Papal Humanitarianism and its Limits
in the Era of the Two World Wars and the Holocaust*
DR. ROBERT VENTRESCA, King's University College
at Western University

• *Governare da Roma: Il Vaticano e le sue Nunziature*
DR. ROBERTO REGOLI, Pontifical Gregorian University

• *Una voce diversa dall'interno:
il card. Giovanni Mercati in aiuto degli studiosi
colpiti dalla persecuzione antisemita*
DR. ANNALISA CAPRISTO, Center for American Studies, Rome

• *Storia diplomatica di un Papa:
Pio XII e la politica internazionale*
DR. MATTEO LUIGI NAPOLITANO, Università degli Studi del Molise

DISCUSSION

11:20-11:30 **Break**

11:30-14:00 **Session III - The Racial Laws
in Theory and Practice**
The racial laws began in Nazi Germany and
spread throughout Europe. How did they
manifest themselves in theory and on the
ground?

Moderator: DR. LUCIA CECI
University of Rome Tor Vergata

• *La Santa Sede e la Polonia
durante la seconda guerra mondiale:
silenzi e attività umanitaria*
DR. GABRIELE RIGANO, Università per Stranieri di Perugia

• *The Theological Meaning of 'Humani Generis Unitas'*
DR. PHILIP CUNNINGHAM, Saint Joseph's University

12:15-12:30 **Break**

• *La Compagnia di Gesù, gli ebrei e l'antisemitismo
tra gli anni Trenta e la seconda guerra*
DR. RAFFAELLA PERIN, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

• *La Santa Sede e la persecuzione razzista
e antisemita nelle università italiane (1938-1948)*
DR. TOMMASO DELL'ERA, Tuscia University, Viterbo

• *The Meaning of Whiteness: Race, Supersessionism,
and the Failure of Christian Theology*
DR. WILLIE JAMES JENNINGS, Yale Divinity School

DISCUSSION

14:00-15:00 **Lunch**

15:00-15:30 **Special 30 minute-session
Father Robert Leiber, SJ, "Antichamber" of Pius XII:
A short look at his personal archives**
DR. PAUL OBERHOLZER S.J. presents an overview
of the Leiber Fund within the Historical Archives
of Pontifical Gregorian University

15:30-17:00 **Session IV – The Rescue of Jews: Part 1**
Who rescued Jews and why? When refuge was
refused, what were the motivations? 2023 also
marks the 80th anniversary of the October
1943 round-up in Rome, one of the most
important moments of opportunity for the
Vatican. What can the new archives tell us about
this event with regard to why rescue did or did
not take place?

Moderator: DR. REBECCA CARTER-CHAND,
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

• *Asking the Pope for Help:
Questions raised by the critical online edition
of Jewish petitions kept in the Vatican archives*
PROF. DR. HUBERT WOLF, University of Münster

• *The Issue of Rescue
and the October 1943 Round-Up of Jews in Rome*
DR. AMEDEO OSTI GUERRAZZI, Università di Padova

• *Gli ebrei nascosti negli istituti religiosi
e in edifici ecclesiastici di Roma*
PROF. SR. GRAZIA LOPARCO FMA
Pontificia Facoltà di Scienze dell'Educazione Auxilium, Roma
DISCUSSION

17:00-17:15 **Break**

17:15-18:40 **Session IV – The Rescue of Jews: Part 2**
• *Iniziativa incrociate tra ebrei perseguitati e
soccorritori, Italia 1943 - 1945*
DR. LILIANA PICCIOTTO, Jewish Contemporary
Documentation Center Foundation (CDEC)

• *The Return of Jewish Children Hidden in Religious Institutions
in France based on Multiple Archival Sources*
DR. ELIOT NIDAM, Yad Vashem

• *Baptism as Rescue?: Parental Rights
and the Question of Baptism Invitis Parentibus*
DR. MATTHEW TAPIE, Saint Leo University

19:30-21:30 **Reception**
Welcome by The **HONORABLE JOSEPH DONNELLY**,
United States Ambassador to the Holy See
Remarks by **RABBI NOAM MARANS**, American Jewish Committee

WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER

9:30-11:30 **Session V - The Roles of the Papal Diplomats**
How did the various papal nunciatures around the world
react when faced with the refugee crisis and the horrors
of the Holocaust?

Moderator: DR. REBECCA BOEHLING
David M. Rubenstein National Institute for Holocaust Documentation
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

• *Shades and Shadows: Vatican Diplomacy
and the Holocaust in Romania*
DR. ION POPA, University of Manchester

• *Le notizie sulla Shoah arrivate in Vaticano*
DR. MICHELE SARFATTI, Contemporary Jewish Documentation Center
Milan

• *I ruoli dei Nunzi visti nei "Serie Ebrei"*
DR. JOHAN ICKX, Archive for Section for Relations with States
Secretariat of State, Vatican

• *Polish Catholic Bishops and the Holocaust*
DR. MONIKA STOLARCZYK-BILARDIE, KU Leuven

DISCUSSION

11:30-11:45 **Break**

11:45-13:45 **Session VI – Contested Memory, Contested Narratives**
Particular moments in the history of the Holocaust and the
postwar period remain highly charged. This panel
examines aid to Nazi and Axis war criminals after the war's
end and the Vatican's efforts on behalf of Germans
convicted of war crimes in the postwar international
military tribunals

Moderator: DR. MASSIMO GARGIULO
Cardinal Bea Centre for Judaic Studies Pontifical Gregorian University