



DICASTERIUM  
DE CULTURA ET EDUCATIONE

SEZIONE EDUCAZIONE

IL SEGRETARIO

Prot. N. 04296/2024 – 612/2024

Vatican City, July 24, 2024

Esteemed Participant,

I am pleased to announce that registration for the **International Congress on the Future of Theology ‘Legacy and Imagination’** is open from today until 15 October 2024, subject to limitations of space. Please find attached an outline of the general structure of the Congress, the registration form and some questions to reflect on. The final version of the program will be sent out in September.

With this first Congress, the Dicastery for Culture and Education aims to initiate a joint journey that will benefit from the contribution of each theologian, and from their various cultural and ecclesial contexts. Therefore, it was agreed to employ a methodology that encourages the communal process of thinking. Hence we are now sending out some preparatory questions so that you can let your contribution be known in advance. These will further enrich the final drafting of the programme. Each contribution, not exceeding 2000 characters (including spaces), should be sent to this e-mail address no later than 15 September: [congressoteologia@dce.va](mailto:congressoteologia@dce.va).

We look forward to hearing from you!

With every best wish,

✠ Giovanni Cesare PAGAZZI  
Secretary

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Esteemed Participant

**The Future of Theology: Legacy and Envisioning**  
International Congress Promoted by the Dicastery for Culture and  
Education

*December 9-10, 2024*

Aula Magna, Pontifical Lateran University  
Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano

**Aims of the Congress**

- to listen to the imagination of theologians (both men and women) from across the world.
- to collect useful information so that the system of theological studies of the Holy See is comprehensible and accessible to the global university system.

**Conference Timetable and Outline**

**Monday December 9, 2024**

**WELCOME SESSION**

- 9:00** Meeting with His Holiness Pope Francis in the Vatican  
**12:00** Lunch at the Congress venue  
**13:30** Opening Prayer  
**14:00** Introduction to the Congress - His Eminence Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education

**SESSION I: WHERE**

- 14:30** The Places and the Subjects of Theology. A Narrative Starting Point and the Patrimony of Local Theologies - Part I
- Introduction
  - Insights from the 7 geographical-theological areas
  - Group work: Conversation in the Spirit Method
- 16:50** Tea/Coffee Break  
**17:20** The Places and the Subjects of Theology - Part II  
**18:30** End of the Session

**Tuesday December 10, 2024**

**SESSION II: HOW**

- 9:00** Opening Prayer  
**9:20** Listening to non-theological reasoning - Part I
- Introduction
  - Inputs of non-theological voices
  - Theological reactions
- 11:30** Tea/Coffee Break

**12:00**            **Listening to non-theological reasoning - Part II**

13:00            End of the Session and Lunch

### **SESSION III: WHY**

**14:00**            **Theology within and for Society, the Church and the World - Part I**

- Introduction
- Insights from the 7 geographical-theological areas
- Group work: Conversation in the Spirit Method

17:20            Tea/Coffee Break

**17:50**            **Theology within and for Society, the Church and the World - Part II**

19:00            Conclusion by His Eminence Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça

19:30            End of the Congress

### **Scientific Committee**

Benjamin Akotia	Université Catholique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, <b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>
Juan Chapa	Universidad de Navarra, <b>España</b>
Piero Coda	Istituto Universitario Sophia di Loppiano, <b>Italia</b>
Geraldo De Mori	Facultà Jesuíta de Filosofia e Teologia de Belo Horizonte, <b>Brasil</b>
Mikel Deneken	Université de Strasbourg, <b>France</b>
Maeve Heaney	Australian Catholic University, <b>Australia</b>
Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator	Santa Clara University, <b>USA</b>
Estela Padilla	CBCP-BEC Committee, <b>Philippines</b>
Christoph Theobald	Facultés Loyola Paris, <b>France</b>
Andrea Toniolo	Facoltà Teologica del Triveneto, <b>Italia</b>

## Preparatory questions

Please prepare for the Congress with some reflection on the following topics:

**How do you imagine the future of theology?** The overall aim of the Congress is to answer this question and build a synergy to make this future a reality. We will explore the topic through three broad areas: **where, how** and **why**.

### WHERE: The places and subjects of theology.

- **How do we embrace the heritage of Catholic theology?**
- **What is our specific contribution to this heritage?**
- What is the history and evolution of theology in your country? Name and share a symbol that represents or tells that story.
- How is theological formation being done today?
- What are local theologians thinking about and elaborating today?
- What gives you hope in and for your region?

### HOW: Theological interruptions and symbolic sources. Interdisciplinary Theological Performances

- **How do theology and other disciplines enrich or limit each other (interruption), in your country and in your university?**
- **Can we identify other tools or resources to do Theology without being exclusively linked to Western philosophy?**
- How do we rethink theology in the university world, taking into account the diversity of systems and structures within we operate?
- How do we imagine the inter- and transdisciplinary method mentioned in *Veritatis Gaudium*?

### WHY: Theology in and for society, the Church and the world

- **What service does theology offer to society more broadly?**
- **How do the local churches and secular worlds where we work engage and interact with theology? Is it side lined or welcomed?**
- What is the relationship between 'political reason' and 'synodal reason' (from the perspective of Christian faith, its ecclesial experience and its relationship with social and political contexts)?

**Please send your answers to the following e-mail address by 15 September. The organising committee will take your answers into great consideration in order to facilitate the dynamics of confrontation and our work together: [congressoteologia@dce.va](mailto:congressoteologia@dce.va)**



## REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Surname

Mail

Phone

Institution

Role

**Motivation/Reasons to participate**

The DCE stores the Personal Data collected, accurately, completely and up-to-date, for as long as it is necessary for the provision of the services to which the Personal Data relates. Specifically, as regards the congress, the Personal Data is stored until the end of the congress. We can assure you that all necessary steps have been taken to ensure the security of your Personal Data once it has been collected, through the use of computer systems with limited access and the use of secure storage solutions in accordance with the security standards set out in best practice. The DCE takes specific security measures to prevent data loss, unlawful or incorrect use and unauthorised access.



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