GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY’S INITIATIVE ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT AND PUBLIC LIFE

After only four years, the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life has organized more than 30 gatherings attended by more than 14,000 people, demonstrating that there is hunger for civil dialogue and moral conversation in public life, for the values of Catholic social teaching, and for the message of Pope Francis. The Initiative has become a respected place of dialogue in a polarized capital and Church, an example of unique outreach to a new generation of leaders, and a vital sign of Georgetown University’s Catholic and Jesuit identity in action.
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“Since its founding in 2013, the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life has brought together thousands of individuals in dialogue and reflection. It has enabled our community to engage the values that animate the mission of our university and to embrace the message of Pope Francis.”

– John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT AND PUBLIC LIFE

The Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life is a unique effort to promote dialogue on Catholic Social Thought and national and global issues, build bridges across political, religious, and ideological lines, and encourage a new generation of Catholic lay leaders to see their faith as assets in pursuing the common good.

ABOUT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Established in 1789, Georgetown is the oldest Catholic and Jesuit university in the United States. One of the world’s leading academic and research institutions, Georgetown enrolls more than 17,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students across nine schools. A global institution, Georgetown provides a unique educational experience that prepares the next generation of global citizens to lead and make a difference in the world. The university’s educational mission and international partnerships seek to advance the global common good.
In a divided nation and polarized Washington, the mission of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life is more crucial than ever. By building bridges across lines of faith and politics; sharing Catholic social teaching at Georgetown, in Washington, and beyond; and encouraging a new generation of leaders, the Initiative pursues alternative ways to advance the common good in a demoralized capital and often divided Church.

In this last academic year, the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life:

- **Convened 40 U.S. and Vatican leaders**, including Cardinal Peter Turkson and Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, and directors of major U.S. academic centers on Catholic Social Thought for three days to explore and strengthen our common work, improve communication and increase collaboration, and support the mission and message of Pope Francis;
- **Organized 10 major dialogues** on the role of faith in the 2016 campaign and moral challenges after the election; neglect of working-class families and communities; refugee and immigration issues; the “Francis Factor” after four years; and Georgetown’s slavery legacy;
- **Hosted four Salt and Light Gatherings** for young public policy leaders in the Capitol Building and greater Washington, D.C., on politics as a vocation, millennials in the election, global solidarity, and Pope Francis;
- **Brought together young Latino leaders** to focus on their opportunities and responsibilities given the emergence of a dynamic Pope from Latin America and the shifting demographics in the United States; and
- **Engaged the campus community** by sponsoring five Catholic Social Thought Fellows, assisting the Georgetown Board on socially responsible investing, and offering a new seminar and a student session on faith, work, and life after Georgetown.

With deep divisions and important moral choices facing our nation, the Initiative will build on its assets and progress to share Catholic Social Thought more broadly and to explore the connections between faith and public life more deeply for students at Georgetown and leaders in Washington. Now more than ever is a time for civil and substantive dialogue to form the next generation of leaders and bring people together to pursue the common good.

Sincerely,

John L. Carr, Director
The most significant aspect of the meeting was the opportunity to meet colleagues and learn about their contexts, challenges, and opportunities. I discovered possibilities for cross-institutional collaboration and took away some best practices from other centers that I hope to integrate into our own programming.”

– Erin Brigham, Director, Joan and Ralph Lane Center for Catholic Studies and Social Thought and Adjunct Professor, Theology and Religious Studies, University of San Francisco

The Initiative organized a historic “Convening of U.S. Academic Centers on Catholic Social Teaching,” which brought 40 center leaders from universities across the country, as well as Cardinal Peter Turkson and Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, to Georgetown. Over three days, these leaders shared their work, best practices, and future goals; offered opportunities for dialogue between these centers and the Vatican; and promoted greater communication and collaboration between centers in order to advance Catholic social teaching and Pope Francis’ mission and message. A highlight of the convening was a conversation on U.S. public life, Pope Francis, and Catholic Social Thought featuring Mark Shields of PBS NewsHour, Michael Gerson of the Washington Post, and Emma Green of the Atlantic. The convening was made possible by the support of the GHR Foundation.
“The convening of U.S. academic centers with our dicastery was a very valuable opportunity to come together to explore how we can share Catholic social teaching more broadly and advance Pope Francis’ vision more effectively. This unique effort of the Initiative on Catholic Social Teaching and Public Life at Georgetown built new bridges between U.S. academic centers and the Vatican and helped us examine what we do, what we have learned, and how we can collaborate to advance our common mission.”

— Cardinal Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development

“The meeting confirmed something many of us have intuited for some time: Our voice is strongest together, and weakest when we are apart. Catholic institutes need to partner with each other—sitting with Cardinal Turkson, Archbishop Tomasi, John Carr, and colleagues from across the country gave us a glimpse of the power we possess to transform the culture in justice and in faith.”

— Joseph Capizzi, Executive Director of the Institute for Human Ecology and Associate Professor of Moral Theology, Catholic University of America

PARTICIPATING ACADEMIC CENTERS

Alvernia University
Boston College
Cabrini College
Catholic University of America
Christendom College
College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University
Creighton University
DePaul University
Georgetown University
John Carroll University
King’s College
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University New Orleans
Loyola University of Maryland
Marquette University
Mexican American Catholic College
Santa Clara University
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
St. Francis College
St. John’s University
St. Mary’s College of California
Trinity Washington University
University of Dayton
University of Notre Dame
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of St. Thomas, Minnesota
University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minnesota
University of Southern California
Villanova University
The Initiative organizes and hosts civil and substantive Dialogues on the implications of Catholic Social Thought in public life and on key domestic and international policy issues involving respected policymakers, journalists, scholars, religious leaders, and other experts. Over the years, the Dialogues, moderated by Initiative Director John Carr, have drawn more than 14,000 people to hear diverse perspectives on Pope Francis’ leadership, faith and politics, poverty and economics, the moral limits of partisanship, immigration, the environment, human life and dignity, terrorism and peace, roles of women in the Church and society, and other national and global topics.
FAITH, ANGER, AND TRUST IN CAMPAIGN 2016

September 13, 2016 - The surprising, sometimes scary, 2016 campaign was shaped by voter anger, issues of trust, and questions of faith. Emma Green, senior associate editor at the Atlantic; Melinda Hennenberger, fellow at the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies at the Catholic University of America; Jerry Seib, Washington bureau chief of the Wall Street Journal; and Mark Shields, commentator on PBS NewsHour, examined how these forces influenced candidates and impacted Catholic, evangelical, and young voters. This Dialogue also explored how Catholic social teaching and the message of Pope Francis did and did not shape the debate and decisions this election year.

ELECTION 2016: WHAT HAPPENED, WHY, AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

November 10, 2016 - Two days after the election, this Dialogue explored the outcomes, impact, and broader implications for our nation. What did this election mean for the pursuit of the common good? What would be the priorities of the new administration and Congress? Where did the priorities of Pope Francis fit? How might Catholic social teaching help bring together our nation after this polarizing campaign? The Dialogue included Robert Costa, Washington Post political reporter; Elizabeth Dias, TIME magazine religion correspondent; E.J. Dionne, Washington Post columnist and professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy; and Michael Gerson, Washington Post columnist. This event was co-sponsored by the Institute of Politics and Public Service at Georgetown University.

FAITHFUL PRIORITIES IN A TIME OF TRUMP

January 12, 2017 - The election of President Trump and a surprising and angry campaign generated hopes for change for some and fears for what changes would mean for others. This Dialogue sought to sort out the demands of faith, the call to civility, and the obligation to defend the weak in these uncertain days. The diverse participants included Sr. Simone Campbell, S.S.S., executive director of NETWORK; Jessica Chilin-Hernandez, staff member and advocate for undocumented immigrants at Georgetown University; Msgr. John Enzler, president and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington; Francis Rooney (R-FL), then member-elect of the U.S. House of Representatives; and Joan Rosenhauer, executive vice president of U.S. operations for Catholic Relief Services.
RERUM NOVARUM: WORKER JUSTICE IN THE CHURCH AND ON CAMPUS

November 15, 2016 - Two thousand sixteen marked the one-hundred-twenty-fifth anniversary of Rerum Novarum, Pope Leo XIII’s pivotal nineteenth-century encyclical that laid the foundation for Catholic teaching on labor and the dignity of work. This lively discussion, co-sponsored by the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor, explored the relevance of Catholic teaching on the dignity of work and workers’ rights around the world and in the Georgetown community today.

THE SEARCH FOR POPE FRANCIS WITH MARK SHRIVER


THE FRANCIS FACTOR AFTER FOUR YEARS

March 27, 2017 - Four years after the Pope’s surprising election this Initiative Dialogue discussed Pope Francis’ message for the world. The Dialogue featured a conversation with Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to the United States, and reflections from Kim Daniels, Vatican secretariat for communications; Maria Teresa Gastón, managing director of the Foundations of Christian Leadership Program at Duke Divinity School; and the Honorable Kenneth Hackett, former U.S ambassador to the Holy See.

A CONVERSATION WITH CARDINAL PETER TURKSON

May 31, 2017 - Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana was chosen by Pope Francis to lead the new Vatican Dicastery on Integral Human Development. Cardinal Turkson leads the Vatican’s teaching and advocacy on issues of justice and peace, economic inequality, and global solidarity. At this event, the cardinal discussed and answered questions on Vatican perspectives on care for creation, economic injustice, the refugee crisis, roles of women in the Church, and peace.
URGENT SOCIAL CONCERNS

WELCOMING THE STRANGER IN TOUGH TIMES

March 20, 2017 - This Dialogue discussed the difficult choices the United States faces as we decide how to respond to refugees and immigrants. It featured Leo O’Donovan, S.J., president emeritus of Georgetown and interim executive director for Jesuit Refugee Service/USA; Bishop Ricardo Ramírez, C.S.B., member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Migration and Refugee Services; Alfonso Aguilar, president of the Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles; Aden Batar, director for immigration and refugee resettlement at Catholic Community Services; Ashley Feasley, director of policy for the Office of Migration Policy and Public Affairs at the USCCB; and Luis Gonzalez, sophomore at Georgetown and advocate for undocumented students.

GEORGETOWN, SLAVERY, AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT

October 12, 2016 - Georgetown is wrestling with its historical participation in slavery and its responsibilities and opportunities to work for racial justice. This dialogue examined the response of the university’s Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation in light of Catholic social teaching. The conversation included James Benton, Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation Fellow; Fr. Matthew Carnes, S.J., associate professor in the Department of Government and the Walsh School of Foreign Service; Marcia Chatelain, associate professor in the Department of History; and Diana Hayes, professor emerita of systematic theology at Georgetown University.

LEFT BEHIND: WORKING CLASS FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

October 25, 2017 - This Dialogue focused on the economic realities, political impact, and moral dimensions of the national neglect of working-class families and communities. The election demonstrated the anger, resentment, and anxiety of workers who have lost economic and social ground over the past several decades. The lively panel with diverse perspectives that included Tim Carney, columnist for the Washington Examiner; Bill Fletcher Jr., scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies; Thomas Frank, author of Listen Liberal; and Fr. Clete Kiley of the Archdiocese of Chicago discussed this timely issue. The Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor co-sponsored this Dialogue.
SHAPING A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS

The Initiative hosts several public outreach programs targeted at young leaders in our nation’s capital. Through its Salt and Light Gatherings, the Initiative regularly brings together young Catholics in Washington to explore links between their faith, Catholic Social Thought, and their lives and work, especially on public policy. The Gatherings are for Catholics under 40 who work on Capitol Hill, in the administration, government, or other public policy organizations. They are held at and supported by the Georgetown School of Continuing Studies and include a presentation and a discussion on a critical topic, networking opportunities, and a reception with speakers. As part of its Latino Leaders Program, the Initiative also organizes regular discussions and receptions for young Latino leaders in Washington to explore connections between their faith, Catholic social teaching, and their professional lives. These events are part of the Catholic Latino Leadership Initiative and are held at St. Matthew’s Cathedral.
SALT AND LIGHT GATHERINGS

RELIGIOUS VALUES AND VOTERS: ARE MILLENNIALS DIVIDED?

October 5, 2016 - The 2016 election was chaotic and complicated with unusually harsh rhetoric and debate about temperament and trust. A panel of young and diverse leaders discussed challenges involving national identity, violence, economic justice, racial strife, human life, and dignity. The participants included Christopher Hale, executive director at Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good; Terrence Johnson, associate professor of religion and government in the Department of Theology and the Department of Government at Georgetown University; and Kathryn Jean Lopez, editor at large for the National Review Online. They examined how faith might shape voting choices in November and in what ways the call to pursue the common good inspires action by young leaders.

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY IN AN “AMERICA FIRST” NATION

March 15, 2017 - Young American Catholics are part of a nation with a president who insists “America First” and a Church with a Pope who declares “build bridges, not walls.” This discussion focused on how Catholic social teaching offers directions for weighing and responding to the insecurity of American workers and the desperation and dignity of people beyond our borders. The panelists included Elizabeth Bruenig, assistant editor for Outlook/PostEverything at the Washington Post; Shaun Casey, senior fellow at Georgetown’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs; and Robert Costa, national political reporter for the Washington Post. Millennial co-sponsored this timely discussion.

POLITICS AS A VOCATION

February 1, 2017 - Salt and Light went to the U.S. Capitol for a discussion on how political life and public service are a vocation and a calling. Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA), Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), and Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) shared how their faith shaped their service and how they felt called to enter public life and serve the common good.

LATINO LEADERS PROGRAM

TRUMP’S POLICIES, LATINO PRIORITIES, AND CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVES

February 28, 2017 - A new president, administration, and Congress offer major new challenges and opportunities for the Latino community. This timely gathering explored how the Latino community and young leaders can stand with Dreamers, other immigrants, and refugees in these uncertain and fearful days. Bishop Mario Dorsonville-Rodríguez, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, and Maria Teresa Kumar, president and CEO of Voto Latino, discussed these issues.

LATINO LEADERS PROGRAM
Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) opens a Salt and Light Gathering hosted on Capitol Hill.

Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) reflect on their commitment to faith and public service.

E.J. Dionne and Elizabeth Dias offer their perspective on the 2016 election results.
TOP LEFT
Jordan Denari Duffner offers tactics for building interfaith coalitions among Catholic and Muslim communities.

CENTER LEFT
Robert Costa of the Washington Post describes the political strategies of the new administration.

BELOW
James Benton, a fellow of the Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation, discusses the university’s efforts to confront its past.
CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

Integrating Catholic Social Thought into the academic and community life of the university is an integral component of the Initiative’s mission. Beyond its other activities, the Initiative pursues this part of its mission by engaging students through academic courses and extracurricular opportunities, and by collaborating with a broad range of Georgetown structures and organizations.
CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT FELLOWS

The Catholic Social Thought Fellows program provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to develop professionally, engage with dynamic speakers, enhance their communication skills, and contribute to substantive discussions online. The fellows work to advance the Initiative’s mission of sharing Catholic social teaching and reaching young public policy professionals and lay leaders.

NEW CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT SEMINAR

Initiative Director John Carr shares Catholic Social Thought and its applications with students as an adjunct professor in the Department of Theology. He currently offers a course titled Pope Francis, Catholic Social Thought, and Public Life: Principles, Policies, and Politics. Students in this course analyze and discuss the messages and leadership of Pope Francis and the principal themes of Catholic social teaching along with their applications to key issues in American public life, such as poverty and economy, immigration and religious freedom, protection of human life and the environment, and war and peace. The seminar also examines and discusses the uses and misuses of Catholic Social Thought in U.S. politics.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT POLICY

The Initiative director assists in efforts related to Georgetown’s Socially Responsible Investment Policy in several ways. Carr served as a presidential appointee to the Committee on Investments and Social Responsibility which reviews proxy matters and related issues. Additionally, he assisted the Georgetown University Board Working Group which developed an overall policy on socially responsible investing that was adopted by the GU Board of Trustees in May 2017. Carr also served on a task group for the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA) regarding investment in fossil fuels, making two presentations at the annual meeting of the CTSA.

Additionally, this past year Carr gave the commencement address at Alvernia University; moderated a panel on Jesuit-lay collaboration at the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities’ annual “Jesuit Leadership Seminar” in Chicago; offered the Catholic Common Ground Lecture in Chicago; and led two sessions at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Convocation of Catholic Leaders in Orlando, among other presentations.

**SHARING CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT**

**INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP**

**DIRECTOR JOHN CARR**

John Carr is the founder and director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life and an adjunct professor of theology at Georgetown University. Carr has been a leader at the intersection of faith and public life for four decades. He served as executive director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for more than 20 years. In 2017, he was elected chair of the board of Bread for the World, and Carr also works to advance the Initiative’s mission as a founder and leader of the Circle of Protection, an ecumenical coalition that seeks to defend the lives and dignity of the poor in the federal budget process. In 2016, Carr was a Washington correspondent and columnist for America Magazine, and in 2012 he served as a residential fellow at the Harvard Institute of Politics.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR ANGELA MILLER MCGRAW**

Angela Miller McGraw organizes the Initiative’s Salt and Light Gatherings and its Latino Leaders Program, in addition to contributing to the planning and implementation of the Initiative’s other activities. Miller McGraw also provides leadership in connecting the Initiative to Georgetown activities, structures, and committees. Outside of Georgetown, Miller McGraw served on the planning committee for the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington Leadership Summit for young D.C. leaders.

**PROJECT MANAGER KEVIN SULLIVAN**

In 2016-2017, Kevin Sullivan coordinated many aspects of the Initiative’s convenings including logistics, communications, promotion, and finances. He also served as program coordinator for the annual Jesuit Leadership Seminar, a faculty and staff formational program offered by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. In August 2017 the Initiative expressed gratitude for Kevin’s outstanding leadership as he moved to Boston. The Initiative was pleased to welcome Monica Finnegan as our new project manager to coordinate the logistics and other elements of Initiative gatherings.
The Initiative’s remarkable progress in its first four years has been due to the leadership of President John DeGioia and the assistance of Vice President and Chief of Staff Joe Ferrara and Vice President for Global Engagement Thomas Banchoff, along with many others in the President’s Office, at the Berkley Center of Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, and in the Office of the Vice President for Global Engagement. The active support and participation of Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, and many other leaders and allies in the Catholic community is essential to our success. None of this would have been possible without the investment, support, and leadership of many friends, donors, and allies, including:

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SCHWAB CHARITABLE FUND
CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
“An authentic faith—which is never comfortable or completely personal—always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it.”

—Pope Francis