INITIATIVE ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT AND PUBLIC LIFE

2018–2019

ANNUAL REPORT

Promoting Civil Dialogue in Polarized Times
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 an asset 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.
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This past year has been a time of crisis in our church, conflict in our country, and polarization in our nation’s capital. The Initiative has responded with a year of lifting up lay leadership to address clergy sexual abuse and promoting principled dialogue in a divided Washington. We have consistently offered our faith and Catholic social thought as assets in addressing these crises and advancing the common good. Since its founding six years ago, the Initiative has hosted almost 70 gatherings with attendance of more than 18,000, demonstrating there is a hunger for civil dialogue and moral conversation in public life, for the values of Catholic social teaching, and for the message of Pope Francis.

This report shares another remarkable year of promoting substantive and civil dialogue, encouraging young leaders, and bridging division on faith and politics at Georgetown, in Washington, and beyond. In the 2018-2019 academic year, the Initiative organized 14 dialogues and other gatherings drawing nearly 3,000 people to Georgetown. Specifically, this past year the Initiative:

- Hosted a unique “National Convening on Lay Leadership for a Wounded Church and Divided Nation” where 60 leaders of major Catholic ministries, institutions, and local efforts—including new Washington Archbishop Wilton Gregory and Georgetown President John J. DeGioia—came together to explore and strategize on how to repair, renew, and revitalize the Church’s mission in the world in the wake of the clergy sexual abuse crisis;
- Hosted seven important dialogues on the urgent need for lay leadership and a focus on fundamental principles of Catholic social thought in assessing the clergy sexual abuse crisis, and helping develop a response to it;
- Organized two sessions for the series “Faith and the Faithful in U.S. Politics” exploring the impacts and future of religious voters and communities in the 2018 midterm elections and 2020 U.S. presidential campaign;
- Conducted two Dahlgren Dialogues in collaboration with Georgetown’s Office of Mission and Ministry on the clergy sexual abuse crisis and resisting the throwaway culture;
- Hosted Salt and Light and Latino Leader Gatherings encouraging young people to see their Catholic faith as an asset through these challenging times;
- Engaged the campus community with three Catholic Social Thought Fellows; assisted the university and its board to adopt and apply socially responsible investing policies; and taught undergraduates in a seminar on Catholic social teaching.

During these difficult times, the Initiative’s distinctive mission of promoting principled civil dialogue, encouraging young leaders, and bringing Catholic social thought to public life is more important than ever. We are very grateful.

Sincerely,

John L. Carr, Director
Kim Daniels, Associate Director
SIX YEARS OF THE INITIATIVE

Clockwise from top left: Initiative Director John Carr shares his story of clergy sexual abuse on PBS NewsHour with Judy Woodruff; President Barack Obama, Harvard professor Robert Putnam, and former American Enterprise Institute president Arthur Brooks; Robert Costa of Washington Week on PBS examines the role faith played in the 2018 midterm elections; Michael Steele, former chairperson of the Republican National Committee, discusses faith and the 2020 presidential campaign; Sr. Katarina Schuth, OSF, leader in seminary formation in the United States, speaks with Archbishop of Washington Wilton Gregory.
From June 14-15, 2019, the Initiative held a “National Convening on Lay Leadership for a Wounded Church and Divided Nation.” Over two intense days, 55 leaders of major Catholic ministries, institutions, and local efforts came together to explore and strategize on how to repair, renew, and revitalize the Church’s mission in the world in the wake of the clergy sexual abuse crisis. Washington’s new Archbishop Wilton Gregory and Georgetown President John J. DeGioia led off the Convening. Most of the time was spent in small strategy groups reviewing what participants had learned and what we can do together to promote lay leadership, ensure accountability, protect the “least of these,” and promote the common good in public life.

The Initiative put together a report summarizing the lessons learned from the Convening, along with principles and directions for a path forward. Please visit www.catholicsocialthought.georgetown.edu/publications to read the full report.

We are grateful to the Connelly Foundation and the GHR Foundation for their essential support of this, our fourth major Convening.
FRIDAY, JUNE 14
LAY LEADERSHIP FOR A WOUNDED CHURCH

The first day of the Convening focused on “Lay Leadership for a Wounded Church.” Together the participants explored the clergy sexual abuse and leadership crises with a focus on recovering institutional integrity.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15
LAY LEADERSHIP FOR A DIVIDED NATION

The second day the focus shifted to “Lay Leadership for a Divided Nation” and an exploration of the costs of the crisis in American public life and paths forward for sharing Catholic social thought at a time of polarization in our Church and country.
The clergy abuse crisis and the leadership failures it revealed significantly damaged the Church’s credibility and require a strong, faithful response. The Initiative, reflecting our distinctive mission, focused on the urgent need for lay leadership and the principles of Catholic social thought in assessing these crises, responding to them, and moving forward. The Initiative responded in diverse and strategic ways, such as through a series of dialogues.

Initiative leaders were also asked to speak on the crisis to audiences around the country, including the Leadership Roundtable’s Catholic Partnership Summit, the Georgetown University Board of Directors, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, and many others.

In addition, in her role as a member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication, Kim Daniels was asked to assist the leaders of the Vatican’s February 2019 meeting on “The Protection of Minors in the Church,” making four trips to Rome and working closely with Vatican leaders before, during, and after this unprecedented meeting of episcopal conference presidents from around the world.
Crisis of Faith? Scandal, Pope Francis, the Synod, and Young People on September 17, 2018 included Elizabeth Bruenig, a Pulitzer Prize nominee at the Washington Post; Jonathan Lewis of the Archdiocese of Washington and a participant in the Vatican Synod on Young People; Joshua McElwee, Vatican correspondent for National Catholic Reporter; and Eve Tushnet, an author and survivor of sexual abuse.

Confronting a Moral Catastrophe: Lay Leadership, Catholic Social Teaching, and the Sexual Abuse Crisis on September 25, 2018 included Robert S. Bennett, an attorney and original member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ National Review Board; Kevin Byrnes, an attorney and a survivor of clergy sexual abuse; Dr. Dawn Eden Goldstein, a theologian and survivor of sexual abuse; and Karen Tumulty, a columnist for the Washington Post.

A Path Forward on the Clerical Sexual Abuse Crisis on October 24, 2018 included Anne Burke of the Illinois Supreme Court; Rev. Gerald J. McGlone, S.J., a survivor of clergy sexual abuse and a psychiatrist; Erica Lizza (SFS’19), president of Catholic Women at Georgetown; and Kerry Robinson of Leadership Roundtable.

Civil Dialogue in a Divided Nation, Lay Leadership in a Broken Church on February 8, 2019 was a special dialogue for the Georgetown University Board of Regents meeting and included PBS commentator Mark Shields, Atlantic writer Emma Green, and Kim Daniels and John Carr of the Initiative.

A Path Forward: Conversation and Dialogue on Clerical Sexual Abuse on March 24, 2019 included Fr. Hans Zollner, S.J., a key Vatican leader on clergy sexual abuse; Kathleen Coogan, a parish leader at Holy Trinity Catholic Church; and Michael Nugent, a survivor and member of the Archdiocese of Washington Child Protection Advisory Board.
How Law and Lawyers Help Hide and Uncover the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis: Lessons from the Past and Directions for the Future on April 9, 2019 was the concluding public session of a day-long conference on the law and the clergy sexual abuse crisis co-sponsored with Georgetown Law. The evening dialogue included Margaret Graf, general counsel of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; Tom Johnson, former Minnesota County Attorney; Peter Steinfels, reporter and author; and Barbara Thorp, a victims’ advocate formerly with the Archdiocese of Boston.

Lay Leadership for a Wounded Church and Divided Nation on June 14, 2019 was the evening dialogue for the “National Convening on Lay Leadership for a Wounded Church and Divided Nation,” and included Kathleen Domingo, senior director of the Office of Life, Justice, and Peace of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; Melinda Hennenberger, a 2019 Pulitzer Prize finalist in commentary for the Kansas City Star; Joan Rosenhauer, the executive director of Jesuit Refugee Services; and Peter Wehner, a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.
The place of faith and the roles of the faithful in U.S. politics are often misunderstood or neglected, generate confusion and conflict, and create challenges for religious communities and political leaders. In the last two years, the Initiative has held five dialogues on faith and politics with the support of the Democracy Fund and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. This year, the Initiative organized two conversations:

• **Faith and the Faithful in the Midterm Elections** on November 19, 2018 included Robert Costa of the *Washington Post* and *Washington Week* on PBS; Elizabeth Dias of the *New York Times*; and Ana Gonzalez-Barrera and Gregory Smith of Pew Research Center.

• **Faith and the Faithful in the 2020 Campaign** on May 22, 2019 included Christine Emba of the *Washington Post*; Jack Jenkins of *Religion News Service*; Michael McCurry of Wesley Theological Seminary; and Michael Steele of MSNBC.
The Initiative and the Georgetown University Office of Mission and Ministry bring together respected policymakers, religious leaders, scholars, and other experts for principled civil conversation on the most pressing moral and public issues of our time. These dialogues regularly fill Dahlgren Chapel, the spiritual center of Georgetown, and offer thoughtful dialogue in a context of prayer and reflection. This year, the Initiative organized two dialogues:

- **Stand for Life, All Life, Every Life: Resisting the Throwaway Culture** on January 15, 2019 included Serrin Foster of Feminists for Life; Julia Greenwood (C’19) of the 2019 Cardinal O’Connor Conference; Gloria Purvis of EWTN; and Aimee Murphy of Rehumanize International.

- **A Path Forward on the Clerical Sexual Abuse Crisis** on October 24, 2018 included Anne Burke of the Illinois Supreme Court; Rev. Gerald J. McGlone, S.J., a survivor of clergy sexual abuse and a psychiatrist; Erica Lizza (SFS’19), president of Catholic Women at Georgetown; and Kerry Robinson of Leadership Roundtable.
In this last year, the Initiative continued to focus on the human and moral dimensions of immigration, work, and poverty:

- **The Dignity of Work: Putting Workers at the Center of a Divided Economy** on March 25, 2019 included Katie Corrigan of the AFL-CIO; Robert Doar of the American Enterprise Institute; Romanita Hairston-Overstreet of Microsoft; and Ashley McSwain of Community Family Life Services.

- **Beyond the Wall: Human Impacts, Moral Principles, and Policy Directions on Immigration** on February 4, 2019 included Galen Carey of the National Association of Evangelicals; Ashley Feasley of the USCCB’s Office of Migration and Refugee Services; Rev. David Hollenbach, S.J., of Georgetown’s Walsh School of Foreign Service; Sr. Norma Pimentel, M.J., of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley; and Jaquelin Martinez (C’19), a Georgetown student and DACA recipient.
ENCOURAGING YOUNG LEADERS

The Initiative continues its efforts to encourage a new generation of Catholic leaders, reaching out to young and Latino Catholics to explore the links between their faith, Catholic social thought, and their lives and work through our Salt and Light and Latino Leaders Gatherings. Among our efforts this year, we organized three discussions:

• **Crisis of Faith? Scandal, Pope Francis, the Synod, and Young People** on September 17, 2018 included Elizabeth Bruenig, a Pulitzer Prize nominee at the *Washington Post*; Jonathan Lewis of the Archdiocese of Washington and an auditor at the Vatican Synod on Young People; Joshua McElwee, Vatican correspondent for *National Catholic Reporter*; and Eve Tushnet, an author and survivor of sexual abuse.

• **Courageous Faith: Archbishop Óscar Romero, Saint and Leader** on October 10, 2018 included Most Rev. Mario E. Dorsonville, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington; Hon. David Bonior, a former member of Congress from Michigan; and Ena Úrsula Peña, general consul at the Consulate of El Salvador.

• **Emerging Leaders on Polarization in a Broken Church and Nation** on December 4, 2019 included John Gehring of Faith in Public Life; Elise Italiano of the GIVEN Institute; Hosffman Ospino of Boston College; and Gloria Purvis of EWTN.

The Initiative took steps to extend our reach and deepen the impact of these programs, establishing leadership groups of engaged and thoughtful young people for each effort, engaging these audiences at the Archdiocese of Washington’s Panama in the Capital gathering, and building our outreach network to include a broader and more diverse range of participants.
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Integrating Catholic social thought into academic and community life at Georgetown University is a central dimension of the Initiative’s mission. The Initiative engages students through an academic seminar and extracurricular opportunities, and through collaboration and partnerships with a broad range of Georgetown structures and organizations, including the Office of the President; Office of Mission and Ministry; Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs; Institute for Politics and Public Service; and the Center for Social Justice Research, Teaching and Service.

ACADEMIC THEOLOGY SEMINAR

For the third year, Initiative Director John Carr taught a well-received seminar for Georgetown undergraduates on Pope Francis, Catholic Social Thought, and U.S. Public Life: Principles, Policies, and Politics in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. This seminar analyzes and discusses 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. The seminar also examines the uses and misuses of Catholic social thought in U.S. politics.

ABOVE

Georgetown student Jaquelin Martinez opens the Public Dialogue “Beyond the Wall” by sharing how she is affected by the immigration crisis.

BELOW

Initiative Student Fellows Claire Smith, Perby Señal, and Nicolo Orozco with Initiative leaders John Carr and Kim Daniels.
INITIATIVE RECOGNITION AND MEDIA COVERAGE

The Initiative and its leaders have been recognized in several key forums:

- John Carr received the Cardinal Bernardin Award from the Catholic Common Ground Initiative.
- Kim Daniels continues to serve as a member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication and as a consultor to the USCCB’s Committee on Religious Liberty, and she was asked to present the annual Cardinal Foley Lecture at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.
- Carr and Daniels were asked to lead off the Catholic Partnership Summit, a gathering of more than 200 Catholic leaders convened by Leadership Roundtable.

Both Carr and Daniels are called on as resources on Catholic social thought, the leadership of Pope Francis, and the clergy sexual abuse crisis by the Georgetown community, Washington policy leaders, and the national media. This past year they were quoted dozens of times in a variety of leading national and international outlets, including the Washington Post, New York Times, Associated Press, Baltimore Sun, Economist, America, National Catholic Reporter, Crux, National Catholic Register, Catholic News Service, Catholic Standard, and numerous other publications. Carr appeared on PBS, NPR, NBC/MSNBC, CNN, and local media.

Among the most read and quoted pieces about the Initiative were:

- Eight Lessons to Help Us Move Forward from the Sex Abuse Crisis, America, September 25, 2018
- Church Abuse Survivor on Friend Wuerl's Resignation: 'Sad' but 'Necessary,' PBS NewsHour, October 12, 2018
- The Four Waves of the U.S. Catholic Abuse Crisis, Church Life Journal, December 17, 2018
- How Survivors of Catholic Church Abuse Are Speaking Out, PBS NewsHour, December 27, 2018
- Anguish and Anger: Georgetown's John Carr Discusses a Church in Crisis and Ways to Move Forward, Georgetown Magazine, Spring 2019 Issue
- Foley Lecturer Calls for Candor, Unity Among Needed Church Reforms, Catholic News Service, January 31, 2019
- Comms Team for Pope's Anti-abuse Summit Gives Reason for Hope, Crux, February 21, 2019
- For Catholics in the Church's 'Middle,' Patience Has Run Out, National Catholic Reporter, February 8, 2019
The Initiative is deeply involved in sharing Catholic social thought in academic and community life at Georgetown, working with a wide variety of partners and groups. In the fall 2018 semester, John Carr, the Initiative’s director, taught a theology seminar on Pope Francis, Catholic Social Thought, and U.S. Public Life: Principles, Policies, and Politics and continues to serve on the Committee on Investments and Social Responsibility. Kim Daniels, the Initiative’s associate director, regularly meets with key student groups, faculty, and staff on campus to explore ways to engage the university community in the work of the Initiative, and will teach the theology seminar on Pope Francis, Catholic Social Thought, and U.S. Public Life in the spring 2020 semester.

Additionally, in the 2018-2019 academic year, Carr and Daniels spoke at the following venues on topics related to the intersection of Catholic social thought and public life:

- Georgetown University Board of Directors
- Georgetown University’s John Carroll Weekend
- University of St. Thomas
- The Catholic University of America
- Catholic Health Association
- National Association of Catholic Personnel Administrators
- Lumen Christi Institute at the University of Chicago
- Leadership Roundtable’s Catholic Partnership Summit
- St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
- Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States communications officers
- Archdiocese of Washington priests of Montgomery County
- Archdiocese of Washington World Youth Day Celebration
- Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities (FADICA)
- America Media’s Jesuitical and Deliver Us podcasts
- GHR, Raskob, Catholic Community, and Porticus Foundations

**TOP**
Initiative Director John Carr moderates a Public Dialogue on immigration.

**BOTTOM**
Initiative Associate Director Kim Daniels moderates a Salt and Light Gathering on how the clergy abuse crisis impacts young Catholic professionals.
The Initiative’s remarkable progress in its first six years has been due to the leadership of President John J. DeGioia and the assistance of Chief of Staff Joe Ferrara and Vice President for Global Engagement Thomas Banchoff, along with many others in the Office of the President; at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs; and in the Office of the Vice President for Global Engagement. The active support and participation of many other leaders and allies in the Catholic and Washington communities is essential to our success. None of this would have been possible without the investment, support, and leadership of Msgr. John Enzler, W. Shep Abell, Chris Dorment, Maury Devine, and so many other friends, supporters, and allies.

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. He served for over 20 years as director of the Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). He is chair of the board for Bread for the World; a member of the board of the Law School of the University of St. Thomas; and a founder of the Circle of Protection. John has also served as a Washington columnist for America and a Residential Fellow on religion and politics at the Institute of Politics of Harvard University.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR KIM DANIELS

Kim Daniels is the associate director of the Initiative and an adjunct professor of theology at Georgetown University. She was appointed by Pope Francis as a member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication in 2016, and in that role she was an advisor to the organizing committee for the Vatican’s February 2019 “Meeting on the Protection of Minors.” She is also a consultor to the USCCB’s Committee for Religious Liberty and has advised the USCCB and other Catholic institutions on a broad range of issues where Church teachings intersect with public life, including immigration, human life and dignity, religious liberty, and care for creation.

PROJECT MANAGER ANNA MISLEH

In October 2018, Anna Misleh joined the Initiative as its project manager. During the 2018-2019 academic year, Anna coordinated the Initiative’s dialogues and gatherings, including logistics and finances. She oversaw communication and promotion strategies and managed traditional, digital, and social media outreach for the Initiative. She also played a key role in organizing the “Convening on Lay Leadership for a Wounded Church and Divided Nation.”

INVESTING IN THE INITIATIVE

The Initiative’s remarkable progress in its first six years has been due to the leadership of President John J. DeGioia and the assistance of Chief of Staff Joe Ferrara and Vice President for Global Engagement Thomas Banchoff, along with many others in the Office of the President; at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs; and in the Office of the Vice President for Global Engagement. The active support and participation of many other leaders and allies in the Catholic and Washington communities is essential to our success. None of this would have been possible without the investment, support, and leadership of Msgr. John Enzler, W. Shep Abell, Chris Dorment, Maury Devine, and so many other friends, supporters, and allies.
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“Catholics need to encourage and practice civil disagreement, do what we can to eradicate toxic polarization, and offer examples of people working together across ideological and ecclesial lines to advance the Gospel and the common good.”

—Report of the National Convening on Lay Leadership for a Wounded Church and Divided Nation