

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Holy See and Totalitarian Systems in the 20th Century.

New Views and Research Perspectives.



INSTITUTE
OF NATIONAL
REMEMBRANCE



PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSITÀ
GREGORIANA



PONTIFICIO COMITATO
DI SCIENZE STORICHE

PROGRAM





28 OCTOBER 2026

8:45

• Quadriportico of the Pontifical Gregorian University

Opening of the exhibition entitled «Celebrations of the Millennium of the Baptism of Poland in Various Centres of the Polish Diaspora, based on the Holdings of the Archive of the Church and Hospice of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, in Rome»

Session I

Opening

Moderator:

Rev. Prof. Roberto Regoli (Pontifical Gregorian University)

Official greetings:

9:00–9:10

• **Fr. Prof. Mark Andrew Lewis SJ**, Rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University

9:10–9:20

• **Fr. Prof. Marek Inglot SJ**, President of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences

9:20–9:30

• **Prof. Karol Polejowski**, Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance

9:30–9:45

• **Inaugural Address by His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin**, Secretary of State

Session II 1918–1939

Moderator:

Dr Johan Ickx (Archives of the Secretariat of State – Section for Relations with States and International Organizations)

- 10:00–10:30 • **Rev. Prof. Nicholas Joseph Doublet** (University of Malta),
Before totalitarianism: The Minutes of the Congregation for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs and the Holy See's First Encounter with Bolshevism and Extreme Nationalism (1917–1922)
- 10:30–11:00 • **Dr Ivan Zubac** (Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek),
The Holy See, Catholic Action and the Royal Dictatorship in Yugoslavia (1929–1934); Pius XI's Response to the Construction of an Authoritarian State in a Multi-denominational Society
- 11:00–11:30 • **Rev. Prof. Tamás Tóth** (Péter Pázmány Catholic University),
The Holy See and the Hungarian Soviet Republic of 1919
- 11:30–11:50 • Discussion
- 11:50–12:10 • Coffee break

Session III 1939–1945

Moderator:

Dr Sebastian Pilarski (Institute of National Remembrance)

- 12:10–12:40 • **Prof. Grazia Loparco FMA** (Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences Auxilium), *Religious Women and the Unarmed Resistance in Italy (1943–1945): Documents and Testimonies*

- 12:40–13:10 • **Dr Krisztina Tóth** (Embassy of Hungary to the Holy See), *The Role of Vatican Diplomacy in the Rescue of Hungarian Jews During the Holocaust: An Analysis Based on the Archival Documents of the Holy See*
- 13:10–13:40 • **Prof. Miroslav Akmadža, Domagoj Novosel** (Croatian Institute of History), *The Ustaše Regime's Policy Towards the Catholic Church in Croatia and the Holy See (1941–1945)*
- 13:40–14:00 • Discussion
- 14:00–15:00 • Break

Session IV 1945–1958

Moderator:

Prof. Karol Polejowski (Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance)

- 15:00–15:30 • **Prof. Andrea Ciampani** (LUMSA University, Rome), *What Political Action Should Catholics Take after the Totalitarian Experiment? Vatican Guidelines, Social Justice and Democratic Freedoms in the Post-Fascist Transition*
- 15:30–16:00 • **Rev. Prof. Jan Mikrut** (Pontifical Gregorian University), *Civil Society and the Catholic Church in East Germany Between the Twbravero Totalitarianisms, 1944–1958*
- 16:00–16:30 • **Dr Jitka Jonová** (Palacký University Olomouc), *The Rise of the Communist Regime in Czechoslovakia and the Restriction of Diplomatic Relations with the Holy See from the End of the Second World War to 1950*
- 16:30–17:00 • **Rev. Dr Michał Kłakus** (Diocesan Institute for Pastoral Formation, Toulon), *The Origins and Activities of the Anti-Communist „Unitas” Group in the Years 1951–1962*

- 17:30–18:00 • **Prof. Fabian Dobos** (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași),
*The Testimony of Romania's Leading Catholic Figures Against
the Communist Regime (1945–1965)*
- 18:00–18:30 • Discussion

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Session V 1958–1989

Moderator:

Prof. Giovanni Maria Vian (Sapienza University of Rome –
Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences)

- 9:00–9:30 • **Dr Alexandra von Teuffenbach** (Independent
Researcher), *Totalitarianisms at the Second Vatican Council*
- 9:30–10:00 • **Rev. Prof. Nicola Spinato** (Theological Faculty of Triveneto,
Padua), *Totalitarianism, Racism and the introduction to the Concept
of Genocide in the Constitution “Gaudium et Spes”*
- 10:00–10:30 • **Rev. Dr Łukasz Bankowski** (Dicastery for Communication of the
Holy See), *Paul VI and the Holy See in the Face of the Legacy of 20th-
Century Totalitarianism: The Case of Polish-German Reconciliation*
- 10:30–11:00 • **Rev. Dr Albert Warso** (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin),
Relations Between the Holy See and Poland in the Years 1958–1989
- 11:00–11:30 • **Dr Mariusz Krzysztofiński** (Institute of National Remembrance),
*Archbishop Luigi Poggi – A Vatican Diplomat Against Communist
Disinformation: The Case of the Polish People's Republic*

- 11:30–12:00 • Discussion
- 12:00–12:20 • Coffee break

Session VI **Conclusiva**

Moderator:

Prof. Gianpaolo Romanato (University of Padua – Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences)

- 12:20–12:50 • **Prof. Philippe Chenaux** (Pontifical Lateran University – Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences), *The Concept of “Totalitarianism” in 20th-Century Catholic Thought*
- 12:50–13:20 • **Rev. Prof. Antón Pazos** (IEGPS – Spanish National Research Council – Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences), *The Totalitarian State: The Evolution of the Concept in Spain During the Pontificates of Pius XI and Pius XII*
- 13:20–13:50 • **Prof. Emilia Hrabovec** (Comenius University in Bratislava – Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences), *“Call for Courage” or “Accept the Inevitable”? The Holy See and Czechoslovakia as the “Ideological Showcase of the Communist Bloc” (1945–1989)*
- 13:50–14:20 • **Prof. Wojciech Polak** (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń), *Pope John Paul II and the Communist Regime in Poland*
- 14:20–14:50 • **Prof. Gianni La Bella** (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia – Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences), *Relations between the Holy See and Totalitarian Regimes in Latin America*
- 14:50–15:30 • Discussion

