

International Symposium, April 8-9, 2016 in Schloss Trumau, Austria

AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS VERY GOOD

Re-invigorating the Sacrament of Marriage and the Christian Family in Light of the 2014 and 2015 Synods

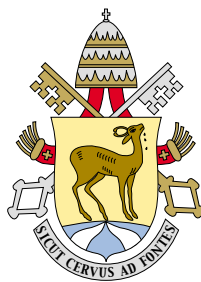
Modern society seems to be preoccupied with the question of how to finally have the Catholic Church and Christians in general abandon God's unique plan for humanity, especially where it concerns marriage, sex, and the family. The recent two Synods on the Family, called by Pope Francis – and especially the press coverage of both events –, was a good reminder of this popular preoccupation and the common failure of many Christians to show the world in which we live the joy, beauty, and hope that can be found in sacramental marriage, in openness to life, and in fidelity.

The Holy Father in October 2015 reminded participants at the opening of the Synod on “The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World” that: “The Synod is rather an ecclesial expression, i.e., the Church that journeys together to read reality with the eyes of faith and with the heart of God; it is the Church that interrogates herself with regard to her fidelity to the deposit of faith, which does not represent for the Church a museum to view, nor even something merely to safeguard, but is a living source

from which the Church shall drink, to satisfy the thirst of, and illuminate, the deposit of life.”

The first aim of this international symposium is to provide answers to the many questions both the 2014 and the 2015 Synods have left in their wake. The conference will thus focus on fundamentals, on what went on substantially during the Synods and what the Holy Father is planning concretely. We have to distinguish between fact and fiction since much has been said, written and interpreted by many, often wrongly or misleading, whilst at other times enlightening and true.

The second aim of the conference is that we take an honest and critical look at the Synod outcome itself, and possibly the Pope's Apostolic Exhortation if it has been published by then. In the light of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church and guided by the powerful mystery of God's unending mercy highlighted in this Holy Year, we hope to come to answer the question that is the title of our conference: **how to re-invigorate the Sacrament of Marriage and the Christian Family today?**



INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016

- 9.00-9.30 **Dr. Christiaan Alting von Geusau**, *President and Rector of the International Theological Institute, Trumau, Austria*: welcome and introduction to the conference theme
- 9.30-10.45 **His Eminence Cardinal Dr. Christoph Schönborn**, *Archbishop of Vienna and Grand Chancellor of the International Theological Institute*: Opening Address, “After the Synod: the Way Forward for Sacramental Marriage and the Christian Family”
- 10.45-11.00 **Coffee break**
- 11.00-12.00 **Dr. Bernhard Dolna**, *Dean of the International Theological Institute, Trumau, Austria*: “It is not good for man to be alone” (Gen. 2:18)
- 12.15-13.00 **HOLY MASS** (Roman Rite in English) celebrated by Bishop James Maria Wainaina
- 13.15-14.30 **Lunch**
- 14.30-15.15 **Graham Hutton**, *Board member of the International Theological Institute and Chairman of Aid to the Church in Need, London, United Kingdom*: “Conjugal love in the teaching of St John Paul II”
- 15.15-16.15 **Rev. Dr. Vincent Twomey SVD**, *Professor Emeritus of Moral Theology, Pontifical University, St Patrick’s College, Maynooth, Ireland*: “Understanding fidelity and sacramental grace in the marriage bond”
- 16.15-16.30 **Coffee break**
- 16.30-17.30 **His Excellency James Maria Wainaina Kungu**, *Bishop of the Diocese of Murang’a, Kenya*: “Family Culture and Church teaching: lessons we can learn”
- 17.30-18.15 **Prof. Dr. Frans A. M. Alting von Geusau**, *Husband, Father, Grandfather and professor of law emeritus, Netherlands*: “Family: Become what you are”
- 18.30-20.30 Dinner with testimony speech by **Jocelyne Khoueir**, *John Paul II Center, Beirut, Lebanon*: “Faith, Family and the Persecuted Church”
- 20.30-22.00 **Socializing** (wine & cheese) in a musical setting

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016

- 8.30-9.30 **Prof. Dr. Paul C. Vitz**, *Senior Scholar, Institute for Psychological Sciences, Arlington, Virginia, USA*: “Equal, Different and complementary: psychological and neurobiological evidence of man-woman complementarity”
- 9.30-10.15 **Dr. Lic. Gintautas Vaitoska**, *International Theological Institute, Trumau, Austria*: “A Longing for Life: The “Ancient” Meaning of Sex”
- 10.15-10.30 **Coffee break**
- 10.30-11.30 **Rev. Dr. George Woodall**, *Athenaeum of Regina Apostolorum, Rome*: “*Humanae vitae* in the light of the Synod on the family”
- 11.30-12.15 **Paul & Timmie Vitz**, *Arlington, USA*: “Forty-six years and six children: Our experience of marriage”
- 12.30-13.30 **HOLY MASS** (Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite) celebrated by Bishop Boris Gudziak
- 13.30-14.45 **Lunch**
- 14.45-15.30 **PD Dr. Michaela C. Hastetter**, *International Theological Institute, Trumau, Austria*: “Failure or exultation? Differing tendencies in pastoral care of marriage”
- 15.30-16.15 **Timothy & Maria Church**, *London, UK*: “Witnessing Catholic family life today”
- 16.15-16.30 **Coffee break**
- 16.30-17.30 **Closing panel of speakers** (Synod fathers and married couples): “How do *we* reinvigorate the Sacrament of Marriage and the Christian Family today?”
- 17.30-18.00 **His Eminence Cardinal Dr. Christoph Schönborn**: Concluding remarks
- 18.00-18.30 **Akathist Marian Hymn** sung by the byzantine priests and choir of the International Theological Institute
- 18.30-20.00: **Closing dinner with concert**

About the International Theological Institute



The international symposium “AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS VERY GOOD: *Re-invigorating the Sacrament of Marriage and the Christian Family in Light of the 2014 and 2015 Synods*” will be hosted by the pontifical International Theological Institute (ITI), founded in 1996 by Pope St. John Paul II with a specific purpose:

“A solid theological formation is needed for Catholic leaders, lay and clergy, to achieve critical judgment in our culture and the capacity to contribute to the New Evangelization, which is especially needed in the area of marriage and the family”.

Students from all over the world study at the ITI in one of the four theological degree programs or the 1-year Catholic liberal arts *Studium Generale* program. Student life is based on three pillars: prayer, study and community. This formation of the hearts and minds of our students brings forth a new generation of Catholic leaders, lay and clergy, joyfully equipped for the New Evangelization.

About the speakers

The symposium offers insights by lay and priestly theological experts, many of whom have participated themselves in the Synod, as well as married couples speaking from the experience of living a sacramental family life for many years. Speakers also represent the universality of the Church, coming from Africa, the Middle East, Western and Eastern Europe and the Americas.

His Eminence Cardinal Dr. Christoph Schönborn OP.,

Archbishop of Vienna and Grand Chancellor of the International Theological Institute; Cardinal Schönborn participated in the Family Synod and is a member of the Synod Council, as well as numerous other Vatican bodies, including the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He was the editor of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and YouCat.

Dr. Christiaan Alting von Geusau,

President and Rector of the International Theological Institute, Trumau. He teaches and publishes in the field of history, philosophy of law and education; Dr. Alting von Geusau is married and the father of five children.

Dr. Bernhard Dolna,

Dean of the International Theological Institute, Trumau, Austria. He teaches and publishes in the field of Scripture and Jewish studies; Dr. Dolna is married and the father of four grown children.

Graham Hutton,

Board member of the International Theological Institute and Chairman of Aid to the Church in Need, London, United Kingdom; He is a founding partner of Hutton Collins Partners LLP. Graham studied Theology in Oxford. He is married and the father of three grown children.

Rev. Dr. Vincent Twomey SVD,

Professor Emeritus of Moral Theology, Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland; he is a member of the Ratzinger circle of doctoral and post-doctoral former students of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

Rev. Dr. George Woodall,

Professor of Theology at the Athenaeum of Regina Apostolorum, Rome and author of numerous publications in the field of Church teaching on marriage, sexuality and bioethics.

Prof. Dr. Frans A. M. Alting von Geusau,

Professor of Law Emeritus at the Universities of Tilburg and Leiden, The Netherlands and author of numerous publications, most recently his book "Family, Become what you are". Prof. Geusau was a participant at the annual "Castelgandolfo Meetings" organized by the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna and hosted by Pope St. John Paul II; He is married since 55 years with Annemieke, father of 6 married children and grandfather of 26.

Jocelyne Khoueir,

Director of the John Paul II Center, Beirut, Lebanon; and a member of the Marriage and Family Committee of the Lebanese Conference of Catholic Bishops. Jocelyne is also the founding member and President of the lay movement "La Femme du 31 Mai-Libanaise"; Ms. Khoueir participated in the Family Synod.

Prof. Dr. Paul C. Vitz,

Senior Scholar, Institute for Psychological Sciences, Arlington, Virginia, USA, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at New York University. His work focuses on the relationship between psychology and Christianity; Paul is married to **Dr. Evelyn (Timmie) Birge Vitz**, Professor of French at New York University, for 46 years. They are parents of six children and grandparents of 18.

Dr. Lic. Theol. Gintautas Vaitoska,

Dr. Vaitoska is a medical doctor in Vilnius, Lithuania with a specialization in psychiatry as well as doctoral candidate in Theology. He is also the director of the Masters in Marriage and Family Studies program at the ITI; Gintautas is married and father of a grown daughter.

His Excellency James Maria Wainaina Kungu,

Bishop of the Diocese of Murang'a, Kenya. Before his appointment as bishop in 2009, he was the Rector of Christ the King Major Seminary in Nyeri, Kenya; Bishop Wainaina participated in the Family Synod.

His Excellency Dr. Boris Andrij Gudziak,

Eparch of the Paris Eparchy of St. Volodymyr the Great (Ukrainian) and the author of many scholarly publications. Before his appointment as bishop in 2012 he was the Rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University from 2002-2013 and today still serves as its president. Bishop Gudziak participated in the Family Synod.

PD Dr. Michaela C. Hastetter,

She received her habilitation in pastoral theology from the Albert-Ludwigs Universität in Freiburg, Germany and publishes extensively in this field. Dr. Hastetter is a founding member of the young Ratzinger circle and currently teaches theology at the ITI and at the Hochschule Benedikt XVI Heiligenkreuz, Austria.

Timothy and Maria Church,

Tim is president of MIO Partners, Inc. the investment subsidiary of McKinsey & Company, the Global Management Consulting firm, splitting his time between London and New York. He is also Chairman of The Chelsea Academy Foundation. **Maria Church** is a governor of The Westminster Cathedral Choir School and involved with various other Catholic charities. They have five children aged 22 to 31.

Practical and planning details for the symposium

Conference venue: the campus main building (Schloss) of the International Theological Institute (ITI) in Trumau, 25km South of Vienna, Austria. Trumau is only 25 minutes driving time from Vienna International Airport.

Accommodation: we recommend the following hotels in the town of Baden, located 9km from the campus of the ITI. We will provide a shuttle service between the campus and the recommended hotels four times a day: Hotel Schloss Weikersdorf (4*), Hotel Herzoghof (4*), Hotel Admiral (4*) and At the Park Hotel (4*), all in Baden bei Wien. Please book as soon as possible since room capacity may be limited.

Meals: lunch and dinner are included in the conference fee. Breakfast in the hotels.

Conference fee: €150,-, students €75,-; the conference registration is only final after payment. Banking information may be found here: <http://www.iti.ac.at/index.php?id=133>

How to reach our campus, see:
<http://www.iti.ac.at/index.php?id=28>

Language: the entire conference will be held in English and there will be no translation services provided.

Conference publication: audio of the conference will be uploaded on the ITI website after the conference. A conference publication will also be produced.

More information on the ITI:
www.iti.ac.at

Registration and further information:
conference@iti.ac.at or call +43 2253 218 08

