

The Confession of the Council of Nicaea: History and Theology

The year 2025 marks the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea. To commemorate the occasion, the Pontifical Gregorian University and the University of Münster are organising an international conference entitled “The Confession of the Council of Nicaea: History and Theology”.

The aim of the conference is to foster dialogue between historical research on the Council and systematic-theological questions concerning the current significance of the Nicene Creed. Each of the two organising institutions represents this aim in its own way: each has a long tradition of studying theology and church history, while being concerned at the same time with contemporary issues of the Christian faith in different regional, linguistic and cultural contexts.

The conference is therefore divided into two parts. The first will take place from 27 February to 1 March 2025 in Rome; the second, from 15 to 17 October 2025 in Münster.



Organisation

Philipp G. Renczes SJ (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome)
Michael Seewald (University of Münster)

Project Office

University of Münster
Chair of Dogmatics and History of Dogma
Johannisstr. 8–10
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Location and Registration

Matteo Ricci Congress Centre
of the Pontifical Gregorian University
Piazza della Pilotta, 4
I–00187 Rome

Registration for Part 1

by 10 February 2025
Admission 25 Euro, students free



Online-Registration

<https://www.unigre.it/eventi-e-comunicazione/eventi/calendario-eventi/the-confession-of-the-council-of-nicaea-history-and-theology>

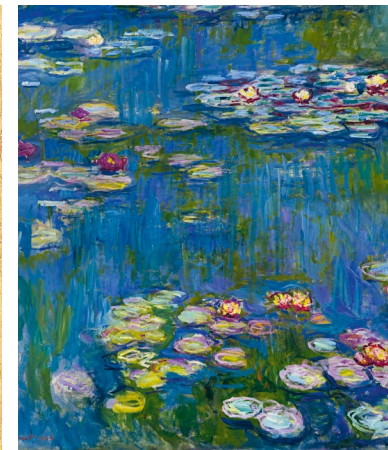


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Religion and Politics
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The Confession of the Council of Nicaea: History and Theology



Images: Icon depicting the First Council of Nicaea | Claude Monet, Water Lilies (1916)

Part 1: Rome
27 February
to 1 March 2025
Matteo Ricci Congress
Centre of the Pontifical
Gregorian University

Part 2: Münster
15 October to
17 October 2025
Aula Magna
of the Castle of the
University of Münster

Programme

Thursday, 27 February 2025

- 8.00 **Opening Mass in Sant'Ignazio**
9.15 **Greetings of the Rector**
Mark A. Lewis SJ (Rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome)
Introduction of the organisers
Michael Seewald (University of Münster)
Philipp G. Renczes SJ (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome)

Panel I: Nicaea revisited

- 9.45 **Introduction**
10.00 **What is a synod and what was particular about Nicaea?**
Emanuela Prinzivalli (Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza")
10.45 **Coffee break**
11.00 **Christological and trinitarian discussions in the early 4th century**
Alfons Fürst (University of Münster)
11.45 **The Council of Nicaea and its creed: A heresiologist's perspective**
Young Richard Kim (University of Illinois, Chicago)
12.30 **General discussion**
13.00 **Lunch break**
14.30 **The exhibition on Nicaea in the atrium: An introduction**
Yvonne Dohna Schlobitten (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome)

Panel II: The question of Nicaea's authority

- 15.00 **Introduction**
15.15 **The emperor's role at the council**
Henryk Pietras (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome)
16.00 **The post-Nicene controversies**
Uta Heil (University of Vienna)
16.45 **Break**

- 17.00 **The liturgical reception of Nicaea: Creed, canons, and conciliar authority**
Daniel Galadza (Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome)
17.45 **General discussion**
18.15 **End of the first conference day**

Friday, 28 February 2025

Panel III: The reception of the Council in the Eastern traditions

- 9.15 **Introduction**
9.30 **The legacy of a Council: Observations on the liturgical, canonical, and hagiographic traditions of Nicaea in the Coptic Church**
Arsenius Mikhail (St. Athanasius and St. Cyril Theological School, Newport Beach)
10.15 **Nicaea in the Antiochian tradition**
Herman G. B. Teule (KU Leuven)
11.00 **Coffee break**
11.15 **The Council of Nicaea 325: Casting imperial agency in Byzantium**
Michael Grünbart (University of Münster)
12.00 **General discussion**
12.30 **Lunch break**

Panel IV: Nicaea and its metaphysical implications

- 14.30 **Introduction**
14.45 **Thinking "homousion" in the Latin Middle Ages: Thomas and Bonaventure – two different readings**
Sergio P. Bonanni (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome)
15.30 **"He emptied himself by taking the form of a servant" (Phil 2:7): Kenosis christologies and the problem of incarnation**
Michael Seewald (University of Münster)

- 16.15 **Coffee break**
16.45 **Nicaea – seen from the perspective of contemporary metaphysics**
Anna Marmodoro (Saint Louis University)
17.30 **General discussion**
18.00 **End of the second conference day**

Saturday, 1 March 2025

- 8.00 Meeting for the Papal Audience at St Peter's Square*
9.30 **Papal audience**
11.45 **Final discussion and conclusion**
Auditorium of the Augustinianum at St Peter's Square
13.00 **End of the conference**

*Only those who participate in the entire conference can join us for the Papal Audience. It is not possible to register for the Papal Welcome only.