

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 took place from 27 February to 1 March 2025 in Rome; the second will take place 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

**Aula Magna of the Castle
of the University of Münster**
Schlossplatz 2
48149 Münster

Registration for Part 2
by 6 October 2025
nicea325@uni-muenster.de



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

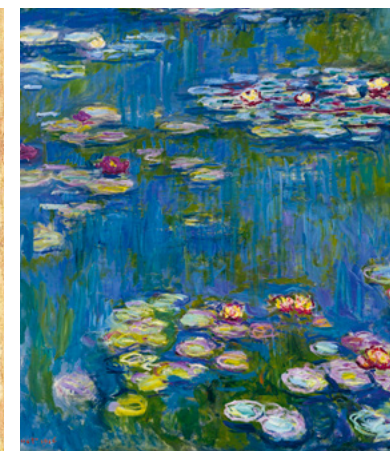


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ReligionandPolitics
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The Confession of the Council of Nicaea: History and Theology



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

Wednesday, 15 October 2025

- 8.00 **Mass in Münster Cathedral**
9.45 **Greetings of the Rector**
Johannes Wessels (University of Münster, Germany)
10.00 **Introduction of the organisers**
Michael Seewald (University of Münster, Germany)
Philipp G. Renczes (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy)

Panel I: Nicaea revisited

- 10.15 **“Between ‘Parting of the Ways’ and ‘Replacement Theology’”. Approaches to Nicaea, 60 years after ‘Nostra Aetate’**
Philipp G. Renczes (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy)
11.00 **Constantinople I and its Reception in the Life and Doctrine of Gregory of Nazianzus**
Ana Cristina Villa Betancourt (Fundación Universitaria Cervantes San Agustín – Unicervantes, Bogotá, Colombia)
11.45 **„In den Heiligen Schriften nirgendwo gefunden ...“ Ansätze biblischer Rechtfertigung des ὁμοούσιος τῷ πατρὶ bis 381**
Matthias Skeb (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy)
12.30 **General discussion**
13.00 **Lunch break**

Panel II: Nicaea in the Protestant and Anglican traditions

- 15.00 **Introduction**
15.15 **Die nizänische Theologie als Wurzel moderner protestantischer Theologieentwicklung**
Friederike Nüssel (University of Heidelberg, Germany)
16.00 **Jesus (Christus) in der zweiten Hälfte des 18. Jahrhunderts**
Thomas K. Kuhn (University of Greifswald, Germany)

- 16.45 **Break**
17.00 **“After the Primitive Christians”: Nicene Orthodoxy as a Compass Point in the Navigation of Anglican Identity**
Ben Quash (King’s College London, United Kingdom)
17.45 **General discussion**
18.15 **End of the first conference day**

Thursday, 16 October 2025

Panel III: The unity of the Church and the plurality of cultures

- 9.15 **Introduction**
9.30 **The Influence of Nicene Thinking for Christian Faith from an Indian and Asian Perspective**
John Pudota Rayappa (Andhra Loyola Institutions, Vijayawada, India)
10.15 **Das Konzil von Nizäa und seine Bedeutung für die afrikanische Theologie – eine postkoloniale Relektüre**
Égide Muziazia (University of Münster, Germany)
11.00 **Coffee break**
11.15 **En el dinamismo de la fe en América Latina: preguntas a Nicea y a la patrística**
Eva Pamela Reyes Gacitúa (Universidad Católica del Norte, Antofagasta, Chile)
12.00 **General discussion**
12.30 **Lunch break**

Panel IV: The confession of Nicaea and the dialogue between religions

- 15.00 **Introduction**
15.15 **Incarnation theories in Eastern religions**
Simone Sinn (University of Münster, Germany)
16.00 **Les concepts christologiques entre Abū ‘Issa al-Warrāq († 861 AD) et Yaḥyā Ibn ‘Adī († 974 AD)**
Nadine Abbas (Université Saint-Joseph, Beyrouth, Lebanon)

- 16.45 **Break**
17.00 **Paradigmenwechsel des Judentums von außen und innen. Das Konzil von Nizäa in der Perspektive der Geschichtswerke von Heinrich Graetz und Simon Dubnow**
Alfred Bodenheimer (University of Basel, Switzerland)
17.45 **General discussion**
18.15 **End of the second conference day**

Friday, 17 October 2025

Panel V: How to talk about Nicaea today?

- 9.15 **Introduction**
9.30 **Nicée, source d’inspiration pour la christologie aujourd’hui?**
Amaury Begasse de Dhaem (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy)
10.15 **Nicea e l’esercizio, ieri e oggi, del “pensiero di Cristo” (1Cor 2,16)**
Piero Coda (Istituto Universitario Sophia, Loppiano/Florence, Italy)
11.00 **Coffee break**
11.15 **Le choix périlleux et prometteur de l’ousia en doctrine trinitaire. Evaluation prospective dans le contexte d’une contraposition entre hénologie et ousiologie**
Vincent Holzer (Institut Catholique de Paris, France)
12.00 **General discussion**
13.00 **Conclusion and farewell**