



Pontificia  
Università  
della  
**SANTA  
CROCE**



ISCOM – Promozione della  
Comunicazione Istituzionale

School of Church Communications

## THE CHURCH UP CLOSE 9<sup>TH</sup> ENGLISH EDITION

# Covering Catholicism in the Age of Francis

SEPTEMBER 9-14, 2024



### WHAT

Religion news occupies an increasingly important place in today's journalism, and many media professionals are seeking keys to unlock a complex institution that sparks enormous public interest: the Catholic Church.

Building on its successful monthly seminars for Rome-based Vatican correspondents, the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome once again offers **The Church Up Close**, a one-week seminar in English for journalists who cover the Vatican from afar.

Combining conferences, workshops, personal encounters, and on-site visits, the seminar is designed to give journalists an array of tools to enhance the quality of their coverage of today's Roman Catholic Church. Here is what participants receive:

- A basic sense of the lay of the land at the Vatican;
- A serious, in-depth analysis of specific hot-button issues;
- A taste of the rich complex history and culture that lies behind contemporary Church affairs;
- A personal introduction to some of the key players in Rome;



- A chance to reflect, in an ideal setting, with journalists from around the world, on the fascinating relationships between religion and the media.

### FOR WHOM

Designed with journalists in mind, the program is also an ideal orientation for new staff at an Embassy to the Holy See. Members of the diplomatic corps are most welcome.

Previous seminars were attended by journalists from media outlets such as, among others, *The New York Times*, *Fox News*, *NBC*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Religion Unplugged*, and *USA Today* (USA), *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Financial Times* and *BBC* (UK), *The Record* (Australia), *The Southern Cross* (South Africa), *CBC* and *The National Post* (Canada), *El Universal* (Venezuela), *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (Switzerland), *O Clarim* (Macau), *The Mainichi Shimbun* (Japan), *Agencia EFE* (Spain) and *Radio Renascença* (Portugal), *Družina* (Slovenia).

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Conferences:** Conference sessions deal with issues of culture and religion (inter-religious dialogue, marriage laws, science and faith, bioethics), the Church and the media (public opinion, Vatican coverage, transparency) and the nature and structure of the Holy See (its organization, and role in international politics).

**Encounters:** Personal encounters create a unique opportunity for journalists to experience the Church up close. Participants

have the chance to meet with key curial officials and leaders from pontifical councils and congregations to expert analysts loaded with a wealth of experience in Church communication and Vatican journalism.

**On-site Visits:** This crash course on the Church in Rome will include visits to St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel, the Historic Center of Rome, as well as visits to the headquarters of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the Vatican Observatory, and the Barracks of the Pontifical Swiss Guard.

## WHEN

From Monday, September 9  
to Saturday, September 14, 2024

## WHERE

The Pontifical University  
of the Holy Cross

Piazza di Sant'Apollinare, 49  
00186 Rome, Italy  
[www.unisantacroce.it](http://www.unisantacroce.it)

## FEES & SCHOLARSHIPS

The seminar fees are € 850 (travel and lodging not included).

A list of nearby hotels may be provided to each seminar participant upon registration. Interested participants have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship.

## WHO

The Church Up Close is organized by the School of Church Communications of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross and the Association ISCOM ([www.iscom.info](http://www.iscom.info)).

The seminar is sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor and counts on the collaboration of the IARJ (International Association of Religion Journalists), the AIGAV (the independent association of journalists accredited by the Holy See), and the academic journal *Church, Communication and Culture*.

## WEBSITE

[www.church-communication.net](http://www.church-communication.net)

*(Program will be regularly updated in the website)*



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Twitter: @ChurchUpClose

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# THE CHURCH UP CLOSE

9<sup>TH</sup> ENGLISH EDITION

SEPTEMBER 9 - 14, 2024 - PROGRAM

## MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>

- 9.00 - 9.45 REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE\*
- 9.45 - 10.15 **Introduction to the Program:  
Getting to Know the Church Up Close\***  
**Rev. Prof. John Wauck**  
Pontifical University of the Holy Cross
- 10.15 - 11.45 **Nature and Mission:  
What Is the Catholic Church?\***  
**Rev. Prof. Paul O'Gallaghan**  
Pontifical University of the Holy Cross
- 12.00 - 13.30 **The Thought of Pope Francis\***  
**Card. Michael Czerny, SJ**  
Prefect  
Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human  
Development
- 13.30 - 14.30 WELCOME LUNCH - BUFFET\*
- 14.45 - 16.15 **The Jubilee Year\***  
**Arch. Rino Fisichella**  
Pro-Prefect  
Dicastery for Evangelization Section  
for Fundamental Questions regarding  
Evangelization in the World
- 16.30 - 18.45 **GUIDED TOUR:  
Historic Center of Rome**  
**Mr. John & Mrs. Ashley Noronha**  
Professors, Art & Architecture Guides

## TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>

- 8.30 - 10.30 **GUIDED TOUR:  
St. Peter's Basilica**  
**Rev. Prof. John Wauck**  
Pontifical University of the Holy Cross
- 11.30 - 13.00 **ENCOUNTER AT THE VENERABLE  
ENGLISH COLLEGE:  
Training Priests for the  
Universal Church**  
**Mgr. Stephen Wang**  
Rector
- 13.15 - 15.15 **WORK LUNCH:  
Who's Who in the College of Cardinals**  
**Mr. Andrea Gagliarducci**  
Vatican Analyst and Journalist
- 16.30 - 17.30 **VISIT TO THE BARRACKS OF THE  
PONTIFICAL SWISS GUARD**

## WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup>

- 9.30 - 11.00 **Doing Diplomacy in the Holy See\***  
**H.E. Christopher Trott**  
British Ambassador to the Holy See
- 11.00 - 11.30 COFFEE BREAK\*
- 11.30 - 13.00 **Christians in the Middle East\***  
**Fr. John Luke Gregory, OFM**  
Custody of the Holy Land
- 13.15 - 15.15 **WORK LUNCH:  
Vatican Communications**  
**Mr. Alessandro Gisotti**  
Deputy Editorial Director  
Dicastery for Communications
- 15.30 - 17.00 **Finance and Economy of the Vatican\***  
**Dr. Benjamín Estévez de Cominges**  
Secretary General  
Secretariat for the Economy
- 17.15 - 18.45 **The Church in Asia\***  
**Fr. Robert McCulloch, SSC**  
Missionary Society of St. Columban







## THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>

- 9.00 - 10.30 **The Diplomatic Corps of the Holy See: How is a Nunzio Made?\***  
**Mgr. Mirosław Stanisław Wachowski**  
 Undersecretary  
 Section for Relations with States of the Secretariat of State
- 10.45 - 11.15 **COFFEE BREAK\***
- 11.30 - 13.00 **The Role of Women in the Church\***  
**Prof. María Dolores Sánchez Galera**  
 Senior Research Advisor  
 Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development
- 13.15 - 15.15 **WORK LUNCH: Dos and Don'ts in Covering the Vatican**  
**Mr. John Allen**  
 Editor - Crux
- 13.15 - 15.15 **WORK LUNCH: L'Osservatore Romano: The Voice of The Vatican**  
**Prof. Andrea Monda**  
 Director
- 15.30 - 17.00 **Human Trafficking and Migrants\***  
**Fr. Fabio Baggio, CS**  
 Undersecretary  
 Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development  
 Section for Migrants and Refugees
- 15.30 - 17.00 **The Church in Africa\***  
**Arch. Fortunatus Nwachukwu**  
 Secretary  
 Dicastery for Evangelization  
 Section of First Evangelization and New Particular Churches
- 17.05 - 17.30 **WALK TO THE VATICAN MUSEUMS**
- 17.30 - 20.00 **GUIDED TOUR: Vatican Museums**  
**Dr. Elizabeth Lev**  
 Art Historian, Author & Tour Guide
- 17.15 - 18.45 **The Church's Response to Sexual Abuse\***  
**Prof. Dr. Irma Patricia Espinosa**  
 Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors

## FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>

- 9.00 - 10.30 **ENCOUNTER AT THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA - GRAND PRIORY OF ROME**
- 11.30 - 13.00 **Reform of the Curia: Historical Context\***  
**Rev. Prof. Roberto Regoli**  
 Pontifical Gregorian University

## SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup>

- 9.00 - 10.00 **BUS TRIP TO CASTEL GANDOLFO**
- 10.30 - 12.00 **ENCOUNTER AT THE VATICAN OBSERVATORY: The Catholic Church and Scientific Culture**  
**Rev. Fr. Richard D'Souza, SJ**  
 Astronomer and Superior of the Jesuit Community
- 13.00 - 15.30 **FAREWELL LUNCH IN CASTEL GANDOLFO**
- 16.30 - 17.30 **BUS TRIP BACK TO ROME**
- END OF SEMINAR**

**NB.** Activities marked with asterisk (\*) are held at the premises of the University.

*Last update: 09 July 2024*