

Amoris Laetitia:

A New Momentum for Moral Formation and Pastoral Practice

BOSTON COLLEGE
CONFERENCE CENTER

2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

OCTOBER 5-6, 2017



The Pope is inviting the Church to a renewed process of moral formation and pastoral practice with regard to marriage and family life that is rooted in Sacred Scripture and the Church's faith. Implicitly, he is also envisioning a wider perspective on renewal that has a broader application for the life of the whole Church. The foundations are absolutely traditional (Scripture and the Church's faith), but what brings the movement forward is a creative recovery of synodality, listening, accompaniment and discernment.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 1 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

8:00 Liturgy of the Eucharist, St. Mary's Chapel

9:00 Welcome: Cardinal Blase Cupich and James F. Keenan, S.J., Conference Center

9:30 - 10:30 First Panel: "Understanding and misunderstanding the scope, the challenge, and the promise of *Amoris Laetitia*."

10:30 - 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 - 11:30 Discussion of First Panel

11:30 Lunch

1:30 - 2:30 Second Panel: "The newness that priests and laity face when they receive *Amoris Laetitia*."

2:30 - 2:45 Coffee break

2:45 - 3:45 Discussion of Second Panel

4:00 - 5:00 Third Panel: "*Amoris Laetitia* in dialogue with the secular, disaffected (North Atlantic) culture."

5:00 - 5:15 Coffee Break

5:15 - 6:00 Discussion of Third Panel

DAY 2 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

8:00 Liturgy of the Eucharist, St. Mary's Chapel

9:00 - 10:00 Fourth Panel: "*Amoris Laetitia* reaches conclusions but, even more, opens up process."

10:00 - 10:15 Coffee Break

10:15 - 11:15 Discussion of Fourth Panel

11:30 Lunch

1:00 - 2:00 Fifth Panel: "The challenges of *Amoris Laetitia* to theologians and pastors."

2:00 - 2:15 Coffee Break

2:15 - 3:15 Discussion of Fifth Panel

3:15 - 3:45 Closing comments by Cardinal Blase Cupich and James Keenan, S.J.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

- 8:00 Liturgy of the Eucharist, St.Mary's Chapel
Seminar, Conference Center, 2101 Commonwealth Ave
- 9:00 Welcome: Cardinal Blase Cupich and James F. Keenan, S.J.
- 9:30-10:30 First Panel: Rev. Kenneth Himes, Moderator

Understanding and misunderstanding the scope, the challenge, and the promise of *Amoris Laetitia*. Here we set the context for the next two days, inviting each of the four speakers to address how they see *Amoris Laetitia* being understood and received from their experiences of multiple cultural backgrounds.

Prof. Natalia Imperatori-Lee, Manhattan College, "How is *Amoris Laetitia* being received?"

Prof. C. Vanessa White, Chicago Theological Union, "How is *Amoris Laetitia* being received?"

Fr. Louis Cameli, Archdiocese of Chicago, "How is *Amoris Laetitia* being received?"

Prof. Cathleen Kaveny, Boston College, "How is *Amoris Laetitia* being received?"

- 10:30-10:45 Coffee break
- 10:45-11:30 Discussion of First Panel: Rev. Kenneth Himes, Moderator
- 11:30 Lunch
- 1:30-2:30 Second Panel: Msgr. John Strykowski, Moderator

The newness that priests and laity face when they receive *Amoris Laetitia*. There are many pieces that are new for priests and laity, e.g. the goal of forming an adult faith, a way of looking at marriage-family life that discloses the presence of God, the role of conscience in the Christian life and taking responsibility for our decisions, dealing with the untidiness of Christian discipleship, looking to Scripture and Tradition to measure, correct, and expand our experience.

Sr. Katarina Schuth, OSF, University of Saint Thomas, "How will this newness play out in priestly and seminary formation?"

Msgr. Jack Alesandro, St. John's University, "How is this newness read by Canon Lawyers?"

Prof. Julie Hanlon Rubio, St. Louis University, "How will this newness play out among the Catholic laity, especially those in second marriages?"

Msgr. Philippe Bordeyne, Rector, L'Institut Catholique, "How does this newness play out in the France?"

2:30-2:45 Coffee Break

2:45-3:45 Discussion of Second Panel: Msgr. John Strynkowski, Moderator

4:00-5:00 Third Panel: Mr. Peter Steinfelds, Moderator

***Amoris Laetitia* in dialogue with the secular, disaffected (North Atlantic) culture.** Believers are immersed in and are deeply affected by this culture. But they can also offer something that many in the culture (e.g. the Nones) intuitively recognize as missing, e.g. genuine love, commitment, and permanence. Pastorally, *Amoris Laetitia* has a great potential to be an instrument of evangelization and a way of animating married couples and families as agents of evangelization. There is some parallel here with *Laudato si'* which takes up a shared (secular and religious) experience of the environment and moves people to an integral ecology.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect for the Dicastery of Laity, Family, and Life, "How is the Dicastery's summons for Evangelization engaging *Amoris Laetitia*?"

Prof. Brian Robinette, Boston College, "How will *Amoris Laetitia* assist the church's engagement with Nones?"

Prof. Meghan Clark, St. John's University, "How will *Amoris Laetitia* assist the church's dialogue among women?"

Prof. Hosffman Ospino, STM, Boston College, "How will *Amoris Laetitia* assist the church's life among the Hispanic communities?"

5:00-5:15 Coffee Break

5:15-6:00 Discussion of Third Panel: Mr. Peter Steinfelds, Moderator

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

8:00 Liturgy of the Eucharist, St.Mary's Chapel

9:00 -10:00 Fourth Panel: Prof. Lisa Sowle Cahill, Moderator

***Amoris Laetitia* reaches conclusions but, even more, opens up process.** In the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, the synodal process (wide consultation of the people of God, prayerful gathering of bishops, the witness of those living marriage and family life, the discernment which led to consensus, and the pastoral leadership of the Holy Father) engages a pastoral approach defined by accompaniment. This has all kinds of implications for Church life from the governance of the universal Church, to local Churches in dioceses, to parishes, and the shared discernment of couples with their pastors.

Prof. Richard Gaillardetz, Boston College, "Does synodality help the Church live out her mission today?"

Bishop Robert McElroy, San Diego, "How successful was the San Diego synod in opening up these processes?"

Fr. Antonio Spadaro, S.J., editor, *Civiltà Cattolica*, "An Italian voyage within the landscape of *Amoris Laetitia*."

10:00-10:15 Coffee Break

10:15-11:15 Discussion of Fourth Panel: Prof. Lisa Sowle Cahill, Moderator

11:30 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Fifth Panel: Prof. Conor Kelly, Moderator

The challenges of *Amoris Laetitia* to theologians and pastors. As a Church we are not only receiving *Amoris Laetitia*, we also need to recognize that there is more work to be done in understanding it and then actually implementing it in formation and pastoral practice. It will be important to identify, as best as we can, what that future pastoral and theological agenda might be.

Bishop Franz-Josef Overbeck, Essen, German Bishops Conference, "What theological resources did the German bishops mine for their reception of *Amoris Laetitia*?"

Archbishop Charles Scicluna, Malta, "What theological resources did the Archdiocese of Malta mine for their reception of *Amoris Laetitia*?"

Archbishop Wilton Gregory, Atlanta, "What do you need from theologians today to respond to the invitation of *Amoris Laetitia*?"

2:00-2:15 Coffee Break

2:15-3:15 Discussion of Fifth Panel: Prof. Conor Kelly

3:15-3:45 Closing comments by Cardinal Blase Cupich and James F. Keenan, S.J.

PARTICIPANTS:

Msgr. Jack Alesandro.....	Diocese of Rockville Centre
Bishop Gerald Barnes.....	Diocese of San Bernardino
Bishop Steven Robert Biegler.....	Diocese of Cheyenne
Msgr. Philippe Bordeyne, Rector.....	Institut Catholique, Paris
Lisa Sowle Cahill.....	Boston College
Fr. Louis J. Cameli.....	Archdiocese of Chicago
John Carr.....	Georgetown University
Meghan Clark.....	St. John's University
Bishop Christopher Coyne.....	Diocese of Burlington
Cardinal Blase Cupich.....	Archdiocese of Chicago
Carlos De La Rosa.....	Porticus NA
Bishop Timothy Doherty.....	Diocese of Lafayette
Cardinal Kevin Farrell.....	Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life
Richard Gaillardetz.....	Boston College
Grant Gallicho.....	Archdiocese of Chicago
Michael Gilligan.....	Henry Luce Foundation
Archbishop Wilton Gregory.....	Archdiocese of Atlanta
Kenneth Himes, O.F.M.	Boston College
Cathleen Kaveny.....	Boston College
Conor Kelly.....	Marquette University
James F. Keenan, S.J.	Boston College
Bishop Gerald Kicanas.....	Diocese of Tuscon
Natalia Imperatori Lee.....	Manhattan College
Andrew W. Lichtenwalner.....	Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth
Bishop Robert McElroy.....	Diocese of San Diego
Bishop Mark O'Connell.....	Archdiocese of Boston
Hosffman Ospino.....	Boston College
Bishop Franz-Josef Overbeck.....	Diocese of Essen
Brian Robinette.....	St. Louis University
Julie Hanlon Rubio.....	St. Louis University
Sr. Katarina Schuth, O.S.F.	University of St. Thomas
Archbishop Charles Scicluna.....	Archdiocese of Malta
Fr. Antonio Spadaro, S.J., Editor.....	Civiltà Cattolica
Margaret Steinfels.....	Fordham University
Peter Steinfels.....	Fordham University
Msgr. John Strykowski.....	Diocese of Brooklyn
Archbishop Charles Thompson.....	Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Archbishop John Wester.....	Archdiocese of Santa Fe
C. Vanessa White.....	Catholic Theological Union