



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

# NEW YORK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

...continuing the Biblical Seminary in New York

## Vatican II - Remembering the Future:

### Ecumenical, Interfaith and Secular Perspectives on the Council's Impact and Promise

May 21-24 2015



You are cordially invited to a major international gathering which will be held at Georgetown University, the National Cathedral and Marymount University in May 2015.

## The Gathering Itself

The aim of this event is to promote global dialogue and understanding across different faiths, different churches, between different nations and between faith communities and secular groups through focusing upon the impact of the historic and groundbreaking event that was the Second Vatican Council (held in Rome between 1962-65), fifty years on. This was the watershed moment when the Roman Catholic Church embraced global dialogue and cooperation with those beyond its own doors. Pope Francis has spoken of Vatican II as 'a beautiful work of the Holy Spirit' and the legacy and work of the council goes on.

The concept of the event planned for 2015 is to explore the council's impact and legacy through the eyes of scholars and practitioners from beyond the Roman Catholic world, followed by perspectives from prominent Roman Catholics.

There will be contributions on the council and its key documents from Christians belonging to other churches, figures from other faith traditions and leading secular thinkers alike. Our hope is for this to be one of the most significant events in the US to mark the end of the cycle of fiftieth-anniversary programs in relation to the Second Vatican Council.

## The Gathering's Program

The focus of the gathering will be broken down thematically for each day as well as around the major council documents. So there will be contributions on the council and its key documents from Christians belonging to other churches, figures from other faith traditions and leading secular thinkers alike.

- Day 1 - Thursday May 21st: *Vatican II - Revisiting the Vision*
- Day 2 - Friday May 22nd: *Opening to the World*
- Day 3 - Saturday May 23rd: *Church and Churches*
- Day 4 - Sunday May 25th: *Religion - Opening to Other Faiths*

The intention is for this event to offer something quite distinct and yet complementary to the numerous other events elsewhere marking the end of the cycle of fiftieth-anniversary programs in relation to the Second Vatican Council.

The final plenary session will be a panel reflecting upon what people might say about the impact and promise of Vatican II fifty years from now, i.e. for the conciliar centenary.

We hope to bring participants from most continents and to involve established scholars as well as emerging voices in the differing fields alike. We will feature speakers who were around during the council itself as well as voices from scholars not yet born when the council closed. The aim is not merely to have academic reflections on dialogue but for participants to engage one another in dialogue during and beyond the gathering itself.

For more details see:

<http://dc2015.ei-research.net/>



## Background Information

The event would be a joint initiative between Georgetown University, the Ecclesiological Investigations International Research Network (EI Network, see [www.ei-research.net](http://www.ei-research.net)), Marymount University, Virginia and other universities, religious institutions and communities in the DC-NOVA-Maryland region.

It will be a major undertaking, also, of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs' Church and World Program and, in particular, its 'Church and the Ecumenical Future' Project. We hope one of the most important parts of the proceedings will be an ecumenical prayer service at Washington's National Cathedral.

This gathering will constitute the Ninth Annual International Conference of the Ecclesiological Investigations Network. We bring together quality research and inspiring debates in ecclesiology worldwide from a network of international scholars, research centres and projects in the field.

Past conferences have been held in Oxford (England), Belgrade (Serbia), Assisi (Italy), Dayton-Ohio (US), Leuven (Belgium), Utrecht (Netherlands), Durham (England), Kottayam (India), Hawarden (Wales).

More detailed information about some of our past events can be viewed at:

<http://assisi2012.ei-research.net>

<http://belgrade2013.ei-research.net/>

<http://oxford2014.ei-research.net/>