

INFINITE DIGNITY, HUMAN FREEDOM AND THE PLACE OF LAW

Tuesday 23 September

9.30 **Introductory Remarks**

Arturo Bellocq, *Pontifical University of the Holy Cross*
Brett Scharffs, *Brigham Young University*
Andrea Pin, *University of Padua*

10.00 **Dignitas infinita. A Christian proposal for a pluralist society**

Riccardo Bollati, *Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith*
D. Todd Christofferson, *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

11:20 Break

11.40 **Common Good, Civic Virtues, and Strong Pluralism**

Dominic Burbidge, *University of Oxford*
Fernando Simón Yarza, *University of Navarra*

13:00 Lunch Break

15.00 **Legal perspectives. What is the meaning of human dignity in human rights?**

Ann Power, *Irish Court of Appeal*
Jean-Pierre Schouppe, *Pontifical University of the Holy Cross*

16:15 Break

16.30 **Roundtable**

Human Dignity in Action: Can a Concept Be a Game-Changer?

CHAIR: Andrea Pin, *University of Padua*
Diego Alonso-Lasheras, *Pontifical Gregorian University*
Leonardo De Chirico, *Istituto di Formazione Evangelica*
Jordi Pujol, *Pontifical University of the Holy Cross*
Brett Scharffs, *Brigham Young University*



The Concept

The 2024 Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith *Dignitas Infinita* is a powerful restatement of the importance of the dignity of human beings and a distillation of old and new implications of the concept, ranging from violence to digital technology. It draws on the contemporary debates on human dignity and the 1965 Vatican II Declaration *Dignitatis Humanae* to update the meaning of dignity in an environment of deep polarization, strained social relations, erosion of the notion of common good, nativism and identitarian narratives, and pervasive technological power. It magnifies the importance of the notion of dignity, showing how its theological roots provide a compass also to navigate contemporary challenges.

The program will use *Dignitas Infinita* as a springboard to investigate the extent to which dignity can protect our common humanity, reconcile estranged social factions, and encourage a healthy relationship between law, morality, and religion.

Speakers will address some of the most debated topics of today: how to make sense of dignity in pluralistic societies; the role of law in protecting human dignity; and how to reconcile the rights of the individual with the need for common good. They will engage in dialogue between different religious and secular traditions of thought to address these common human challenges in a constructive way.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

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