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SANTA CROCE

PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE HOLY CROSS FOUNDATION

THE ETHICAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Fr. Michael Czerny, Undersecretary of the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Vatican's new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, summarized four things that Pope Francis wants for refugees: to "welcome, promote, protect, and integrate." (Fr. LaPorte, Dean of the School of Church Communications on right)

In January, *Santa Croce* hosted a "day of study" on the topic of "Communications about Migrants and Refugees: Between Solidarity and Fear." The conference was promoted and organized by the School of Church Communications, the ISCOM Communications Association, and Harambee Africa International.

The initiative arose "out of the desire to spread information on this topic in a serious way that is respectful of human dignity." It sought to provide clarity on the issue of immigration and refugeeism in order to dispel many commonly held and widely diffused misconceptions. The conference also aimed to provide participants with tools to interpret relevant facts and events. The ultimate goal was to break the boundaries of simplistic news coverage of complex issues, and thereby respect the dignity of the person.

Experts in the field and journalists gathered in Alvaro del Portillo hall to participate in the multilingual event, featuring talks by Fr. Michael Czerny, Undersecretary of the Migrants and Refugees Section of the new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Prof. Diego Contreras from *Santa Croce*'s School of Church Communications, Prof. Paola Springhetti from the Salesian University, and Dr. Jaime Cárdenas, Research Director for Harambee Spain.

Issues discussed ranged from concrete ways to help migrants, the relationship between immigration and public opinion, to the role of ethics in media coverage regarding refugees.

Many answers to complex situations, Fr. Czweny explained, can be summarized in four aspects highlighted by Pope Francis: "The Holy Father has helped a great deal in this area. He has told us that there are four things that must be done: welcome, protect, promote and integrate."

This four-fold outline was proposed by Pope Francis in his

continued

Message for World Day of Peace in 2018. In the August issue of the journal *Church, Communication, and Culture* published by *Santa Croce*'s School of Church Communications, a 29-page case study appeared with the title "Communicating Migration – Pope Francis' Strategy of Reframing Refugee Issues". The study analyzes the Pope's messaging from 12 speeches and written messages on immigration issues between 2014-2018. It also included the following chart citing the Pope's biblical sources.

Prof. Springhetti stated, "Today, the important work of the Church consists also in promoting the idea that societies must be inclusive rather than create divisions. Public opinion today is contrary to this idea; societies do not want to welcome others or be open to them."

The afternoon featured a roundtable discussion among journalists representing publications such as The Times as well as experienced pastoral workers. Participants shared their opinions on how to move beyond sensationalism and stereotypes in media coverage about migrant and refugee issues. The roundtable helped shed light on the importance of clarity in confronting misinformation in this area.

Daniela Pompei represented the Community of Sant'Egidio, an association of the faithful based on prayer focused on the poor and marginalized of society. She explained the importance of avoiding the pitfalls of excessive and one-sided negativity and sensationalism, so as to offer a global perspective that takes into account the dignity of the person.

Santa Croce's Prof. Diego Contreras explained, "It is a matter of fact that a very high percentage of what we call 'fake news' going around social media refers to issues that directly concern immigration."

Prof. Cardenas, speaking about immigration and public opinion, emphasized the Church's ability to come to the aid of the true needs of the human person, in every aspect, explaining, "People who work with the Church have the necessary instruments to help these people in an integral way," in every dimension of their existence.

The Pope has also acknowledged that refugees have the responsibility to "know and respect the laws, culture, and traditions of the countries that take them in." (Francis, homily for WDP, 2018) As the study by Paulina Guzik concludes: "A positive and active concern about those in need is not an optional but a core principle of Christianity, the essence of the Gospel, and one of the consequences of following Jesus. There are different 'technical' options on how to solve their problems, but the Christian approach is that we are responsible for these brothers and sisters of ours. We have a moral duty to them, based on the Gospel."

MILEPOST	ACTION	SOURCE
welcoming	• expanding legal pathways for entry • cease pushing migrants towards countries where they face violence • balance concern for national security with the concern for fundamental human rights	**"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."** (Hebrews 13:2)
protecting	• recognizing and defending the inviolable dignity of those who flee real dangers in search of asylum and security • prevent exploitation, especially of women and children.	**"The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the orphan and the widow"** (Psalm 146:9)
promoting	• support the integral human development of migrants and refuges • ensure access to all levels of eduction for children and young people*	**[God] "loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt"** (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)
integrating	• allow refugees and migrants to participate fully in the life of the society that welcomes them, as part of a process of mutual enrichment	**You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people"** (Ephesians 2:19)

* Paula Guzik (2018) Communicating Migration – Pope Francis'Strategyu of Reframing Refugee Issues, Church, Communication and Culture, 3:2, 106-135. to view the article, see www.doi.org/10.1080/23753234.2018.1478230

THE LOVING RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTAL AUTHORITY

In March, *Santa Croce*'s Center for Juridical Studies on the Family, associated with the School of Canon Law, hosted its second annual Day of Study. This year's topic centered around the question, "Parental Authority: A Limit or a Right of Children?"

The conference explored the juridical aspects inherent in the parent-child relationship from an interdisciplinary perspective. The importance of such a topic is clear and particularly relevant in today's society where many aspects of this relationship are undervalued, undermined and attacked.

With this cultural context in mind, the talks touched on some of the most pressing threats to the parent-child relationship today, in order to foster a mature discussion on ways that the truth, beauty and goodness pertaining to this relationship can be advanced in society.

The interdisciplinary approach, a hallmark feature of the Center's Days of Study thus far, shows the benefits of studying the family in a multifaceted way, incorporating theological, philosophical, juridical, psychological and sociological perspectives.

As Rev. Prof. Luis Navarro, Rector of *Santa Croce*, explained, "The contribution of various disciplines is crucial because the family is a reality that is characterized by the fact that so many different points of view allow for a better understanding of what exactly it means to be a parent and to be a child."

Among the various elements discussed were the imago Dei in the parent-child relationship, presented by *Santa Croce*'s Rev. Prof. Giulio Maspero; social-psychological profiles of the family in Western society, presented by Milan's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart's Prof. Raffaella Iafrate; and family lineage in European juridical systems, presented by Prof. Montserrat Gas Aixendri of the International University of Catalonia. Other presentations examined some of the anthropological aspects of parenthood, and the common psychological crises related to being a parent in today's world. Italy's Authority for Children and Adolescents, Mrs. Filomena Albano, was also present and participated in the conference.

Fr. Giulio Maspero, from our School of Theology, addressed the conference on social-psychological profiles of the family in Western society.

The contributions highlighted the importance of authority in the parental role, understood not in the sense of authoritarianism but as loving responsibility. As *Santa Croce*'s Rev. Prof. Francesco Russo explained, "A father is not just a friend. He is a father, and he must take on this role of a guide who helps his children to understand rules and limitations because this alone will allow his children to experience freedom."

Fr. Francesco Russo (School of Theology) explained, "It is necessary to recognize that parental authority is not an obstacle to our freedom. Rather, it is the foundation of this freedom."

The Day of Study offered fruitful reflections on both the need for this type of authority, especially in today's society, and the possibility of its realization. As Prof. Maspero explained, "Parents today carry a great burden, thanks to our culture. I think that theology can provide a sense of direction in this respect. Parents are not on their own; we can say that they are in a community with God."

CHRISTIAN FAITH AND THE CHALLENGES OF SCIENCE

A Day of Study was hosted by *Santa Croce*'s Religious Sciences Institute with the special focus: the relationship between science and religion, especially reflecting on the encyclical Fides et ratio (Faith and Reason) two decades after its promulgation. The theme was further developed in the final installment of a four-part seminar series presented by *Santa Croce*'s International Superior School for Interdisciplinary Research.

The Day of Study, organized in collaboration with *Santa Croce*'s interdisciplinary "Science, Theology and the Ontological Quest Project," explored the topic of the relationship between the Christian faith and general philosophical thought, with special reference to the challenges posed by scientific inquiry. With this objective, the lecturers addressed questions such as the nature, validity and limits of scientific rationality, the object of the knowledge provided by faith, the nature of philosophical reason, and the path from science to faith.

Santa Croce's professor of theology, Fr. Marco Vanzini, asked, "What do we truly know thanks to our faith? Answering this question is the necessary foundation that maintains the reason of our faith in the face of two contrary provocations: secularized culture and relativism."

The International Superior School for Interdisciplinary Research (SISRI) also hosted a four-part seminar series during the 2018-2019 academic year. SISRI was erected at *Santa Croce* as an interdisciplinary school of formation in humanistic culture and philosophical-theological studies for students with a prior degree. The overarching theme of that series centered around "The Perception of the Foundation of Scientific Culture," with the premise that "Since the origins of human culture, philosophical reflection on the cosmos and on life in general has led to hypotheses regarding a cause or foundation that might justify the existence and origin of the world."

That seminar series was organized in a progressive way, presenting the evolution of thought regarding the existence and identity of such a cause. The first seminar addressed the theme of "Chaos and Chance: The Absence of a Foundation," while the second focused on the pantheistic visions of history that consider the cosmos to be an organic whole where every element is interconnected.

The third installment focused on the deistic perspective of the history of science, presenting the evolution and historical diversity of thought regarding the need for an intelligent cause providing order to the cosmological and biological complexities of nature.

The series culminated with a seminar presented by *Santa Croce*'s Professor of Systematic Theology, Fr. Giuseppe Tanzella-Nitti, who discussed "The Creating Word: The Creator God of the Judeo-Christian Tradition," explaining, "Even before pre-Socratic philosophers began speculating about the beginning of all natural realities, before scientific thought began to analyze nature according to the principles of rationality, the Judeo-Christian tradition affirmed that at the Basis of the world there is a creating Word, a personal Wisdom."

This basic and foundational Christian truth is, naturally, of great import for scientific inquiry as well, as Fr. Tanzella-Nitti explained. "Many significant consequences for scientific thought derived from this vision. In this way, the idea that there are rational and stable natural laws in the universe was propagated, in addition to the idea that the evolution of the cosmos and of life itself are sustained by a finalistic principle, that history has a beginning and tends toward an end. Last but not least is the consequence that the universe, because it is the effect of a personal word, transmits a message and can reveal to us something about its Author."

NEVER FORGET THE POOR

Fr. Jeffrey Kirby is a busy man. In addition to his pastoral responsibilities at Our Lady of Grace Parish near Lancaster, South Carolina, he is an author (13 books), radio and television speaker, adjunct professor of theology, and weekly contributor to the CRUX news site "Taking the Catholic Pulse".

He earned a BA in History and an MA in Philosophy at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. From there he went to Rome to earn a Theology degree at the Pontifical Gregorian University, an MA in Bioethics at the Pontifical Athenaeum Queen of the Apostles, a Licentiate in Moral Theology at *Santa Croce*, and finally a Doctorate in Sacred Theology from *Santa Croce* in 2016.

Since his ordination in 2007, he has been a high school chaplain, scout chaplain, religion teacher, and the Vocations Director for South Carolina. Considering the discipline required to manage all these activities, it is not surprising that Fr. Kirby grew up in a military family and served for six years in the Army National Guard.

Today he is the pastor of a large parish about an hour south of Charlotte, NC, a city that is experiencing rapid growth as a center for banking and other businesses. Although only 4% of people in South Carolina are Catholics, the parish is steadily increasing. People from Mexico and South America immigrate to the area to fill construction jobs, and retirees and young families from the Northeast and Midwest arrive looking for a low-cost and low-tax place to live.

Drawing from his time at *Santa Croce*, Fr. Kirby cites three lessons that guide his pastoral work:

1. Be holy where you are now (not worrying about the future)
2. Always seek to be a leader in every situation
3. Never forget the poor or those in need

In October 2016, Fr. Jeffrey Kirby was honored with the Order of the Palmetto from the Governor of South Carolina for his work with young adults. As the vocations director for the Diocese of Charleston from 2010 – 2015, he saw his job as offering "discipleship leading to discernment", whether to the priesthood or any other vocation. Part of the call to discipleship included service to the poor.

Our Lady of Grace parish was built in 2016 as the spiritual home to 300 families. Today there are 1,000 families enrolled. They have purchased 53 acres of land with the intention of expanding parish facilities.

Our Lady of Grace tithes their weekly income to local charities with whom they partner in social outreach, in addition to having its own vibrant soup kitchen ministry, prison ministry, and pro-life ministry. These are called "non-negotiables" says Fr. Kirby since 63% of the people in Lancaster County live below the poverty line. This includes the people of a Spanish-speaking sister parish, which is also supported by Our Lady of Grace.

To keep up with all the demands of a busy parish, Fr. Kirby abstains from modern distractions such as television or video games. He also finds inspiration from the life and spirituality of St. Josemaría, the founder of Opus Dei, as well as the impact of his professors and classmates from *Santa Croce*.

"Never forget what one Christian can do," he says, "It's not rocket science. You just have to say 'yes' and stay focused."

Fr. Kirby on EWTN

I SAID 'YES' TO GOD'S PLAN...

Orlando Paul Alvarado Silva, a seminarian from the Diocese of Ciudad Victoria, Mexico, is on his way to completing his first year of studies in Theology at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross.

His vocation story began when he was a young child. "Unaware of what the future had in store for me," Orlando explains, "I promised God that I would be a priest for His Church. Over time, this idea disappeared, and in my adolescence I desired to have a family, a good salary, and to be able to take vacations and live a life of constant rest."

After resisting what he continued to feel was his true vocation to the ministerial priesthood for many years, ashamed and fearing the judgment of his peers, Orlando's life changed completely on the day of now-St. John Paul II's beatification. "When I was listening to the ceremony, something was stirred up in me along with thoughts about the world and those who suffer and how I would be able to help through the priesthood. There are no words to describe this moment. I didn't care about my own comfort, and the very next day I decided to forget about everything superfluous in my life and follow something that is truly important."

Orlando Paul Alvarado Silva, seminarian

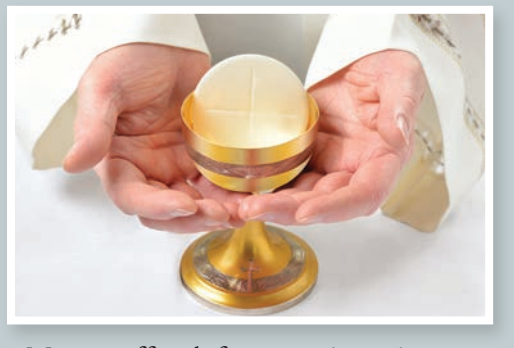
After eight years in the seminary, Orlando continued to see the endless grace of God in his vocational path, which has ultimately led him to complete his studies at *Santa Croce*. "My time at *Santa Croce* has had a deep impact on me," Orlando reflects. "For the first time I have experienced the proper relationship between the areas of fraternal bonds and the intellect."

Orlando has also been touched by the universality of the Church and its strong manifestation in the University. "It is very impressive to see how students from all different nationalities can be in communion and share ideas with one another, all in favor of the universal Church. We are all the Church, we are truly one body, seeking to bring the salvation of Christ to all of humanity."

Orlando sees the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross as an essential element of his formation in light of his important mission: "This great mission that God has begun in me is being brought to completion in a place that allows me to grow as a person, intellectually and spiritually, so that I may undertake pastoral service in my diocese," where priests are especially called to be consolers to victims of drug trafficking, violence and war, and to announce the infinite mercy of God, while also calling sinners to conversion.

Orlando is extremely grateful for his vocation and for his time at *Santa Croce*. **"I said 'yes' to God's plan for me, in the same way that all those who help me on this path have said 'yes', providing material and spiritual support, so that the Church may have many, holy priests."**

Holy Mass Intentions



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St. John Paul II greeting Bl. Alvaro Del Portillo.

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From all the World to All the World

Our students are tremendously grateful for the unique opportunity they have to attend *Santa Croce*. They study with world-renowned thinkers, and they make friends from every continent – all within an easy stroll of the Vatican, the Pantheon, and the countless other treasures of the Eternal City, and more importantly, all done for the glory of God and the good of His holy Church.

"I am very happy with the environment at *Santa Croce*. It is joyful, and teaching and studies are lived out with the utmost seriousness. I am touched by the passion for teaching and learning from my professors, who seek holiness through their work and are always available to help students. I will carry in my heart this love for work, and the gentleness I have observed here."

Duc Do Minh
Hanoi, Vietnam
Philosophy

"One thing that has impacted me during my time at *Santa Croce* is the theme of the Passion of Christ, the Cross. The professors touch on this topic a lot, and I have come to understand that my suffering is taken up in the sufferings of Christ and that I can offer up this suffering on my path to holiness."

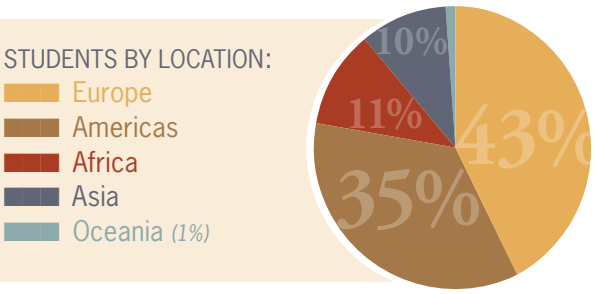
Fr. Cecilio Sánchez
Dominican Republic
Theology

"I am very fortunate to be able to study Canon Law at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. The professionality, availability, and kindness of my instructors is a sign of their holiness. In this way, *Santa Croce* is not just a place to follow intellectual pursuits, but also a school of spiritual growth."

Fr. Pietro Wei Huan
Shuozhou, China
Canon Law

Santa Croce's 1,485 students hail from 86 different countries!

On behalf of all our students, THANK YOU!
Your help makes a world of difference!



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