



**The Centre for Advanced Research in Catholic Thought (CARCT)**  
*at King's University College, London, Ontario, Canada*

*Proposes a conference around the theme*

## **Catholicism after Five Years of a Francis Papacy**

**Date: March 23-24 (Friday-Saturday), 2018**

### **Keynote Speakers**

**Dr. Paul Lakeland**, Professor at Fairfield University, Connecticut, President-elect of the Catholic Theological Society of America

Lecture Title: Understanding Pope Francis: Dialogue, Ideology and Hermeneutical Suspicion.

*(in his words) I would talk about Francis's distaste for what he calls ideology, which helps to explain many of his positions, even some of those I would have trouble defending. I think the best label for him might be a "gospel pragmatist." Like Jesus, I think he would say.*

**Rev. Dr. John Markey, OP**, Associate Professor of Theology at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas

Lecture Title: The Francis Option: St. Francis, Pope Francis and the Spirituality of Encounter

*(in his words) After initially exploring Rod Dreher's provocative and very successful book The Benedict Option, I would explore how Pope Francis has chosen the spirituality of the Mendicants rather than traditional Monasticism as the primary vision of approaching the mission of the Church in the contemporary global (and not merely Western) context*

### **Call for Papers:**

March 2018 marks five years since Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio was elected the 266<sup>th</sup> successor of St. Peter after a surprising resignation by Pope Benedict XVI the previous month. This conference, organized by the Centre for Advanced Research in Catholic Thought (CARCT) at King's University College, aims to reflect on the state of Catholicism after five years of Pope Francis' pontificate. We would like to invite papers that would put the spotlight on key areas of Catholicism or the broad Catholic tradition and proceed to analyze and reflect on how Pope Francis and his style of being pope have impacted and changed those areas, as well as what that might mean for the future of the Catholic tradition vis-à-vis the wider contemporary world.

Possible areas to be addressed (not exhaustive) are:

- Social Justice and Peace Issues
- Liturgy
- Sex, marriage, and family life issues (in light of the encyclical *Amoris Laetitia*)
- Ecology (in light of the encyclical *Laudato Si*)
- Ecclesiology – reform of the Roman Curia, etc.
- Francis as Seen from Outside the Catholic Church
- Francis and “anti-Francis” elements in the Catholic Church
- Other salient aspects of the Francis pontificate and its effect on the broad Catholic tradition and the contemporary world

We envision the conference to be an occasion for presenters to develop their topics in a more detailed (than usual) way (hence, 25-30 minute presentations) and for everyone in the sessions to have more ample time for a meaningful theological conversation.

We would like to address in a special way this call for papers (for those who would like to present), as well as a warm invitation to attend and participate in this conference, to local friends of CARCT here in London, Ontario as well as other Southern and Southwestern Ontario theological and religious studies institutions, in particular:

- The whole King’s University College community
- The St. Peter’s Seminary community
- The Roman Catholic Diocese of London
- Our friends at Huron University College, Brescia University College and Western University
- Our friends in Windsor, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, Toronto and other proximate areas

***Please forward this announcement to anyone and everyone who, you think, would be interested to present at or attend this conference. We hope to see you in March!***

### **Guidelines for Paper Proposals:**

- Proposals should be no more than 500 words.
- Include a 100 word précis
- Provide your name, institution and contact information, including e-mail
- Indicate whether you require A/V equipment
- **Deadline for Paper Proposals is December 8, 2017 (Friday)**
- Please submit your proposals electronically to Dr. Julius-Kei Kato, [CARCT@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:CARCT@kings.uwo.ca)
- You will be notified whether your proposal has been accepted by **December 22, 2017**.