

Press Release by Centre for Catholic Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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International Symposium to mark the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Propaganda Fide, the Holy See's Evangelization Organ, August 24-26, 2022

June 28, 2022

Centre for Catholic Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Macau Ricci Institute co-organize an international symposium with the theme: “The Doors that Propaganda Fide has opened since 1622.” It will take place *online* on August 24-26. Cardinal Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle, Pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, will be the keynote speaker; six panels of speakers, composed of practising missionaries and expert scholars from Asia, Europe and America, will present on the history of evangelization in specific contexts; the landscape of contemporary communication; East-West cultural exchange with lessons for the Church as missionary today.

Participation is open and free. The medium of language will be English. Please register in order to take part in the live webinar.

In 1622 the Catholic Church created *Propaganda Fide* (Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith) to reach new lands and peoples, and in so doing hoping to bypass the influence of then-dominant empires of Spain and Portugal. This pivotal establishment in Church history as well as world

history has significance that extends over the fields of evangelization, communication, science, and cultural exchange.

To celebrate this important anniversary, Centre for Catholic Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong is co-organizing the symposium with Macau Ricci Institute to reflect on histories of the Churches in Korea, Japan, Indonesia and China; relations between the “peripheries” and the “center”; the tensions between missionary adaptation and theological orthodoxy; and the delicate manoeuvring between religious and state interests.

Propaganda Fide was renamed the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples after the Second Vatican Council. This June Pope Francis introduces the reform of the Roman Curia which has at its heart the conversion of the Church to being missionary. The newly restructured Dicastery for Evangelization will embrace the mission *ad gentes* (to nations) as well as the new evangelization of peoples who have already encountered the Gospel.

At the beginning of the 21st century, we also live in a time of groundbreaking technological and social innovations, of fraught geopolitical relations. The missionary encounters, scientific mediation and cultural exchanges that flourish, as well as near misses or backfires that began 400 years ago carry vital lessons on how to sustain the Church’s missionary journey today!

Among the expert-panelists, there will be Dr. Claudia von Collani (professor of Missiology and Dialogue of Religions at the University of Würzburg, Germany), Dr. Eugenio Menegon (archival researcher pertaining to Propaganda Fide, and the history of Catholic missions in China and East Asia; Boston University, USA), Dr. Francis L.F. Lee (professor of the School of Journalism and Communication, CUHK, specializing in media and social movement), Dr. Anthony Sui-Ki Lam (veteran observer of the Church in China; Journalism and Mass Communication at Hong Kong Shue Yan University), Fr. Bernardo Cervellera, PIME (veteran journalist and missionary), Dr. Qi Han (professor of History at Zhejiang University, with special focus on the transmission of Western science during the Kangxi and Qianlong reigns), Fr. Gianni Criveller, PIME (theologian specializing in the encounter

between China and Christianity), Fr. Thierry Meynard, SJ (vice-director of the Archive for the Introduction of Western Knowledge, at Sun Yat-Sen University).

The complete program is published on the website of Centre for Catholic Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong:

<https://bit.ly/3A6ikQV>