



VYTAUTAS
MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of
Catholic Theology

THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA 1700 YEARS LATER

International Academic Conference on the 1700th Anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council

3 October 2025 | Kaunas, Lithuania

CALL FOR PAPERS

2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the world's first Ecumenical Council, the Council of Nicaea. In 325, Christian bishops representing all of Christendom gathered in Nicaea (modern-day İznik, Turkey) to settle dogmatic disputes about the nature of God and other concerns of the entire Christian world. The Council Fathers formulated the beginning of what is now known as the Nicene Creed, established canons for governing the Church and resolved other disputed questions of the Christian community. The Council of Nicaea is not only a key moment in the history of Christianity, but remains a wellspring for theological reflection and the life and practice of the Christian faith. The anniversary of Nicaea offers an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the affirmation of faith in the Nicene Creed and the significance of the twenty canons of the Council.

We invite proposals for original scholarly papers on the Council of Nicaea, including its history; the theological, ecclesiastical, and political challenges surrounding the Council; and the history of its reception and its impact on theology, pastoral and liturgical practice, and personal devotion, etc. This conference aims to be interdisciplinary and ecumenical; as such, we encourage submissions from theologians, historians, philosophers, and scholars in other related fields, and we welcome Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant participants.

The conference will consist of a morning plenary session (30-40 min. presentations) and an afternoon session organized according to the following themes: 1. theological / philosophical; 2. historical / political; 3. art / linguistic (15-20 min. presentations). Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- History of the Council of Nicaea and the *Rezeptionsgeschichte* (reception-history) of its resolutions in different times and places;
 - The Council of Nicaea as a foundation for the development of theological language;
 - The influence of modern theological terms and concepts on reinterpretations of the Council of Nicaea;
 - Comparisons of Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant interpretations of Nicaea with contemporary approaches;
 - The relationship between politics and theology, at Nicaea and today;
 - The role of the Council of Nicaea in Canon Law today
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Keynote Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Cyril Hovorun is a Professor in Ecclesiology, International Relations and Ecumenism at University College Stockholm (Stockholm, Sweden), director of the Huffington Ecumenical Institute at Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles, USA) and a visiting professor at Pontificia Università Gregoriana (Rome, Italy).

More than 500 pieces of his research and journalism have been published in 30 languages. His books include *Eastern Christianity in Its Texts* (London: T&T Clark, 2022); *Political Orthodoxies: The Unorthodoxies of the Church Coerced* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2018); *Meta-Ecclesiology, Chronicles on Church Awareness* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015); *From Antioch to Xi'an: an Evolution of 'Nestorianism'* (Hong Kong: Chinese Orthodox Press, 2014).

Dr. Saulius Rumšas OP is a Dominican friar. He holds a Licentiate in Orthodox theology and a PhD in Catholic theology. Dr. Rumšas is a Senior Researcher at the Department of Ancient and Medieval Studies at the Lithuanian Culture Research Institute. His research interests include Patristics, dogmatic theology (especially the Trinity and Christology), and Christian anthropology.

Recent publications include: „Theological-Anthropological Aspects of Gregory of Nyssa's *Homilies on the Beatitudes*” (*LOGOS*, 2016), „Is man created in the image and/or in the likeness of God? Theological challenges of Basil of Caesarea's commentary on Gen 1:26-27” (*Lietuvių katalikų mokslo akademijos metraštis*, 2022), „Basil of Caesarea *versus* or *adversus* Origen? Once more on the creation of man in the likeness of God (Gen 1:26-27)” (*Lietuvių katalikų mokslo akademijos metraštis*, 2023), *Theōsis. Concepts of deification from Antiquity to Modern Times* (LKTI, 2024).

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All participants are welcome to attend in person. There will also be an opportunity to present remotely (online). The conference will be conducted in English and Lithuanian (with simultaneous English interpretation). Papers will be considered for publication in *Soter*, the interdisciplinary journal of religious sciences of the theology faculty at Vytautas Magnus University.

The Call for Papers is open until 1 June 2025. Please submit abstracts (up to 200 words) to: paulius.cerka@vdu.lt

Date of conference: 3 October 2025.

Place: Vytautas Magnus University (VMU), Faculty of Catholic Theology (Gimnazijos st. 7, Kaunas, 44260, Lithuania)

A warm welcome from the Faculty of Catholic Theology,

Dr. Paulius Čerka

Head of the Conference Academic Committee
