

The International Academy for Marital Spirituality (INTAMS) is a non-profit organization, founded in Belgium in 1989 and located near Brussels, Belgium. Drawing on and committed to the intellectual and cultural heritage of Christianity, INTAMS is dedicated to the study of and dialogue about the meaning and relevance of marriage in the context of contemporary society.

#### INTAMS' working principles

- Academic & Interdisciplinary
- Independent, ecumenical & international
- Integrating theory & praxis

#### INTAMS' activities

INTAMS Chair for the Study of Marriage & Spirituality at the Theology Faculty of the Catholic University Leuven

- carries out teaching and academic research in the field of theory and spirituality of marriage.

INTAMS Library, located at the Theology Library of the Catholic University Leuven

- offers an international and interdisciplinary collection of books and journals pertaining to the field of marriage and related subjects.

INTAMS review, Journal for the Study of Marriage & Spirituality (a semi-annual, international refereed journal, published since 1995)

- documents new theological and philosophical trends in the various approaches to marriage and the family.

INTAMS Events (conferences, symposia, seminars, colloquia, lectures)

- promotes the interdisciplinary and international dialogue and networking on marriage and its spirituality.

INTAMS Research Projects & Publications



## Registration & Information

#### Target audience

The Symposium is open to all who are interested in this theme. Translation is provided from and into English and Italian.

#### Fees

Registration before 15 August 2015: €120

Registration after 15 August 2015: €150

Payment on site upon arrival: €180 (only in cash and in only in euros!)

#### Registration

Send the following information to [seminar@intams.org](mailto:seminar@intams.org):

- participant name(s)
- affiliation
- full address(es)
- e-mail(s)
- the total amount of payment
- the method of payment: bank transfer or PayPal

**To ensure that registration is as efficient as possible, make sure to provide us with complete information!**

#### Payment

To confirm your registration, please pay the required fee within 3 days of sending us your registration email.

##### Bank

Name: INTAMS

IBAN: BE06 4364 1519 5122

BIC: KREDBEBB

Reference: SYMP15 + name(s) of participant(s)

##### PayPal

If you indicate that you wish to use PayPal, we will send you an invitation to pay by email.

#### Arrivals

Thursday 10 September between 13.00 and 15.30 at:

Roma Eventi, Fontana di Trevi Congress Centre,

Piazza della Pilotta 4, 00187 Rome, Italy.

[www.roma-eventi.com](http://www.roma-eventi.com)

#### Travel & Accommodation

Participants are required to take care of their own travel arrangements, accommodation and meals.

Information can be found at [www.intams.org](http://www.intams.org)

#### For all further information

contact the Symposium secretariat:



## Faithful Voices, Discerning Hearts: Marriage and Family in Church and Society

International Symposium

10-12 September 2015

Voci fedeli, cuori lungimiranti:  
Matrimonio e famiglia nella Chiesa  
e nella società

# Faithful Voices, Discerning Hearts: Marriage and Family in Church and Society

## Theme

At the conclusion of the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2014 Pope Francis has prescribed to the whole Church a year's journey in order to "mature, with true spiritual discernment, the proposed ideas and to find concrete solutions to so many difficulties and innumerable challenges that families must confront and to give answers to the many discouragements that surround and suffocate families".

If the Church's wisdom and teaching is to prove relevant, beneficial and even salvific, as the Pope expects, it has to grow in the understanding of what has been handed down from the times of the apostles and take seriously the lived reality of marriage and family life today.

This can't be done, however, without listening to the voices of all the faithful, especially those in families and committed relationships who day by day live their faith and hope in an authentic way. Attention must also be paid to the "contemplation and study made by believers, who treasure these things in their hearts" - a phrase which the Second Vatican Council uses to describe the work of academic theologians [*Dei Verbum*, 8].

Building upon its longstanding expertise in combining academic reflection and lived experiences of marriage and family life, INTAMS has gratefully accepted Pope Francis's invitation and would like to share some of the outcomes of its study and discernment on the eve of the upcoming Ordinary Assembly of the Bishops' Synod in October 2015.

This international Symposium, which is open to everyone interested, will provide renewed reflection as well as fresh perspectives on a number of issues that need to be addressed, such as the relation between doctrine and pastoral practice, the sense of the faithful, an ethics of mercy, and indissolubility in the context of a contemporary theology of marriage.



Nancy Sandler: Family Abstract (detail)

## Programme

### Thursday 10 September

- 13.00 - 15.30 Registration  
15.30 - 16.00 Welcome and introduction by **Aldegonde Brenninkmeijer-Werhahn**, Director of INTAMS  
16.00 - 16.30 Opening address by **Oscar Cardinal Rodríguez Maradiaga**, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras

#### First session: Church Doctrine and Pastoral Care

- 16.30 - 17.15 **Conversational Methods of Discernment: Learning for Mission from the Domestic Church**  
**Clare Watkins**, University of Roehampton, London, UK  
17.15 - 17.45 Response by **Emmanuel Agius**, University of Malta  
17.45 - 18.30 Plenary Discussion

### Friday 11 September

- 08.30 - 09.00 Prayer Session

#### Second session: Indissolubility and Theology of Marriage

- 09.15 - 10.00 **Individua Coniunctio - What does Indissoluble Marriage Mean in Times of Individual Freedom?**  
**Andrea Grillo**, Pontificio Ateneo Sant' Anselmo, Roma  
10.00 - 10.30 Response by **Eberhard Schockenhoff**, University of Freiburg, Germany  
10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break  
11.00 - 11.45 Plenary Discussion  
12.00 - 13.00 Language Group Discussions  
13.00 - 14.30 Break

#### Third session: An Ethics of Mercy

- 14:30 - 15:00 *Recollectio Synodi*  
15.00 - 15.45 **Landmarks for a Christian Ethics of Gradualness**  
**Roger Burggraeve**, KU Leuven, Belgium  
15.45 - 16.15 Response by **Jochen Sautermeister**, University of Munich, Germany  
16.15 - 16.45 Coffee break  
16.45 - 18.45 **The Church I Live in Today, and the Church I Long for Tomorrow**  
Panel Session\* chaired by **Mary McAleese**, former President of Ireland  
Followed by Plenary Discussion

\* The panel will be composed of a married couple with children and a double career (Netherlands), a person living in a single state (France), a divorced-remarried couple (Italy), a parent of homosexual children (UK), a cohabitating couple planning to get married (Poland)

### Saturday 12 September

- 08.15 - 09.00 Holy Mass - Caravita Church, Via del Caravita 7, 00186 Rome

#### Fourth session: The Sense of the Faithful

- 09.30 - 10.15 **Church Teaching on Marriage and Family: A Matter of *Sensus Fidelium*?**  
**Thomas Knieps**, INTAMS/KU Leuven, Belgium  
10.15 - 10.45 Response by **Serena Noceti**, Istituto Superiore di Scienze Religiose, Facoltà teologica dell'Italia Centrale, Firenze  
10.45 - 11.15 Coffee break  
11.15 - 12.15 Plenary Discussion  
12.15 - 12.45 *Recollectio Synodi* and Conclusion