

## FALL 2024 &amp; SPRING 2025 VIRTUAL EVENTS – MID-YEAR GATHERINGS

*Ad Hoc* Board Committee on Virtual Events:

Mary Kate Holman, Eli McCarthy, SimonMary Asese Aihikhai

Fall Topic: Teaching Catholic Theology in the Present Political Moment  
 Date: October 22, 2024  
 Moderator: Mary Kate Holman, Fairfield University  
 Presenters: Leocadie Lushombo, i.t., Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University  
 Mia E. Theocharis, University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto  
 Eric Martin, University of California, Los Angeles and Loyola Marymount University

Spring Topic: Sanctuary and Solidarity: Catholic Theology in the Face of Mass Deportation

Date: March 31, 2025  
 Moderator: Eli McCarthy, Georgetown University  
 Presenters: Leo Guardado, Fordham University  
 Brett C. Hoover, Loyola Marymount University  
 Tisha Rajendra, Loyola University Chicago

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the Society continued the practice of holding two online gatherings. The sessions were organized by a committee composed of Mary Kate Holman (Fairfield University and Chair), Eli McCarthy (Georgetown University), and SimonMary Asese Aihikhai (University of Portland). Both meetings were well attended by members of the Society.

The theme of the first meeting was “Teaching Catholic Theology in the Present Political Moment.” It met on October 22, 2024. This conversation brought together three scholars with politically-engaged research and teaching experience to explore resources and strategies for engaging challenging political conversations in Catholic theology courses, particularly during the 2024 US presidential election cycle. The event featured Léocadie Lushombo, Eric Martin, and Mia Theocharis. Each speaker drew on their scholarship, teaching, and activism to suggest approaches for addressing in our classrooms anti-immigrant rhetoric, creeping fascism, and antisemitism, respectively.

The theme of the second meeting was “Sanctuary and Solidarity: Catholic Theology in the Face of Mass Deportation.” It met on March 31, 2025. The session took as a starting point Catholic Social Teaching’s strong defence of migration as a human right and the fact that this right is under acute and heightened threat in our present political context. The panelists, Leo Guardado, Brett Hoover, and Tisha Rajendra, addressed how Catholics can apply the principles of CST into actionable practice. There was a strong focus on how Catholic persons and institutions can shift from theoretical to practical sanctuary and solidarity. The conversation surfaced many

resources, which MaryJane Ponyik, CTSA Executive Director, compiled and made available on the CTSA Newsfeed for the membership and general public.

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