

Speaker Bios

Ackermann, Stephan (Mgr. Dr) is Bishop of Trier, Germany. He studied theology in Trier, Frankfurt (Sankt Georgen) and Rome (Gregorian) and earned a doctorate in ecclesiology for his doctoral thesis entitled “Church as a Person” (*Kirche als Person*, Würzburg: Echter, 2001) with Medard Kehl SJ as his Doktorvater. After having been director of the Seminary St. Lambert in Lantershofen, he became auxiliary bishop of Trier in 2006 and was ordained bishop of Trier in 2009, succeeding Reinhard Marx. On 29 June 2012, Bishop Ackermann proclaimed a diocesan synod that was constituted on 13 and 14 December 2013. It was the first synod in the diocese of Trier for almost 50 years and was concluded in 2015. The implementation of the decisions of this diocesan synod is still an ongoing process in his diocese.

Becquart, Nathalie XMCJ (Sr.) is the Undersecretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod at the Vatican. As a Xavière sister from France, her mission has largely focused on youth and synodality. Prior to her current appointment, she served as Director of the National Service for the Evangelization of Young People and Vocations at the French Episcopal Conference and got a specialization in ecclesiology with a research on synodality at the School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College. She has also studied management and entrepreneurship at HEC Paris, philosophy and theology at Centre Sèvres (Faculté Loyola), as well as sociology at the EHESS in Paris.

Beurrier, Nathalie has been working for the Catholic archdiocese of Mechelen-Brussels since 2011, first in the Temporal Department, as Intendante of the Brussels South Deanery and member of the Economic Council of the Brussels Vicariate, and from 2021 as a member of the archdiocesan commission on the synodal process. In 2024, she was appointed the Archdiocesan Coordinator for the Synod on Synodality. She has a master’s degree in Management (IAG- UCL), a DEA in General Politics of Organizations (Univ. Paris IX Dauphine), and currently completing a bachelor’s degree in Theology (UCL). Nathalie is married to Jacques with 4 children. Both are parish volunteers, coordinating the Charity Unit of the Sources Vives Pastoral Unit in Brussels, and are particularly involved in serving people in precarious situations.

Borras, Alphonse is a priest, canonist and Episcopal Vicar of the Diocese of Liège (Belgium), and was Vicar General of the Diocese of Liège until December 2020. A specialist in the theology of the diaconate, he was a member of the preparatory theological commission for the Synod and taught at the Catholic University of Louvain and the Institute of Theological Studies in Brussels (Institut d'Etudes Théologiques à Bruxelles). He took part in the first phase of the Synod in 2023 as a theological expert. He holds a licentiate and doctorate in theology, specializing in Church criminal law (canonical), for which he has written a treatise. His doctoral thesis dealt with excommunication. He has written extensively on parish structures and lay ministry.

De Cubber, Geert, (born 1974) studied Germanic languages (University of Ghent) and theology (Domuni Universitas). He started in the language technology industry and was a university college lecturer for almost 15 years. Geert was ordained a permanent deacon in 2013. After a personal time of discernment in a community of *L'Arche* (in Ghent) in 2015, he started working as a journalist for Belgian Christian weekly *Tertio*, until in 2020 bishop Lode Van Hecke (Ghent) appointed him episcopal delegate responsible for catechesis, youth, and family pastoral. During the diocesan phase of the synodal process, he was the coordinator for the diocese of Ghent. As such, Geert was

involved in the diocesan and national (Belgian) report. In February 2023 he was one of the Belgian delegates at the European Assembly in Prague. In 2023-'24 he is a full voting non-bishop Member of the Synod of Bishops on Synodality.

De Mey, Peter holds the chair of Roman-Catholic ecclesiology and ecumenism at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven and is currently vice-dean for international relations. He publishes regularly in periodicals and collective volumes about the development of the Catholic view on ecumenism prior to Vatican II, the redaction history and interpretation of *Lumen Gentium*, *Unitatis Redintegratio* and *Orientalium Ecclesiarum*, post-conciliar Roman Catholic ecclesiology and ecclesiological themes in the bilateral and multilateral ecumenical dialogue.

Delville, Jean-Pierre (Mgr.) is the Bishop of Liège since 2013. His earlier career was devoted to church history and teaching, which he always combined with pastoral activity. He started teaching at UCLouvain in 1996 and became a full professor of the history of Christianity in 2010. He was once the editor of the well-known *Revue d'histoire Ecclésiastique* and was on the editorial board of several journals. In 2010, he was elected in 2010 as the president of the Research Institute for Religions, Spiritualities, Cultures and Societies (RSCS), of which he is one of the founders. From 2011 to 2012, he was a member of the UCL Academic Council. Since 2015, he has been president of the Belgian bishops commission on the Church and the World. Equally important is his association with the Saint Egidio Community since 1978.

Destivelle, Hyacinthe is a Dominican priest from the Province of Toulouse (France). He holds a doctorate in Theology (Institut Catholique de Paris and Institut de Théologie Orthodoxe Saint-Serge), a doctorate in Slavic studies (Université de Paris-Sorbonne), and a PhD in Philosophy (Saint Petersburg State University). Director of the Centre for ecumenical studies and of the journal *Istina* in Paris (2005-2010), he was pastor at Saint Catherine's parish in Saint Petersburg (2010-2013). Since 2013, he has been an official of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (Vatican), in charge of relations with the Slavic Orthodox Churches (2013-2018), then with the Oriental Orthodox Churches (since 2018). Since 2019, he has also been director of the Institute for Ecumenical Studies *Œcumenicum* of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome. He is the author of numerous publications on ecumenism, ecclesiology and Catholic-Orthodox dialogue.

Eckholt, Margit (Dr h.c.) studied Catholic Theology, Romance Studies and Philosophy at the Universities of Tübingen and Poitiers, Dr. theol. 1992 at the University of Tübingen, 2000 Habilitation in Dogmatics at the Faculty of catholic theology of the University of Tübingen, 1993-1995 Visiting Professor and Alexander-von-Humboldt Fellow at the Pontificia Universidad Católica Santiago de Chile, 2000 to 2009 Professor of Dogmatics at the Benediktbeuern Graduate School of Philosophy and Theology, since September 2009 Professor of Dogmatics (with Fundamental Theology) at the Institute of Catholic Theology of the University of Osnabrück, director of the Institute and member of the Faculty board. Co-chair of the project "Vatican II – Legacy and Mandate. Intercontinental Commentary", director of the scholarship organization ICALA-Intercambio cultural latinoamericano-alemán, member of the Synodal Way in Germany, former president of the European Society for Catholic Theology (ESCT, 2021-2023).

Ehret, Jean (Dr h.c.) is the founding director of the Luxembourg School of Religion & Society, a research institute affiliated to the University of Bonn, characterized by a team of members from different religions, convictions, and disciplines, and by its openness to practitioners. With a doctorate in French language and literature and a doctorate in theology, he is Professor of Theology and Spirituality, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Literature & Theology at the

University of Tübingen, full member of the Section of Moral and Political Sciences of the Grand Ducal Institute, Vice-Dean of Class VII: World Religions of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, and Vice-President of the France and Francophonie Section of the European Society for Catholic Theology. He is Episcopal Vicar for Academic Affairs in the Archdiocese of Luxembourg. He is also a Knight of the Order of the Oak Crown of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Forthcoming publication: Jean Ehret, Jochen Sautermeister (ed.). July 2024. What Keeps Us Together When We Disagree. The Ampersand 3. Münster, Aschendorff.

Haers, Jacques SJ is Emeritus Professor of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven. He was the former coordinator of the Centre for Liberation Theologies. Between 2001 and 2007, he was responsible for the interdisciplinary Advanced Master Programme in Conflict and Sustainable Peace. He studied mathematics and philosophy and obtained his Doctorate in Theology at Oxford University on the idea of creation in Origen's theology. He has been teaching at the Centrum voor Kerkelijke Studies (Leuven), at the Centre Sèvres (Paris), and at the pastoral institute Lumen Vitae (Brussels). He is a collaborator of OCIPE (Brussels) and UCSIA (Antwerp). His research addresses contextual and liberation theology in a planet wide context, with special emphases on globalization, violence and peace, climate challenges and the fundamental and methodological aspects of these theologies. He also researches the theology of religious life as well as Ignatian theology, where he pays specific attention to the dynamics of common apostolic discernment.

Join-Lambert, Arnaud, Doctor of Theology from the University of Fribourg, professor at UCLouvain. He teaches practical theology and liturgy. He is head of the Center for Practical Theology and director of the EcclesiaLab. He is a former president of the Société Internationale de Théologie Pratique (SITP). He is director of the international journal *Lumen Vitae*. His research focuses on changes in parishes and pastoral ministries; new forms of Christian presence and mission in society; rituality and liturgy in a postmodern context; synodality. He has been an expert theologian or observer for the Provincial Council of Lille and several diocesan assemblies and synods in France, Belgium, and Germany. He is a member of the methodology commission for the Roman Synod on synodality (2021-2024). He has published 2 monographs and 23 research articles on synods and synodality.

Mayer, Annemarie C. is professor of Dogmatic Theology and the History of Dogma at the Faculty of Theology Trier, Germany. Her teaching and research focus on ecclesiology, ecumenical hermeneutics and the interrelation of theology, religion, and contemporary culture. From 2013 till 2021 she held the chair of Theology, Religion and Contemporary Culture at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the Catholic University of Leuven. Until 2013 she was the Catholic consultant at the World Council of Churches, Geneva. Her publications include: "For a Synodal Church" – Equipping the Catholic Church on Her Way into the Third Millennium, *Louvain Studies* 43 (3/2020) 205–214.

Ngalula, Josée born in 1960 in Kinshasa (DR Congo), is a theologian and sister of Saint Andrew. Ngalula has a PhD in Theology from the Catholic University of Lyon. She is a professor at the Catholic University of Congo (UCC) and a visiting professor and member of the scientific board at the Ecumenical and Interreligious institute Al Mowafaqa in Rabat. Currently, she is the Director of the Observatory of Violence and Religious Fundamentalism in DR Congo (OVIRCO) at the UCC. Her research fields include Christian Lexicology in African Languages, Religion and Violence, and African Theologies. She is a member of the Research Group "Vatican II Project - Legacy and Mandate", founding member of the Association of African Theologians (ATA), and a contributor to the Circle

of Concerned African Women Theologians / Cercle des théologiennes africaines engagées. In 2021, Ngalula became the first African female member of the International Theological Commission (ITC), and in 2023, she was nominated as a participant in the on-going Synod on Synodality.

Okpaleke, Ikenna Paschal holds the chair for Catholic ecclesiology and ecumenism at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies and is a member of the research institute of Religions, Spiritualities, Cultures, Societies (RSCS), UCLouvain. He is a member of the Pan-African Catholic Theology and Pastoral Network (PACTPAN) team currently working on an African commentary on the synthesis of the First Session of the Synod on Synodality. Some of his publications include “Ecclesial Governance in Unusual Times: A Theological Exploration of the Relationship between Synodality and Global Solidarity,” *Louvain Studies* 43, no.3 (2020): 278-296; “Sharing Ecumenical Wisdom: Lessons from Anglican-Roman Catholic *Communio* Ecclesiology,” *Nigeria Journal of Theology* 37 (2023): 15-33.

Warner, Martin (Bishop) was educated at King’s School, Rochester, Maidstone Grammar School, and at St Chad’s College, University of Durham 1977–80. He then trained for ordination at St Stephen’s House, Oxford, later earning a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree at the University of Durham. He was consecrated as a bishop in the Church of England at York Minster on 26 January 2010 and then welcomed on 30 January 2010 at St Hilda’s Church, Whitby. From 2008 to 2011, Warner wrote the weekly “Sunday’s Readings” column for the *Church Times*. On 3 May 2012, Warner’s appointment as the next diocesan Bishop of Chichester was announced, his election was confirmed on 2 July and his enthronement took place in Chichester Cathedral on 25 November. He was introduced to the House of Lords as a Lord Spiritual on 15 January 2018. He is a member of the Council of Bishops of The Society, an association of Anglo-Catholics.