Overcoming the War. The Catholic Church in Post-War Reconstruction

Workshop
Rome, 3–4 April 2023

This conference focuses on the role of the Catholic Church in postwar reconstruction. It covers a variety of topics ranging from humanitarianism, Catholic NGO’s and inner-Church reform to questions of modern architecture. Thereby, the conference analyzes the Vatican’s importance in wider processes of European democratization and the beginning Cold War. Ultimately, it opens a deliberately broad understanding of ‘reconstruction’ in order to include economic, political and social, but also cultural and intellectual dimensions.

Fig.: Cologne Cathedral, the Epiphany altar after an air raid, June 1943 (Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-2008-0603-500).

Venue
Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom
Istituto Storico Germanico di Roma
Via Aurelia Antica, 391
00165 - Roma
www.dhi-roma.it

Please register for online attendance:
http://dhi-roma.it/index.php?id=tagungen

Monday, 3 April, 10.30–17.00

10.30 Martin Baumeister | Roma
Opening & Welcome

10.40 Alessandro Santagata | Padova
Simon Unger-Alvi | Roma
Introduction

I - The Catholic Commitment in the Italian Postwar Period
Chair: Lutz Klinkhammer | Roma

11.00 Marco Mondini | Padova
Post-war Failed and Successful Transitions. The Italian Case in a Comparative Perspective (1918–1923 / 1945–1949)
Gianfranco Armando | Città del Vaticano
Alessandro Santagata | Padova
The Holy See in Post-War Reconstruction. The role of the Pontifical Assistance Commission and Caritas Internationals

Erica Moretti | New York
Children on the Run. The Holy See Committee for Refugees’ Assistance and the Italian Children of Egypt

12.30 Lunch

II - Justice and Diplomacy in Eastern Europe
Chair: Martin Baumeister | Roma

14.00 Piotr H Kosicki | College Park
Anatomy of a Show Trial. Polish Pogroms, Transnational Catholic Networks, and Stalinism after Stalin. The Story of Bishop Czesław Kaczmarek

Marion Dotter | München
The Resumption of Diplomatic Relations and Treaties between the Holy See and Austria as well as Czechoslovakia

Anna Veronica Pobbe | Roma
Nazi Criminals on Trial at the Polish Supreme Court. The Requests of Mercy sent by Pius XII

15.30 Coffee Break

16.00 Keynote Lecture
Paul Betts | Oxford
Sacred Rubble and Humble Shelters. German Church Building after the Second World War

19.00 Dinner (only for participants)

Tuesday, 4 April, 9.00–13.00

III - Assistance and Reconstruction
Chair: Simon Unger-Alvi | Roma

09.00 Patrick J. Houlihan | Dublin
Building a New World. Irish-American Clerical Leadership in Catholic Relief Services, 1943–1958

Nina Valbousquet | Roma
The Vatican and Jewish Refugees and Survivors in the Aftermath of the Holocaust

Katarzyna Nowak | Wien
Refugees and the Vatican in the Early Cold War, 1945–1958

Viktoriia Serhiernko | Warszawa
Vatican and Displaced Persons from Ukraine in Post-war Germany

10.30 Coffee Break

IV - The Vatican and the International Catholic Networks in the Global Postwar
Chair: Siegfried Weichlein | Freiburg

11.00 Elena Serina | Napoli
A “Charity Crusade”. Pius XII and Transnational Catholic Aid in Post-War Europe

Marialuisa Sergio | Roma
The Catholic Church in post-war France: the Algerian issue and the Institutional Crisis

Sam Kuijken | Leuven
Catholic (re)construction in the Philippines. International Perspectives and Local Dynamics 1945–1955

11.30 Final Discussion

13.00 Lunch & End of the Workshop