

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

 **LOURDES**
24/26 JANUARY, 2024



PROGRAM

stopped on December 18, 2023 and updated regularly on www.medias-catholiques.fr

Times of upheaval

WHAT DO artificial intelligence (AI) and the synod on synodality have in common? At first glance, not much. But, for our Catholic media, the approach desired by Pope Francis and the upheaval of AI are both shaking up our habits and our practices, and re-examining our reason for being, both as “media” and in as “Catholics”.

These two challenges also question our ways of doing things and our positions in a world that seems ever more

changing, when it is not always more slippery. Added to these challenges is also the return of violence in Europe with the war in Ukraine, which reminds us that our mission to inform is not always without risk and can make us priority targets.

As Catholic media, how can we adapt to this times of upheaval?

Xavier Le Normand,
program coordinator.

TUESDAY JANUARY 23, 2024

08:30 pm — Hotel Saint-Sauveur

Friendly welcome dinner for those already present

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24, 2024

From 10:30 am to 12:00 pm and from 02:30 pm to 03:45 pm — Hotel Panorama

Reception of participants, registration, distribution of badges and files

From 04:30 pm and until the end of the Congress, the reception desk will be set up in the entrance hall of the CEF hemicycle.

From 12:30 pm to 02:15 pm — Hotel Panorama (restaurant on the 1st floor)

Friendly seated lunch

From 04:00 pm to 05:00 pm — Basilica of the Rosary (lower basilica, at esplanade level)

Opening Mass of the Congress

Feast of Saint Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists.

From 05:15 pm to 05:45 pm — Hemicycle of the Conference of Bishops of France

OPENING OF THE CONGRESS

Presentation of the theme by Xavier Le Normand, program coordinator.

Plenary 1. Media facing oppression

Conference-debate / Hemicycle / Wednesday January 24 / 05:45 pm - 07:00 pm

The return of war – whether in Europe or in the Holy Land – has brutally reminded our media of our duty to inform, including on the worst realities by confronting them.

This mission, which is also our reason for being, can directly expose the lives of journalists on the ground and make our media targets, directly or in a sneakier way. But how to fulfill this duty?

And do we have a special responsibility as Catholic media?

Speakers:

Paterno R. Esmaguil II

Paterno R. Esmaguil II is a journalist and leads religion coverage for *Rappler*, an internationally renowned media outlet based in Manila, Philippines.

Paterno was one of *Rappler's* first reporters in 2012 and served as its news editor from 2020 to 2023. A media professional for sixteen years, Paterno is also a professor of journalism at *University of Santo Tomas*, a pontifical university run by the Dominicans and one of the oldest Catholic universities in Asia.

He holds two master's degrees – MA in Journalism from the *Ateneo de Manila University*, Philippines, and MSC in Asian Studies (Religions in Plural Societies) from the *S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University*, Singapore.

Marie-Armelle Beaulieu

Journalist, Marie-Armelle Beaulieu is editor-in-chief of *Terre Sainte Magazine*, the newspaper in French of the Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land.

Having lived in Jerusalem for more than thirty years, Marie-Armelle Beaulieu experienced the full force of the return of war to the Holy Land with the attacks of October 7 followed by the Israeli response.

From 07:00 pm to 08:00 pm

Free time

From 08:00 pm — Hotel Panorama (restaurant on the 1st floor)

Standing buffet dinner

THURSDAY JANUARY 25

From 08:00 am to 09:00 am — Basilica of the Rosary

Mass

Plenary 2. Will AI replace us all?

Conference-debate / Hemicycle / Thursday January 25 / 09:15 am - 10:45 am

From generating text to aiding decision-making, from creating images to advising in medical diagnosis, the possibilities of artificial intelligence seem endless.

Often, the solutions proposed or taken by AI seem to equal, when they do not exceed in a fraction of a second, the capabilities of human intelligence. So will AI replace us all?

This question is not without raising important ethical issues, especially since AI is the product of humans, by definition fallible.

Speakers :

Mathilde Saliou

Journalist and author, specializing in digital technology, Mathilde Saliou covers themes linked to tech, information, as well as inequalities present in the media and connected worlds. She has collaborated with various media such as *The Guardian*, *20 Minutes*, *Slate*, *Numerama*, *Les Inrocks* and *La Déferlante* and works mainly for Next. She published *Technofeminism, how digital technology worsens inequalities*, in February 2023, published by Grasset..

Alexandru Ginsca

With 15 years of experience in the field of artificial intelligence, Alexandru Ginsca holds a doctorate in computer science, has published more than 50 scientific articles on a wide range of topics, from multimedia content analysis to credibility of the 'information.

He has assisted businesses and government agencies in developing their AI capabilities, helping them design and implement innovative AI-based use cases. Alexandru is currently the Head of Data Science within BearingPoint's Product Division, where he oversees the development of innovative AI solutions across multiple business areas, including the news and publishing industries..

Mathieu Guillermin

Mathieu Guillermin is a doctor in physics and philosophy, lecturer at the Catholic University of Lyon, and member of the *Confluence: Sciences and Humanities research unit (EA 1598)*. He coordinates the international project "*New Humanism at the time of Neurosciences and Artificial Intelligence*".

His research focuses on the connection between ethics, science and technology. He is particularly interested in the philosophical and ethical issues raised by digital technologies. On December 14, he presented at the Vatican Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace published under the title "*Artificial Intelligence and Peace*".

From 10:45 am to 11:15 am — Hemicycle hall

Coffee break and time for informal discussions. Press table available free of charge.

Thematic workshops

Thursday January 25 / Hemicycle and other room indicated on site / 11:15 am - 12:15 pm

One hour of workshop, in small groups, to discuss between participants and with guests on the following themes (of your choice)

1. How can the media be actors of synodality?

Catholic media have a privileged link with an entire population of believers: their readers. While Pope Francis calls the entire Church for a "synodal conversion", should our media also embark on this path? In what terms, for what purposes and how can they respond to this call from Pope Francis?

Walter Chikwendu Ihejirika

Walter Chikwendu Ihejirika is a Catholic priest from the Diocese of Ahiara, Nigeria. He completed his university studies at the *Pontifical Gregorian University* and the *Salesian University of Rome*.

He is currently a Professor of Development Communication and Media Studies and also Dean, *Faculty of Communication and Media Studies*, University of Port Harcourt.

He is president of *Signis Africa*.

Alessandro Gisotti

Alessandro Gisotti, born in Rome in 1974, is a professional journalist. Since July 2019, he has been vice editorial director of the *Dicastery for Communication* of the Holy See, after having been interim director of the Press Office of the Holy See. From 2000 to 2016 he worked at *Vatican Radio*, where he was vice-editor-in-chief. From 2017 to the end of 2018, he coordinated *Vatican News* social media.

He taught journalism at the Jesuit *Instituto Massimo* in Rome and *Theories and Techniques of Journalism* at the *Pontificia Università Lateranense*. Among his publications, we find *The Decalogue of the Good Communicator according to Pope Francis*, published by Elledici with a preface by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle.

In 2022, he interviewed Pope Francis for the Holy See's daily newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

2. Does ChatGPT have its place in our editorial offices?

Being able to generate articles in a few clicks and illustrations just as easily, could artificial intelligence replace our editorial staff? Some media also rely heavily on this instant generation. But without going to this distortion of journalism, generative artificial intelligence can provide many services.

Are these legitimate or is it a betrayal of our profession and our readers?

Cécilia Gabizon

A graduate of *Essec*, Cécilia Gabizon is a French journalist and founder of the *School Media Maker*, a journalism school. Having worked for *France Télévisions* and *Le Figaro*, she is now Vice-Président and Editorial Director of *ETX Majelan*.

From 12:30 pm to 02:00 pm — Hotel Panorama (restaurant on the 1st floor)
Friendly seated lunch

Plenary 3. Expectations and visions of the Synod throughout the world

Conference-debate / Hemicycle / Thursday January 25 / 02:15 pm - 03:30 pm

In his message for World Communications Day 2023, Pope Francis recognized that “the ecclesial community is not exempt” from the “polarizations and contrapositions” which mark the current period in history.

Exacerbated by social networks, internal divisions in the Catholic Church sometimes seem to be getting worse every day, becoming more and more violent. Among the objects of this polarization, the synod on synodality desired by Pope Francis, considered by some to be a source of confusion and therefore divisions. By shedding light on these divisions, can the synod help heal them?

Speakers :

Jean-Paul Sagadou

An Assumptionist religious of Burkinabè origin, Jean-Paul Sagadou has a degree in theology from the *Catholic Institute of Paris*. He has been working for several years to break down the physical, cultural and religious barriers that stand between young Africans by organizing *African Integration Trips (V.I.A)*. He is currently editor-in-chief of *Prions en Église Afrique*, in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. For many years, he has published columns in Burkinabè magazines but also in *La Croix Africa* where you can read a few articles by him on the concept of ubuntu and synodality.

Joachim Heinz

At 49, Joachim Heinz is a journalist, editor since 2007 at the Catholic press agency KNA (Katolische Nachrichten Agentur) in Bonn, Germany.

He specializes in the fields of history, theology and subjects relating to the Third World.

Inès San Martín

Graduated with a master's degree in communications from the *Austral University of Buenos Aires*, Inés San Martín (born in Rosario, Santa Fe, 1986) is an Argentine journalist, former co-editor and manager of the newspaper *Crux* in Rome between 2014 and 2022. Since September 2022, she is vice president of marketing and communications for the American branch of the *Pontifical Mission Societies (OPM)*. She has lectured on Pope Francis, the Vatican, and Church communications in the United States, Chile, Mexico, Italy, and Ireland. [By videoconference].

From 03:30 pm to 04:00 pm — Hemicycle hall
Welcome drink offered by the Lourdes Tourist Office
Tasting of natural fruit juices and artisan pastries from local producers.

Great witness

Conference / Hemicycle / Thursday January 25 / 04:00 pm - 04:45 pm

The Congress welcomes its great witness:

The Apostolic Nuncio to France Archbishop Celestino Migliore

Born in 1952, Mgr Celestino Migliore was ordained priest in 1977 and entered the same year at the *Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy*, the training institution for diplomatic personnel of the Holy See.

He notably served as undersecretary for relations with States from 1995 to 2002, before being appointed permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations.

He subsequently served as Nuncio to Poland, Russia and Uzbekistan. In January, 2020, Pope Francis appointed him head of the apostolic nunciature in Paris.

A great witness to the 2024 Meetings, Archbishop Migliore will look back on this very special ministry of a lifetime at the service of the the Holy See's diplomacy. In particular, he will discuss his current mission in Paris.

At the end of his testimony and the discussion with the audience, he agreed to award the 2024 *Père Jacques Hamel Prize*.

Presentation of the 2024 Father Jacques Hamel Prize

Hemicycle / Thursday January 25 / 04:45 pm - 05:15 pm



Among the candidate producers of an original creation whatever its form, published during the year 2023, the jury selected and rewards journalistic work which highlights initiatives in favor of peace and interreligious dialogue.

Created in 2017 by the Federation, this Prize is awarded for the seventh time in memory of the priest murdered on July 26, 2016 in his church in Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray.

Thematic workshops

January 25 / Hemicycle and other room indicated on site / 04:00 pm - 05:00 pm

One hour of workshop, in small groups, to discuss between participants and with guests on the following themes (of your choice)

3. Should our media be at the service of the unity of the Church?

Catholic media play an important role in the life of the Church. But as the divisions between Catholics spread and become visible, what position should we adopt? Is it the role of Catholic media to give visibility to these divisions or, conversely, should we adopt a more cautious approach so as not to reinforce them? By reporting them, do our media not in fact run the risk of becoming stakeholders in these divisions?

Speakers :

Antonio Olivie

Antonio Olivie has been a journalist and CEO of Rome Reports TV since 2015. In this capacity, he has produced six documentaries for commercial and Catholic television on the Pope and the Vatican.

Previously, he worked as deputy editor of the Spanish national newspaper *Qué!* (Vocento group). He was a Washington correspondent for the 2012 US presidential elections and was a contributing editor for the Spanish newspaper ABC. Rome Reports currently has over 800,000 YouTube subscribers.

Clotilde Hamon

Journalist and editor-in-chief at *Famille Chrétienne*, Clotilde Hamon works particularly on Church news, spiritual, cultural and societal subjects.

4. How can we use AI in our businesses?

Artificial intelligence does not only concern journalists and illustrators. Coders, legal managers, recruitment managers... All our professions can benefit in one way or another from the support of artificial intelligence in some of our tasks. So how can we take advantage of this seemingly unlimited resource?

Speaker :

Cyrille Frank

Cyrille Frank, consultant, trainer and speaker on good practices in content and journalism, supports the media in their digital transformation on editorial, management or organizational issues, via his company *Mediaculture*.

He was previously: director of training and digital transformation of the *CosaVostra* agency; director of *ESJ Pro Media*, professional journalism school; editorial director of the major American portals AOL and *Altavista*; web journalist (*ZDnet*), press (*Futur France*) and radio (*Fun radio*). It publishes a weekly newsletter: newsletter.mediarama.io and feeds the site: mediaculture.fr about major trends, business models and good media practices.

From 06:30 pm to 08:00 pm

Free time

From 08:00 pm — Hôtel Panorama (restaurant on the 1st floor)

Standing buffet dinner

hosted by **Dominique Bouchait**, master cheesemaker, *Meilleur Ouvrier de France*

FRIDAY JANUARY 26

From 08:00 am to 09:00 am — Basilica of the Rosary
Mass

Thematic workshops

Friday January 26 / Hemicycle and other room indicated on site / 9:15 am - 10 am

In a workshop, in small groups, to discuss between participants and with guests on the following themes (of your choice)

5. AI cathos: the example of CatéGPT

Generations of images, contracts, job offers, articles... but also catechetical responses! Based on ChatGPT, CatéGPT seeks to recreate Catholic teaching in a fun way, trying to be as faithful as possible to the texts of the Catholic Church while giving this tool the appearance of a discussion.

Speaker:

Nicolas Torcheboeuf

An engineer in Switzerland, Nicolas Torcheboeuf is interested in new technologies and particularly in what concerns artificial intelligence. With his brother, he notes a great ignorance of the fundamental texts of the Church among the young people of their generation, even among practicing Catholics. The technologies around ChatGPT quickly appeared as a fantastic opportunity to rediscover all these texts: Holy Scripture, catechism, Encyclicals, etc. in a simplified way, in order to answer all the questions that we may ask ourselves today.

6. What rules for the use of AI?

Faced with the rise of artificial intelligence, it is becoming increasingly difficult to know whether information is genuine and processed by a human, or whether it was generated by an AI.

Faced with uncertainties and the risks of spreading false information, charters and commitments are being put in place, in order to certify media as producers of true information.

Speaker :

Arthur Grimonpont

Arthur Grimonpont is an engineer, essayist and specialist in the transition issues of our societies in the face of technological and environmental risks. His investigation into the role of social media in the formation of opinions and the propagation of information led him to publish an essay entitled *Algocracy* (Actes Sud, 2022).

In his capacity as “artificial intelligence” project manager at *Reporters sans Frontières*, he is rapporteur for the international commission that developed the Paris Charter on AI and journalism.

From 10:00 am to 10:45 am — Hemicycle Hall

Tasting of regional products

with the friendly participation of cheese producers (cow, goat and sheep), local cured meats, artisanal preserves, Jurançon winemakers, etc. Possibility of purchase.

Plenary 4. The synod can he repair the divisions of the Church?

Conference-debate / Hemicycle / Wednesday January 26 / 10:45 am - 11:45 am

Launched by Pope Francis in 2021, the synod on synodality began with a major consultation across the world, culminating in national syntheses and then work on a continental scale. If certain subjects appeared to be universal concerns, these summaries also highlighted that both the vision of the synod itself and the expectations regarding it could vary greatly from one country to another, when they do not oppose each other.

Hopes raised in some countries are as many fears in others. These divergences can be explained by historical reasons, practices and different theological views. The whole challenge of the second Roman assembly, then of the magisterial document which will eventually follow, will be to succeed in getting these voices to agree.

Speakers :

Michael Lewis

Michael Lewis is a Catholic writer, editor and podcaster from the United States. He is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of the website *Where Peter Is* (wherepeteris.com), which publishes articles and commentary on the Catholic Church.

He has written extensively on the traditionalist and ideological opposition to Pope Francis that is pervasive in the American Church and elsewhere. Previously, Michael worked in the communications department of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and for the *Catholic Climate Covenant*. He is married with four children and lives near Washington, DC.

Marie-Lucile Kubacki

Head of the religion section at the weekly *La Vie*, Vaticanist, correspondent in Rome, Marie-Lucile Kubacki has covered religious news since 2011.

In 2017, she co-wrote the book: *Why Religious? This life is worth it*, with Sister Nathalie Becquart, undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops. She is the author of numerous articles, analyzes and reports in the Vatican, in France and in several countries around the world.

Sister Christine Danel

Sister Christine Danel, trained as a doctor, is a nun of the Xavière congregation. She has notably worked for over fifteen years at a research center for HIV/AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire. In 2017, she was elected as the superior of her congregation for a six-year term. Sister Christine Danel was appointed as an expert by Pope Francis at the synodal assembly held in Rome last October.

[By videoconference].

From 11:45 am to 12:00 pm — Hemicycle of the Conference of Bishops of France

CONCLUSION OF THE CONGRESS

From 12:30 pm to 02:00 pm — Hotel Panorama (restaurant on the 1st floor)

Friendly seated lunch

For people leaving before lunch, possibility of a take-away packed lunch (to be reserved when registering).

From 03:00 pm to 03:45 pm — At the Sanctuaries Reception and Information Center

Screening of the film on the message of Saint Bernadette (to be confirmed)

>>> As every year, the Federation provides you with free shuttles on arrival and departure, connecting the Saint-Joseph gate of the sanctuaries (50 m from the hotels) to train stations and airports. VTC, minibus or touring coaches will be identifiable by their "Congress St. Francis de Sales" sign. The schedules will be communicated to you by email before the Congress and on site at the reception stand. For your trip, we invite you to consult snCF-connect.com, volotea.com, ryanair.com, and other reservation sites. **Recommended times from Paris:** by train, departure Wednesday at 06:39 am (arrival at 11:22 am), return Friday at 12:57 pm (arrival Paris 05:49 pm) by direct TGV *Inoui*; by direct plane *Volotea*, departure Orly Wednesday 08:45 (arrival at 10:10), return Friday departure 18:40 (arrival Orly at 20:05). **Recommended times from Rome:** direct *Ryanair/Air Malta* flight, departure Wednesday at 02:25 pm (arrival at 04:25 pm), return Saturday at 08:50 am (arrival Rome 10:40 am); no direct return flight on Friday, compulsory transit from Toulouse via Paris, Amsterdam, Madrid or other major European destinations.