

Consultors

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- Bishop Antonio Maria Vegliò, Secretary of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches
- Bishop Csaba Ternyák, Secretary of the Congregation for the Clergy
- Bishop Piergiorgio Silvano Nesti, Secretary of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life
- Bishop Giampaolo Crepaldi, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace
- The Most Rev. Józef Michalik, archbishop of Przemyśl of the Latins (Poland)
- The Most Rev. Lluís Martínez Sistach, archbishop of Tarragona (Spain)
- Msgr. Michel Dubost, bishop of Evry-Corbeil-Essonnes (France)
- Msgr. Mounjed El-Hachem, bishop of Baalbek-Deir El-Ahmar (Lebanon)
- Msgr. Luigi Giussani (Italy)
- Msgr. Patrick Valdrini (France)
- Rev. Giovanni Fornero (Italy)
- Rev. Prof. Libero Gerosa (Switzerland)
- Rev. Jean Mbarga (Cameroon)
- Rev. Prof. Luis Felipe Navarro (Spain)
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- Dr. Emanuela De Nunzio (Italy)
- Prof. Giorgio Feliciani (Italy)
- Mr. Luis Figari (Peru)
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- Prof. Andrea Riccardi (Italy)
- Prof. David Schindler (USA)

The twentieth Plenary Assembly

The Eucharist as sacrament of Christian initiation will be at the centre of debate at the next Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, to be held in Rome from 21 to 23 November 2002.

The choice of this theme, echoing John Paul II's exhortation to start afresh from Christ (cf. Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, no. 29), marks a substantial continuity with the last two Plenary Assemblies which were dedicated respectively to Baptism and Confirmation, and whose proceedings were gathered in the publications *Rediscovering Baptism* and *Rediscovering Confirmation*. So the last three Assemblies form a kind of triptych, aimed at helping the lay faithful to rediscover the deepest sense of the sacraments of Christian initiation and encouraging them to undertake the journey of formation that is one of the most urgent and important pastoral tasks faced by the Church today.

The Assembly will be opened by a report on "The Eucharist, fullness of Christian initiation". The participants will then focus on three aspects of the eucharistic mystery that are particularly linked to the vocation of lay Christians, their life and their mission: "The mystery of Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist: sacrifice, communion, presence", "The Eucharist and the participation of the lay faithful in the *tria munera Christi*", and "The Lord's Day: eucharistic assembly, heart of Sunday".

Given that the next Plenary Assembly (the twentieth) will be attended for the first time by the Council's new Members and Consultors, its programme also envisages an introduction to the Council's history, nature and activities, as well as a summing up of the experiences and proposals of the outgoing Members and Consultors. This will undoubtedly be useful to the new Members and Consultors as they begin this important service to the Church and to the Successor of Peter.

In the course of the Plenary Assembly, whose results will be published in the series of studies *Laity Today*, the main programmes of the Pontifical Council for the Laity for the next five years will also be defined.