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*Regis Servus Dei Prius*

April 15, 2021

Dear Members:

Hope you celebrated a joyful Easter with families and friends. Spring is upon us, and reason for optimism as life here in the Bay Area begins to reopen slowly, including the return of many children back to school.

Please consider joining us for this month's lecture with Dr. Massimo Faggioli on April 22, 2021.

**Lenten Series- Recap**

Thank you to Father Coleman for leading us in the Lenten Discussion of Pope Francis' recent book, **Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future:** during March.

For all of you who were able to join us, I hope that you enjoyed the discussion and perspective on Pope Francis's words and the ways in which we as Catholics can use the challenges of the Pandemic to improve and strengthen our relationship with each other, community and God.

**Upcoming Events**

**Thursday, April 22, 2021**

Prof. Dr. Massimo Faggioli, is a Church historian, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University, has agreed to speak remotely via Zoom on **April 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm** on the following topic:

“The Biden Presidency and Catholicism in the USA: Challenges and Opportunities”

His discussion will follow his recent book titled, *Joe Biden and Catholicism in the United States*.

**Dr. Massimo Faggioli**, a married lay Roman Catholic, is full professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University (Philadelphia). He worked in the “John XXIII Foundation for Religious Studies” in Bologna between 1996 and 2008.

He was co-chair of the study group “Vatican II Studies” for the American Academy of Religion between 2012 and 2017. He has a column in *La Croix International*, and is contributing writer for *Commonweal* magazine and for the Italian magazine *Il Regno*. He is co-editor with Bryan Froehle of the new series “Studies in Global Catholicism” for Brill Publishers (first volume scheduled 2021).

His books and articles have been published in more than ten languages. His most recent publications include the books: *A Council for the Global Church. Receiving Vatican II in History* (Fortress, 2015); *The Rising Laity. Ecclesial Movements since Vatican II* (Paulist, 2016); *Catholicism and Citizenship: Political Cultures of the Church in the Twenty-First Century* (Liturgical Press 2017); *La onda larga del Vaticano II. Por un nuevo posconcilio* (Universidad Alberto Hurtado: Santiago de Chile, 2017).

His latest books are *The Liminal Papacy of Pope Francis. Moving Toward Global Catholicity* (Orbis Books, 2020) and *Joe Biden and Catholicism in the United States* (Bayard 2021). He is co-editing with Catherine Clifford *The Oxford Handbook of Vatican II* (Oxford University Press, 2021) and he is under contract with Oxford University Press for a book on the history of the Roman Curia.

He lives in the Philadelphia area with his wife and their two children.

A zoom link and invitation for the event will be distributed separately. The lecture and discussion is free to all members to attend. Hope that you can join us!

### **May & June Events**

Stay tuned for upcoming events. We are in the process of coordinating speakers for May, as well as for our annual Feast of St. Thomas More celebration on June 22, 2021.

### **Recommended Sources**

On April 14, 2021, Pope Francis spoke in his weekly general audience to the Vatican

stating that the Church has one essential task- to pray and to teach how to pray. On that guidance, please find few resources provided for your consideration this month.

- Fr. James Martin, S.J., Book: “*Learning to Pray*”
- Harry Connick, Jr. album:
  - <https://www.americamagazine.org/arts-culture/2021/04/06/harry-connick-jr-catholic-faith-album-pandemic-240395>

### **Annual Dues**

If you haven’t done so already, please consider paying your annual dues. Although our in person luncheon schedule is postponed until further notice until we can once again meet in person, we are in the midst of scheduling some online remote lectures.

Registration and payment of annual dues ensures you will receive our monthly newsletters and information about all upcoming events. It also helps us in funding events, attracting quality speakers, awarding scholarships, and supporting our community service initiatives. You can pay your dues online here or by using the attached membership form.

### **New Member Contest**

Finally, we will once again have a New Member Contest and reward the member who brings the most new members throughout the year. Feel free to join the competition by forwarding this newsletter to someone you think may be interested in joining the Society. New members can name their existing member contact on their registration form.

Thank you and best wishes to everyone.

God bless,

Bryan L. P. Saalfeld

President