



The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies (IACS) is a national and global center focused on the Catholic intellectual tradition located at, but autonomous from, the University of Southern California. As an independent 501(c)(3) organization, IACS relies on the generosity of its supporters to carry out its mission of bringing the Catholic tradition to bear on the key challenges facing modern society.

Our mission includes contributing to the ongoing development of Catholic theology and ethics in the face of new realities. But the Institute's mission is also much broader. Encompassing Catholicism's dialogue with science, the social sciences, and the humanities, IACS also includes legal and medical professions, as well as other expressions of Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, indigenous spiritual traditions, Islam, and Judaism. As an intellectual research center, IACS advances the ongoing evolution of Catholicism's public witness in the contemporary world, but is fully independent of the church hierarchy and thus able to explore emerging questions with full academic freedom—asking hard questions and exploring new answers in light of the tradition and emerging new research.

In a world facing multiple crises, Catholicism's deep intellectual resources represent a crucial source of insight and wisdom that can ground creative contributions to human thriving.

Under new leadership, IACS is launching ambitious initiatives focused on:

1. Developing the ethical and regulatory frameworks needed to guide new and emerging technology—including artificial intelligence and social media—to ensure they have a positive impact on democracy and contemporary society.
2. The role of Catholicism and other religions in deepening democracy and strengthening democratic civil society in the U.S. and across the globe.
3. A new high-level dialogue between U.S. Catholic bishops, ethicists, and national nuclear strategic leaders regarding the future of nuclear deterrence and nuclear disarmament amid today's complex geo-strategic realities.
4. The current dynamism of Catholicism in the global South, and its meaning and impact on the Church universal and on modern society.

Forming the Next Generation of Catholics:

IACS regularly presents in local Catholic settings to youth and young adults; we help develop the curricula used to train priests, deacons and lay ministers; and we shape the ideas that are at the heart of homilies, class lectures, and writing by Catholic bishops and scholars. In all those ways, IACS shapes the lives of young Catholics, the future of the Catholic Church, and its voice regarding the trajectory of American society and the world.



Giving Opportunities:

• Artificial Intelligence and Catholic Ethics:

- \$10,000 would support IACS's work in offering Catholic ethical guidance as legislators move to meet private sector calls for constructive regulation. (Next convening at the Pontifical Academy of Science in 2024)
- \$50,000 would support the research, writing, and convening to publish a book on *Humanizing Networks*—shaping the future of digital ethics and how we can channel artificial intelligence for positive human impact

• The Future of Democracy:

- \$20,000 would support a convening of scholars and democratic practitioners to conceptualize the best ideas and strategies for building fully democratic institutions and processes in California
- \$70,000 would support a convening of scholars and democratic practitioners to conceptualize the best ideas and strategies for building stronger democratic institutions and processes in the U.S., and enable the Institute to publish a book to help implement those ideas
- \$150,000 would support a convening of scholars and democratic practitioners to conceptualize the best ideas and strategies for protecting democracy in authoritarian settings around the world, and enable the Institute to publish a book to help implement those ideas
- \$500,000 would underwrite the Institute's work on the role of Catholicism and other religions in defending and deepening democracy

• Nuclear Weapons:

- \$50,000 would bring diverse Catholic experts, secular strategists of nuclear deterrence, and Church leaders calling for multilateral and verifiable nuclear disarmament into dialogue regarding the future of American nuclear strategy
- \$100,000 would allow the above in addition to the publication of a major book on the long-term prospects of nuclear disarmament and nuclear deterrence in a complex multilateral geo-strategic reality

• North-South Dialogue in Catholicism:

- \$30,000 would help IACS build the network of scholars in Latin America and the U.S. that can shape the future of Catholicism and Catholic-Evangelical relations
- \$100,000 would help IACS build the network of scholars in Africa, Latin America, and the U.S. to give Catholicism a global intellectual axis and shape the future of Catholic-Muslim, Catholic-Evangelical, and Catholic-indigenous relations

• Public Religion in the World:

- \$40,000 would support the publication of a book on how the Catholic Church is responding to situations of religious diversity and conflict around the world—to better inform Church leaders and policymakers on how religion can advance a less violent, pluralistic world
- \$40,000 would support the publication of a new book on how the various strands of the Jewish tradition are responding to situations of religious diversity & conflict around the world—to better inform policymakers and religious leaders on how religion can advance a less violent, pluralistic world

Sustaining IACS for the Future:

- \$500,000 would support IACS's core existing work and allow the Institute to address new emerging issues in American society and the world in settings where Catholic and other scholars can offer insight and wisdom grounded in the deep resources of their traditions
- \$1,000,000 would be a lead gift toward the permanent endowment that will sustain IACS as a guaranteed voice of public Catholicism and the Catholic intellectual tradition into the future

In addition, committing to a reliable monthly gift in any amount helps provide the sustaining support that the Institute needs for regular operations.



Dr. Richard L. Wood, the new president of IACS, is a prominent scholar of Catholicism's role in public life, as well as multifaith and multiracial dimensions of civil society. A five-minute video presentation of our work is at youtube.com/@iacsusc. More information on Wood and on IACS' future is available online at iacs.usc.edu.