

# 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.

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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](http://www.dhi-roma.it)

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



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*Workshop of the Transnational Research Group "The Global Pontificate of Pius XII. Catholicism in a Divided World, 1945–1958" funded by the Max Weber Foundation.*

Max Weber  
Foundation  
.....  
German Humanities  
Institutes Abroad

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 Internationalis

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

Viktoriiia 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

