



Education Executive  
Symposium  
23-29 September, 2019

## *'Catholic Education Perspectives in an Increasingly Secular World'*

The 2019 Symposium will bring together Chief Executives and Senior Executives of Catholic education organisations to engage, challenge and identify solutions to contemporary Catholic education issues.

[acu.edu.au](http://acu.edu.au)

 **ACU**  
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

## **Australian Catholic University is proud to host the Education Executives' Symposium at ACU's Rome Campus.**

The 2019 program is structured to encourage extensive discussion between delegates, speakers and senior Vatican Curia, on the relevance of Catholic education within an increasingly secular world. Together with colleagues, participants will:

- Consider the role of Mission in shaping spiritual identity within Catholic education
- Discuss the current funding landscape and how Catholic education can shape this conversation
- Actively consider the accountability frameworks that operate at both State and Federal levels and the implications for Catholic education
- Participate in conversations about critical formation of executive leadership teams
- Share perspectives on the role of Catholic education within the broader, and increasingly secular, education system.



## Proposed 2019 Program

### Monday 23 September 2019 – Day 1

- 5:00-6:00pm Welcome Mass in ACU Rome Campus Chapel  
6:00-7:30pm Provost's Welcome Reception

### Tuesday 24 September 2019 - Day 2

- 9:00am Morning Prayer  
9:30am In Conversation: Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary (Relations with States) Secretariat of State (or representative)  
Presentation: *'Vatican Perspective: Religious Freedom in Catholic Education'*  
1:00-2:00pm Lunch at ACU Rome Campus  
2:00pm In Conversation: Cardinal Versaldi, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education (or representative)  
Presentation: *'Catholic Education in an Increasingly Secular World'*  
Roundtable Discussion: *'Consolidating the Australian Perspective – What needs to be achieved?'*  
6:30pm Symposium Dinner

### Wednesday 25 September 2019 – Day 3

- 7:30-11:30am General Papal Audience  
12:00-1:00pm Lunch  
2:00pm In Conversation: Rev. Dr. Christopher Mahar, Senior Official, Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development (or representative)  
Presentation: *'Vatican Perspective: Promotion of Integral Human Development in Catholic Education'*  
3:30pm In Conversation: Archbishop Salvatore 'Rino' Fisichella  
President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation; Archbishop José Octavio Ruiz Arenas, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization (or representative)  
Presentation: *'Vatican Perspective: The New Evangelisation in Catholic Education'*  
6:00pm Reception: Australian Embassy to the Holy See  
Hosted by Ambassador Melissa Hitchman



## Thursday 26 September 2019 – Day 4

6:45-8:00am	Mass under St Peter's Basilica
8:00-11:00am	St Peter's Basilica Dome Climb and Papal Crypt tour
11:00-12:00noon	Brunch on the Terrace of Residenza Paolo IV
1:00-2:00pm	Lunch at ACU Rome Campus
2:00pm	Professor Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills, and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Presentation: <i>'The Role of Big-Data in High Performance Education Systems'</i>
5:00pm	Free time

## Friday 27 September 2019 – Day 5

9:00am	Morning Prayer
9:30am	Guided tour of Community of Sant'Egidio Lunch at Community of Sant'Egidio
2:00pm	Roundtable Discussion: <i>'Consolidating the Australian Perspective: Reflections'</i> Official Closing
6:30pm	Symposium Dinner





## Formation Tour of Siena



The trip to Siena will focus on Siena’s contribution to the changing fabric of Italian and European life in the 12th-15th centuries. This period saw a new focus on the role of the individual in church and society, which is witnessed in changes in art, town planning, architecture, and spirituality. Fundamental to this new arrangement is the importance of education, with the rise of universities precisely in this period. The weekend will principally look at two Siennese natives: Catherine of Siena and Pope Pius II. Catherine exemplified the care for the individual in their weakness and vulnerability. Her actions and writings emphasise the need for formation in the Christian life, and thus education. Pius II was the quintessential Renaissance pope, and one of the main themes of his pontificate was the promotion of learning and the integration of all human learning in the praise of Christ. We will visit Catherine’s house and church along with Pius’s memorial library in the town’s cathedral.

### Saturday 28 September 2019 – Day 6

- 7:00am *Departure from Rome in private coach*
- 10:30am *Arrival in Siena, check in to hotel (accommodation included)*
- 11:00am *Walk through medieval Siena*  
Overview of the history of Siena, with particular attention to the way that medieval society paved the way for many of the ways in which we organise life today. We will look specifically at banking and civic duty and how these developments paralleled the development of the university.
- 12:00noon *Visit the Museo Civico*  
Siennese models of the balance of faith and civic life and the development of art, where the individual begins to be depicted in the context of the cosmic.
- 1:00pm *Lunch*
- 3:30pm *Visit the library of Pius II in the Cathedral of Siena*  
The life and aims of Pope Pius II, the Renaissance contribution to education, the place of a library in a cathedral and the significance of Pinturicchio’s art.
- 6:30pm *Drinks and dinner*



## Sunday 29 September 2019 – Day 7

8:00 – 9:00am	<i>Breakfast at hotel</i>
9:00am	<i>Visit the church of San Domenico, the parish church of St Catherine</i> The life of St. Catherine and her significance for Catholic education.
11:00am	<i>Mass at the house of St Catherine</i>
1:00pm	<i>Lunch</i>
3:00pm	<i>Departure for Rome</i>

Please note: Every endeavour has been made to produce an accurate program, however, the organisers may change the Symposium program at any time without notice.



## Guest Speakers

### His Excellency Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher GCIH

Secretary for Relations with States



His Excellency Archbishop Paul Gallagher GCIH is the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States. The Papal Nuncio to Australia since 2012, Archbishop Gallagher is the first Briton to hold this senior position within the Vatican.

Paul Gallagher was born in Liverpool on 23 January 1954. He was educated by the Jesuits at St Francis Xavier's College in Woolton and was ordained as a priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool by Archbishop Derek Worlock on 31 July 1977. He served in Fazakerley before taking courses at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy.

After earning a doctorate in canon law, he became a member of the Holy See's diplomatic service and went on to hold posts in Tanzania, Uruguay, the Philippines, the Vatican Secretariat of State and at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. In his new position he will head the Vatican section charged with overseeing its worldwide diplomacy.

In 2009, Archbishop Gallagher was appointed nuncio (papal envoy) to Guatemala and Burundi, where his predecessor (Archbishop Michael Courtney) had been assassinated. He himself survived shelling by rebel forces in Burundi when a bomb intended for the presidential palace hit his residence. Archbishop Gallagher speaks native English, Italian, French and Spanish.

### His Eminence Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi – Prefect of the Congregation for the Catholic Education



Giuseppe Versaldi is the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, since his appointment, by Pope Francis on 31 March 2015.

Previously, Cardinal Versaldi had served as Cardinal President of the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See since 21 September 2011.

Cardinal Versaldi had served before that as Bishop of Alessandria. Pope Benedict XVI elevated him to the rank of cardinal on 18 February 2012.

[education.va/](http://education.va/)





## The Most Reverend Archbishop Salvatore 'Rino' Fisichella

President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation



Salvatore 'Rino' Fisichella was born in Codogno in northern Italy on August 25, 1951. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Rome on March 13, 1976 and became an auxiliary of the same diocese and Titular Bishop of Vicohabentia in 1988. Fisichella is a renown systematic theologian, professor and author of numerous theological, catechetical and pastoral works in Italy and far beyond. He was elevated to the rank of archbishop in 2008 after being named by Pope Benedict XVI to head the Pontifical Academy for Life.

On June 30, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Fisichella President of the newly established Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. This council aims to address the "progressive secularization" of historically Christian areas of the world. Archbishop Fisichella was a key player in the 2012 Ordinary Synod on the New Evangelization at the Vatican which later gave way to a unique Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium" that was published by Pope Francis.

## The Most Reverend Archbishop José Octavio Ruiz Arenas

Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization



José Octavio Ruiz Arenas was born in Bogotá on 21 Dec 1944, and ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Aníbal Muñoz Duque on 29 November 1969.

He worked in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith with the future Benedict XVI until 8 March 1996, when he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Bogotá and Titular Bishop of Troyna by Pope John Paul II. He received his episcopal consecration on the following 13 April from then-Archbishop Pedro Rubiano Sáenz, with Archbishops Paolo Romeo and Tarcisio Bertone, SDB, serving as co-consecrators. Ruiz Arenas was later named Bishop of Villavicencio on 16 July 2002, and was promoted to the rank of Archbishop when his see was elevated to an archdiocese on 3 July 2004.

On 31 May 2007, he entered the service of the Roman Curia upon his appointment as Vice-President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America by Pope Benedict XVI.

On 13 May 2011 he was appointed the first secretary of Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation by Pope Benedict.

On 5 March 2012 he was appointed a member of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples by Pope Benedict.





## Rev. Dr. Christopher Mahar

Senior Official, Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development



Father Christopher Mahar, a priest of the Diocese of Providence in the United States, earned a Bachelor of Science in Philosophy from Providence College in 2000, and went on to complete his Bachelor in Sacred Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome in 2003.

He was ordained a deacon in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome in 2003 and a priest in the Diocese of Providence in 2004, where he served as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mercy Church in East Greenwich and St. Mary's Church in Cranston. He was instrumental in the development of end-of-life guidelines for the diocese, and helped to create "A Catholic Health Care Directive for R.I. (Rhode Island)" which is used throughout the state.

In 2008 he was appointed Vice Rector of the American College of the Immaculate Conception in Leuven, Belgium where he served until June 2011. In June of 2010 he completed a Sacred Theology License (S.T.L.) in Theological Ethics from the Catholic University of Louvain. In July 2011 Bishop Thomas Tobin appointed him Rector of the Seminary of Our Lady of Providence, and in July 2013 he was also appointed Director of Ongoing Formation of Priests for the Diocese of Providence. In December 2016, he earned his Ph.D., in combination with the canonical degree of S.T.D. (Sacred Theological Doctorate) in Theological Ethics, from the Catholic University of Louvain, focusing on brain injury and artificial nutrition and hydration.

## Rev. Dr. Anthony Ekpo

Official, Holy See Secretariat of State



Father Anthony Ekpo received his PhD in systematic theology from Australian Catholic University. He was the Pastoral Assistant to the Archbishop of Brisbane and Associate Pastor at the Cathedral of Saint Stephen, Brisbane. Father Ekpo shares his time in Rome as both Official of the Secretariat of State of His Holiness, and Chaplain for the ACU Rome Campus.

Specialising in systematic theology, ecclesiology, pneumatology, sacraments, Vatican II, the *sensus fidelium*, and canon law, Father Ekpo has written numerous publications.



## Her Excellency Ambassador Melissa Hitchman

Ambassador to the Holy See



Australia's Ambassador to the Holy See is Her Excellency Ms Melissa Hitchman, an experienced career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She has previously served overseas as First Secretary at the Australian High Commission in London.

In Canberra, Ambassador Hitchman has served as Director, Regional and National Security Section; Director, Intelligence Review; and Director, International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament Secretariat; and most recently, Deputy Chief of Protocol. Ambassador Hitchman was also an Adviser, International Division, in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Ambassador Hitchman holds a Master of National Security and a Bachelor of Economics (Hons) from the Australian National University.

Ambassador Hitchman commenced in her position on 18 July 2016 and presented credentials to His Holiness Pope Francis on 8 September 2016.

[holysee.embassy.gov.au](http://holysee.embassy.gov.au)

## Professor Andreas Schleicher

Director for Education and Skills and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Paris.



Andreas Schleicher is Director for Education and Skills, and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). He initiated and oversees the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and other international instruments which create a global platform for policy-makers, researchers and educators to innovate and transform educational policies and practices. He has worked for over 20 years with Ministers and educational leaders around the world to improve quality and equity in education. U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said about Andreas in *The Atlantic* (7/2011) that “He understands the global issues and challenges as well as or better than anyone I’ve met, and he tells me the truth”. Secretary of State Michael Gove in the United Kingdom called Andreas “the most important man in English education”, never mind that he is German and lives in France. Andreas is the recipient of numerous honours and awards, including the “Theodor Heuss” prize, awarded for “exemplary democratic engagement” in the name of the first president of the Federal Republic of Germany. He holds an honorary professorship at the University of Heidelberg.



## Dr David Dawson Vasquez



David Dawson Vasquez holds a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from The Catholic University of America. He has taught courses in theology in Rome since January 2002. Each semester he teaches classes to seminarians and graduate students in Rome, and also at times US undergraduates. He teaches theology, spirituality, and history using the art, architecture, and sites of Rome and Italy.





## Your ACU Hosts

### Professor Pauline Nugent



Professor Nugent is Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) for the Australian Catholic University (ACU).

Professor Pauline Nugent, 2009 Victorian Telstra Business Woman of the Year, was appointed the inaugural Provost of ACU in June 2012 after serving as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

As Provost, Professor Nugent leads the university's academic portfolio and oversees ACU's enrolment planning, including admissions, offers and the university's growth and diversification strategy.

Additionally, Professor Nugent has been responsible for a number of key initiatives, including establishing and leading ACU's Rome Campus, implementing ACU's Core Curriculum, introducing the new Faculty of Law and furtherance of ACU's partnership with the International Federation of Catholic Universities.

Professor Nugent leads ACU's four faculties, ACU College, Strategic Partnerships and Executive Education, Chair, Academic Board, Rome Campus, and the International Directorate.

Her scholarly record includes publications in nursing education, rural health, clinical research and health curriculum.

### Mr. Tom Ristoski

Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships



### Professor Elizabeth Labone

Executive Dean, Faculty of Education and Arts



### Dr. Claudio Betti

Director, ACU Rome Campus





# ACU University Prayer

God of all truth and goodness,  
Bless us as we gather here in Rome  
May we be strengthened in mind and heart  
To pursue what you inspire,  
With insight and deliberation,  
That our world may advance  
In true wisdom and justice for all:  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## Partners

We welcome partners to attend associated Symposium events in Rome and Siena, including dinners, tours and Vatican visits. A nominal fee will be charged to cover costs. Details are available on the registration page.

## Accommodation Information

### Hotels

ACU Rome Campus is located on the Janiculum Hill between the historic neighbourhood of Trastevere below and the modern neighbourhood of Monteverde above. Both are within walking distance of the Campus and are very safe neighbourhoods. Trastevere is especially known for its restaurants and lively night life. The neighbourhoods of St. Peter's (Borgo), Piazza Navona, Pantheon, and the Ghetto are all easily accessible from the Rome Campus.

Hotel Indigo Rome - St George (25 minutes from ACU Rome Campus)

Via Giulia 62,  
Rome 00186  
+39-06-686611 [www.hotelindigo.com/rome](http://www.hotelindigo.com/rome)

Gran Meliá Rome (30 min walk from ACU Rome Campus)

Via del Gianicolo 3, 00165 Roma  
+39 06 925 901 [www.melia.com/en/hotels/italy/rome/gran-melia-rome/index.html](http://www.melia.com/en/hotels/italy/rome/gran-melia-rome/index.html)

VOI Hotel Donna Camilla Savelli Rome (5 min walk from ACU Rome Campus)

Via Garibaldi 27, 00153 Roma  
+39 06 588 861 [www.hoteldonnacamillasavelli.com](http://www.hoteldonnacamillasavelli.com)

Grand Hotel del Gianicolo (10 min walk from ACU Rome Campus)

Via delle Mura Gianicolensi 107, 00152 Roma  
+39 06 5833 3405 [www.grandhotelgianicolo.it](http://www.grandhotelgianicolo.it)

## Contact Us

For more information or to discuss the Education Executive Symposium Rome 2019, please contact:

Catherine Lees

Manager | Strategic Partnerships

E: [catherine.lees@acu.edu.au](mailto:catherine.lees@acu.edu.au)

P: +61 2 9465 2761

