

A photograph of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy, taken at dusk. The large dome is illuminated from within, and the sky is a mix of purple, pink, and blue. In the foreground, a stone bridge with arches spans across a river, with its lights reflecting in the water. The right side of the image is partially covered by a dark blue graphic overlay.

# International Conference Common Memory & Collective Forgiveness

May 4-5, 2025  
Pope Francis' Meetings  
with Business Leaders

May 6-7, 2025  
Conference at the Pontifical  
University of the Holy Cross, Rome



Pontificia  
Università  
della  
**SANTA  
CROCE**

**Date:** May 4-5, 2025

**Place:** Vatican - Pope Francis' Meetings with Business Leaders

**Date:** May 6-7, 2025

**Place:** Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome

## Overview:

As the Jubilee Year of 2025 approaches, Pope Francis calls all people—especially business leaders and entrepreneurs—to become Pilgrims of Hope in today's complex world. This exclusive event in Rome offers a profound opportunity to reflect on the role of faith in business leadership and to explore how Christian values can inspire hope, transformation, and social progress.

Join us in this momentous gathering where faith, business, and social responsibility come together to answer the Pope's call for hope and action in our rapidly changing society.

## Theme Focus:

This event highlights how business leaders, as Pilgrims of Hope, can be agents of positive change through the teachings of Christian social doctrine.

## Event Highlights:

- **Pilgrims of Hope:** Reflect on how you, as a business leader, can embody hope and renewal in your professional and personal life.
- **Forgiveness and Reconciliation:** Learn how corporate cultures can evolve through the power of forgiveness and collective memory.
- **Faith and Innovation:** Discover how faith can inspire innovative business practices that serve humanity.

### A Special Audience with Pope Francis:

As part of the Jubilee for Entrepreneurs, participants will have the extraordinary opportunity to meet Pope Francis, who will share his vision of business leaders as Pilgrims of Hope—individuals called to shape a better future for society through their work, ethics, and commitment to the common good.

## Exclusive Testimonials:

Hear from business leaders who have become modern-day Pilgrims of Hope—individuals who have transformed their businesses into beacons of hope and reconciliation by embracing forgiveness, resilience, and Christian principles.

## How to Participate:

The fee for professors, researchers and university students (80 euros) includes lunches and working material for those days. Accommodation and travel costs are the responsibility of each participant.

Those who wish to present a paper during the Congress can follow the Call for Papers.

For any other questions or information, please contact the Centro Cristianesimo e Società e-mail address: [dsc@pusc.it](mailto:dsc@pusc.it)



**DICASTERO PER L'EVANGELIZZAZIONE**

*SEZIONE PER LE QUESTIONI FONDAMENTALI  
DELL'EVANGELIZZAZIONE NEL MONDO*



# Call for Papers

## *Common Memory and Collective Forgiveness*

**Date of the event:** May 6 - 7, 2025

**Venue:** Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Rome)

The Center for Christianity and Society, part of the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Rome) and the Confederation of Businessmen Coparmex (Mexico), is organizing the congress "Common Memory and Collective Forgiveness". The activity is supported by the Dicastery for Evangelization (Holy See) and will take place in Rome, within the framework of the activities of the Jubilee to be celebrated by the Church in 2025.

For the Christian faithful, the Jubilee is a year of remission of sins and reconciliation. In the biblical world, the Jubilee had a marked social dimension insofar as it was a liberation from the negative dependencies that human beings weave among themselves (slavery, usury, domination, offenses, revenge, etc.). The Jubilee Year today opens an opportunity for reflection that prepares us to live this special year, exploring new horizons and ways to achieve peace in today's society, wounded in its interpersonal relationships and traversed by social conflicts, including armed ones.

The **common memory** proposes, among other things, a dynamic in which it would be desirable for those who have been forgiven to pass on this experience to others as an act of purification of memory and liberation from resentment. The memory of the offense is relevant for forgiveness, but it should not make the person - or a collective - captive to pain and revenge, but rather contribute to discovering the vulnerability of others and one's own vulnerability. From that memory could arise the impulse to renew a relationship and reach an eventual reconciliation.

The proliferation of **collective forgiveness** and apologies since the early 1990s raises a number of issues that deserve to be explored. *Collective forgiveness* is not simply the forgiveness of a group, but requires a structure in which a group of people constitutes more than just a collection of individuals. Collectives have distinct qualities received from each of the individuals that make up the collective. More importantly, they usually have formal organizational structures that enable them to make decisions and take action together. Groups subject to such acts of collective forgiveness are, for example, countries and states, the Church, universities, companies, etc., but also ethnic groups or collectives whose unifying feature is the fact of having shared the suffering caused by the same type of offense.

Collective forgiveness, in any case, is modeled on interpersonal forgiveness. Specialists (philosophers, jurists, theologians, historians, sociologists, etc.) investigate a variety of topics such as, for example, the very possibility of the existence of collective forgiveness, offense, memory, truth, responsibility, justice and its limits, guilt, solidarity between generations, storytelling, reparation or the public use of history. Collective forgiveness has also brought renewed attention to institutions in our world, to their mechanisms of representation or to the loss of trust in them by citizens. These are issues that influence the health of relationships at all levels, the lack of peace and reconciliation in society, in families, in individuals, not only because the culture of forgiveness has faded among citizens, but also because evil is not considered as such, so that there is no room for repentance. Finally, common memory and collective forgiveness touch the structures of society that watch over justice and law, facilitating or hindering the creation of contexts that favor the possibility of forgiving and asking for forgiveness.

This congress intends to consider carefully how an organization could initiate processes of recognition of common memory and collective forgiveness in view of the peace that today's society needs. These processes would ultimately arise from the consideration of God's forgiveness with each one (theological field), from the awareness of belonging to a community where mistakes would not have to be definitive (philosophical and relational field) and from creating new processes where it is easier to forgive and ask for forgiveness (field of institutions, justice and law).

### **Thematic lines of the congress:**

- **Historical memory and transitional justice:** analysis of mechanisms such as truth commissions, war crimes trials and their impact on collective memory, etc.
- **Narratives of memory:** Study of the ways in which collective memories are narrated and transmitted through literature, art, film, and other media.
- **Forgiveness and reconciliation:** Theories and practices of collective forgiveness, processes of community and national reconciliation.
- **Memory policy:** Public policies and their role in the construction and preservation of historical memory.
- **Education and memory:** Pedagogical strategies for teaching recent history and memory in post-conflict contexts.
- **Memory and human rights:** Relationship between the preservation of memory and the promotion of human rights.
- **Memory and identity:** Ways in which collective memory influences the construction of individual and group identities.
- **Case studies:** Analysis of specific cases of memory construction and reconciliation processes in different parts of the world.

## **Submission of papers:**

We invite interested parties to submit abstracts of their papers. These should include:

- Title of the paper
- Name of author and institutional affiliation
- Abstract of 300 words maximum
- Key words (maximum 5)
- Brief biography of the author (maximum 150 words)

**Deadline for abstract submission: 31 January 2025**

**Notification of acceptance: 28 February 2025**

Submission guidelines:

- Papers must be original and may be written and read in English, Spanish or Italian.
- All papers must be related to the thematic lines of the congress.
- Abstracts should be sent in Word or PDF format.
- Accepted papers will have a presentation time of 15 minutes.
- Papers accepted for publication should be submitted in English, with the final text to be delivered in September 2025.
- The editorial standards will follow the Chicago Style model.

**Submission of papers and queries:** Proposals for papers should be sent to the organizing committee's e-mail address, to Professor Miriam Savarese: [m.savarese@pusc.it](mailto:m.savarese@pusc.it).

For more information, please visit our website: [www.pusc.it](http://www.pusc.it)

## **Committee for the evaluation of papers:**

- Prof. Mariano Crespo
- Prof. Jaime Cardenas
- Prof. Rafael Domingo
- Rev. Prof. Cristian Mendoza
- Prof. Miriam Savarese

## Tuesday, May 6, 2025

### 9:00 a.m.

*Opening Regards*

Rev. Prof. Fernando Puig (Rector. Pontificia Università della Santa Croce)

### 9:15 a.m.

*Common Memory and Collective Forgiveness in the Recent Pontifical Magisterium*

Rev. Prof. Cristian Mendoza (Pontificia Università della Santa Croce)

### 9:45 a.m.

*Document Memory and Reconciliation. 25 years later.*

Prof. Jaime Cárdenas (Pontificia Università della Santa Croce)

### 10:15 a.m.

*Forgiveness and Justice*

Prof. Matthew Potts (Harvard University)

### 11:00 a.m.

Break

### 11:30 a.m.

*The Spirituality of Forgiveness*

Prof. Rafael Domingo (Universidad de Navarra - Emory University)

### 12:30 p.m.

Communications // Testimonials

### 1:30 p.m.

Lunch Break

### 3:00 p.m.

Communications // Testimonials

### 4:00 p.m.

*Forgiveness in Social Media and Artificial Intelligence*

Prof. John D. Peters (Università di Yale)

### 5:00 p.m.

*Il perdono in Terra Santa, fra il sogno e la possibilità*

S. Em. R. Card. Pizzaballa, patriarch of Gerusalemme.

### 6:00 p.m.

Dialogue with speakers

### 7:00 p.m.

End of the Day

## Wednesday, May 7, 2025

### 9:00 a.m.

*Does God Always Forgive?*

Rev. Prof. Paul O'Callaghan (Pontificia Università della Santa Croce)

### 9:45 a.m.

*Forgiveness: Fundamental Relationship with God*

Rev. Prof. Giulio Maspero (Pontificia Università della Santa Croce)

### 10:15 a.m.

*Forgiveness, Revealer of the Human Person*

Prof. Mariano Crespo (Universidad de Navarra)

### 11:00 a.m.

Break

### 11:30 a.m.

*The Virtue of Forgiveness?*

Prof. Glen Pettigrove (University of Glasgow)

### 12:30 p.m.

Communications // Testimonials

### 1:30 p.m.

Lunch Break

### 3:00 p.m.

Communications // Testimonials

### 4:00 p.m.

*Forgiveness: the Journey of a Lifetime*

Prof.ssa Elena Colombetti (Pontificia Università della Santa Croce)

### 5:00 p.m.

*War, Conflict and Forgiveness*

S. Em. R. Card. Zuppi, archbishop of Bologna

### 6:00 p.m.

Dialogue with speakers

### 7:00 p.m.

Conclusions of the Conference