Faculté de droit canonique
Faculty of Canon Law

WEBINAIRES EN DROIT CANONIQUE

CANON LAW WEBINARS

(2025-2026)

UNIVERSITÉ SAINT·PAUL UNIVERSITY

A noter :

Les webinaires sont présentés par la Faculté de droit canonique de l'Université Saint-Paul, le Centre de services canoniques et la Société canadienne de droit canonique.

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Tous les webinaires se déroulent de 14h00 à 15h15. ET.
Les webinaires sont gratuits !

Please Note:

The Webinars are jointly presented by Faculty of Canon Law, Canadian Canon Law Society & Centre for Canonical Services.

Registration is mandatory. You will find information on how to register and how to access the recording of each webinar on the web page for each webinar.

All webinars are recorded and can be viewed within a period of 90 days after the live webinar date.

All webinars run from 2.00 to 3.15 pm. ET.
Webinars are free of charge!

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Faithful Stewardship: Insights from Values-Driven Organizations for Administration of Church Goods

Prof. Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, FMA

1 October 2025
2:00 to 3:15 p.m. (EST)

This presentation explores how values-driven organizations serve as a model for the faithful administration of Church goods. It highlights the importance of aligning organizational values with stewardship principles, fostering transparency, accountability, and community involvement. By drawing lessons from successful organizations guided by strong ethical and moral foundations, the talk aims to provide both pastoral and practical insights and inspiration for church leaders and administrators. Ultimately, the goal is to promote a stewardship approach rooted in faith, hope, and service—ensuring the responsible management of resources for the common good of the Church community.

Prof. Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, F.M.A. was born in Vasto (Ch) on 14 November 1974, and became a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians in 1997 after a period of theological formation at the Pontifical Lateran University. She graduated in Economics from Roma Tre University in 2001, and obtained a PhD in Political Economy from La Sapienza University of Rome (2006) and a PhD in Economics from East Anglia University (Norwich, UK 2014). In 2016, she carried out research activities at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests are related to economic theories of cooperation and value-based organisations. She has authored several publications on these topics.

She is full professor of Political Economy at the Auxilium Faculty of Education. She has taught Economics of Cooperation at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (Milan) and the LUMSA University (Rome), Economics, Ethics and Finance at the Pontifical Salesian University (Rome) and International Economics at the Pontifical Lateran University.
From 2006 to 2021, she worked with the Italian Episcopal Conference for the Social Weeks of Catholics. In 2018, she participated as an auditor at the Synod on "Youth, faith, vocational discernment". From 2019 to 2024, she was a Counsellor of Vatican City State.

Since April 2020 she worked with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development as Coordinator of the Task Force Economy in the Vatican Covid-19 Commission and since March 2021 she has held the position of Undersecretary at the same Dicastery. On 26 August 2021, the Holy Father appointed her as interim Secretary of the Dicastery and Delegate for the Vatican Covid-19 Commission, confirming her in this role on 23 December 2021. On 23 April 2022, the Holy Father appointed her as Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

In September 2023 she was appointed as a Board of Directors Member of the Laudato Si' Center for Higher Education. On 11 February 2025 Pope Francis established the Commission for Donations to the Holy See (Commissio de Donationibus pro Sancta Sede), and appointed Sr. Alessandra Smerilli as a member of the Commission.

Register:

https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/dqfEK8VBTbCUoH4XOXR7Hg

Episcopal Ministry in a Synodal Church

His Exc. Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy Savrimuthu

5 November 2025

2:00 to 3:15 p.m. (EST)

The Synod on Synodality (2021–2024) marks a significant development in the ecclesial life of the Catholic Church. It calls the entire People of God to rediscover the Church as fundamentally synodal: a community that listens, journeys together, and discerns the movement of the Holy Spirit. Within this synodal horizon, episcopal ministry is reconfigured not in essence, but in style and emphasis. The bishop, as the successor of the apostles and head of a local Church, is called to lead in communion, foster participation, and promote mission.

His Exc. Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy Savarimuthu was born in Vandanam, Tamil Nadu, India, on 8 December 1960 and was ordained to the presbyterate on 26 April 1987 for the Diocese of Palayamkottai.

He holds a B.A. (History, Sociology, Philosophy), University of Bangalore, India, 1982 and a M.A. (English Literature), University of Madurai Kamaraj, India, 1992. He did his Licentiate in Canon Law, at L'Institut Catholique de Paris, 1996 and concluded a Doctorate in Canon Law, at L'Institut Catholique de Paris and University of Paris XI, Paris, France, 2000.

He has served as professor at St Peter's (regional) minor seminary, Madurai (1989-1992); Rector at Christ Hall (regional philosophate) seminary, Karumathur, Madurai (2000-2004); Judicial Vicar (2002-2007), Vicar General (2004-2011) and a Pastor in the diocese of Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu, India. He was also a Professor at the Centre of Canon Law Studies in St Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, India (2011-2019); Director of the Centre (2016-2019); Editor of Studies in Church Law (2014-2019); Vice President of the Canon Law Society of India since 2017.

He was appointed the Bishop of Palayamkottai by Pope Francis on 20 November 2019 and consecrated Bishop of Palayamkottai on 15 December 2019. He is the Chairman, Tamil Nadu Latin Bishops' Council (TNLBC) Family Commission since January 2020, Treasurer, Tamil Nadu Bishops' Council (TNBC) and TNLBC since July 2021, Chairman, Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) Commission for Canon Law and Legislative Texts since January 2023. Since 4 November 2024, he also serves as the Apostolic Administrator of the archdiocese of Madurai.

Register:

https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/wh8HJHjMTtiEJglwL-nwNw

Participation et leadership des laïcs dans une Église synodale : Fondements théologiques et implications pastorales

Prof. Catherine E. Clifford

3 Decembre 2025
14 h à 15 h 15 (HNE)

La notion de la synodalité et la participation des laïques a la vie et la mission de l'église se fondent sur le sacrement du baptême et leur participation aux tria munera Christi. Nous proposons une réflexion sur les bases de cette théologie dans le deuxième concile du Vatican et son déploiement dans le XVI Assemblée Ordinaire du Synode (2021-2024), ainsi que les implications pastorales pour sa mise en pratique.

Prof. Catherine E. Clifford est Professeure titulaire de théologie systématique et historique. Ses recherches et ses publications sont focalisées principalement dans les domaines de l'ecclésiologie, l'œcuménisme, ainsi que l'histoire du concile Vatican II. Ses intérêts se portent tout spécialement sur les questions de la conversion et du renouveau de l'église. Elle était déléguée et consultante au XVI Assemblée du Synode, « Pour une église synodal : communion, participation, mission » (2023-2024).

S'inscrire au webinaire.

https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/13_PejWMQ2-s-tRa1D4oGA

‘Scandal’ in Canon Law

Prof. Msgr. Brendan Daly

28 January 2026
2:00 to 3:15 p.m. (EST)

Scandal often dominates media headlines, especially when it involves the Catholic Church. Sensational reporting can confuse or deepen the pain of the Faithful, who are already grappling with the devastating effects of leadership failures and cover-ups that have intensified the sexual abuse crisis. This webinar will explore the concept of scandal from a canonical perspective – clarifying its meaning in Church law and examining how it applies both within ecclesial life and in situations that may also provoke media scrutiny.

Prof. Msgr. Brendan Daly is a priest from the diocese of Christchurch and was ordained in 1977. He studied canon law in Ottawa in the 1980’s, completing a doctorate in canon law in 1986 with a thesis concerning infant baptism. He taught at Holy Cross College from 1987 and was rector of Holy Cross Seminary from 1995-2000. He was a judge on the Appeal Tribunal of Australia and New Zealand from 1988 to 2012. He was a lecturer in canon law at Good Shepherd College – Te Hepara Pai in 2001 and was principal from 2002 until 2016. He has been Judicial Vicar of the Tribunal of the Catholic Church for New Zealand since 2017. He is a guest instructor and canon law Resource Person for the Safeguarding Office of the Asian Bishops Conference in Manila.

Register:

https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/j/95559555104?pwd=QbYQ3H7GbYRb8ffddUIopQnjvPGPQf.1

Administration des biens dans la paroisse : défis actuels et réponses canoniques

Prof. Rév. Père Jean Marie Signié, SCJ

4 mars 2026
14 h à 15 h 15 (HNE)

En général, lorsqu'on traite de la paroisse, il est surtout question des enjeux et défis pastoraux. La question de l'administration des biens est le plus souvent éludée. En faisant ainsi, l'on oublie que dans la dynamique de l'œuvre d'évangélisation, les questions pastorales et économiques sont indissociables, car un minimum de biens temporels est nécessaire pour mener à bien les actions pastorales.

Par ailleurs, depuis quelques années, avec la baisse de la pratique religieuse dans certaines régions du monde en contraste avec les communautés fleurissantes dans d'autres régions, l'on s'interroge sur la nature actuelle de la paroisse. Peut-on continuer de comprendre la réalité de l'institution paroissiale de la même façon partout ? Dans les pays d'ancienne chrétienté, la diminution du nombre de fidèles, dont l'une des conséquences immédiates est la diminution des ressources financières, entraine la reconfiguration des paroisses. Dans les jeunes Églises, l'augmentation du nombre de fidèles contraste avec la prise en charge financière insuffisante de l'activité évangélisatrice par les communautés. Ici et là, des problèmes surgissent dans l'administration des biens, au sujet des immeubles des paroisses ou de la gestion des ressources. Les actions entreprises ou à entreprendre entrainent de plus en plus des conflits entre fidèles laïcs, pasteurs et hiérarchie diocésaine. D'un côté comme de l'autre, l'on a tendance à oublier que la paroisse est une personne juridique publique ecclésiastique.

Ce webinaire nous permettra dans un premier temps de rappeler brièvement la nature de l'institution paroissiale et les normes canoniques qui régissent l'administration de ses biens ; nous verrons ensuite les problèmes que traverse cette institution aujourd'hui, les défis que suscite cette situation en lien avec l'administration des biens, et nous proposerons enfin, à partir des normes canoniques, quelques pistes de solution.

Le **Prof. Rév. Père Jean Marie Signié, SCJ,** est prêtre de la Congrégation des Prêtres du Sacré-Cœur de Jésus. Ordonné prêtre en 1997, il a exercé à plusieurs reprise le ministère en paroisse comme vicaire puis curé. Il est titulaire d'un doctorat en droit canonique de l'Université Saint Paul d'Ottawa, où il a défendu en 2005 sa thèse intitulée : Le Conseil paroissial pour les affaires économiques selon la canon 537 : application à l'Église du Cameroun.

Le père Signié a occupé plusieurs postes de responsabilité tant dans l'Église locale que dans sa congrégation, tels que ceux de vicaire judicaire au tribunal ecclésiastique provincial de Yaoundé, formateur et de supérieur provincial des Prêtres du Sacré-Cœur au Cameroun. Il est aujourd'hui Directeur honoraire du Département de droit canonique de l'Institut catholique de Yaoundé où il est toujours enseignant permanent. Il est auteur de livre Paroisse et administration des biens. Un chemin vers l'autosuffisance Églises d'Afrique, publié aux éditions l'Harmattan en 2007. Récemment, il a dirigé un ouvrage collectif intitulé : La paroisse aujourd'hui… Et demain ! publié aux Presses de l'Université catholique d'Afrique centrale (PUCAC). Bien que son domaine principal de recherche soit l'administration des biens temporels, le professeur Signié mène aussi la réflexion sur le dialogue Droit canonique et culture, et est auteur de plusieurs articles dans d'autres domaines du droit canonique.

S'inscrire au webinaire.

https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/j/91960619064?pwd=SdBlucwhyBaDrm1ljMwsTu7t32MmHV.1

Sponsorship: Canonical Responsibilities for the Apostolic Works of Religious Institutes

Prof. Sr. Kelly Connors, PM

8 April 2026
2:00 to 3:15 p.m. (EST)

This webinar will offer an examination of the concept of sponsorship as it pertains to the relationship between Public Juridic Persons (PJPs) and the ministries or apostolic works they sponsor. Specifically, we will analyze how this relationship is understood within Canon Law and explore the various canonical frameworks that guide its exercise and development. We will address how the relationship between a PJP and its apostolic works can evolve over time, ensuring both the effectiveness of the ministry and the integrity of the founding PJP.

Prof. Sr. Kelly Connors, PM, is a Sister of the Presentation of Mary and a member of the US Province. She completed her studies in Canon Law at St. Paul University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. With the specialization in Religious Law, Kelly has worked for dioceses, served part-time at the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and taught at universities. Currently, she provides workshops and conferences for religious and their collaborators, consults with individual religious and leadership teams, as well as collaborating with several Conferences for Major Superiors throughout the world. Kelly served one term on her General Leadership Team (2017-2023). Recently returned to the United States, Kelly continues to offer canonical consultation and support to Consecrated Life and those who have the ministry of leadership.

Register:

https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/j/98977220463?pwd=9iiiSdiJo4BGcMuWLmVwFAqaKZttBQ.1

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DATES	WEBINAIRES WEBINARS	INTERVENANT/E/S SPEAKERS	LIEN D'ENREGISTREMENT REGISTRATION LINKS
1st October 2025	Faithful Stewardship: Insights from Values-Driven Organizations for the Administration of Church Goods	Prof. Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, FMA	https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/dqfEK8VBTbCUoH4XOXR7Hg
5th November 2025	Episcopal Ministry in a Synodal Church	His Exc. Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy Savrimuthu	https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/wh8HJHjMTtiEJglwL-nwNw
3rd Decembre 2025	Participation et leadership des laïcs dans une Église synodale : Fondements théologiques et implications pastorales	Prof. Catherine E. Clifford	https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/13_PejWMQ2-s-tRa1D4oGA
28th January 2026	'Scandal' in Canon Law	Prof. Msgr. Brendan Daly	https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/j/95559555104?pwd=QbYQ3H7GbYRb8ffddUIopQnjvPGPQf.1
4th Mars 2026	Administration des biens dans la paroisse : défis actuels et réponses canoniques	Prof. Rév. Père Jean Marie Signié, SCJ	https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/j/91960619064?pwd=SdBlucwhyBaDrm1ljMwsTu7t32MmHV.1
8th April 2026	Sponsorship: Canonical Responsibilities for Apostolic Works of Religious Institutes	Prof. Sr. Kelly Connors, PM	https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/j/98977220463?pwd=9iiiSdiJo4BGcMuWLmVwFAqaKZttBQ.1

UN MESSAGE DE REMERCIEMENT
A WORD OF THANKS

Un remerciement spécial aux conférenciers et conférencières des prochains webinaires, qui partagent leur expertise académique, ecclésiale, canonique et pastorale à travers le forum privilégié de nos webinaires.

Un grand merci à toutes les personnes de l'Université Saint-Paul impliquées dans la préparation et la réalisation de cette session, en particulier les membres de la comité de coordination : le professeur M.J. Jesu Pudumai Doss, SDB, coordonnateur des webinaires, le professeur Chad Glendinning, doyen de notre faculté, Sœur Louise Charbonneau, administratrice du Centre des services canoniques, et Mme Ruth Barreau, assistante du doyen et coordinatrice du programme.

Nous remercions également l'ensemble des participantes et participants aux webinaires qui, par leur présence, soutiennent nos initiatives et nous encouragent à continuer.

A special thanks to the presenters of the upcoming webinars, who share their academic, ecclesial, canonical and pastoral expertise through the privileged forum of our webinars.

A big thanks to all persons at Saint Paul University involved in the preparation and conducting of this session, especially the members of the coordinating committee, Prof. M.J. Jesu Pudumai Doss, SDB, the coordinator of the webinars, Prof. Chad Glendinning, Dean of our Faculty, Sr. Louise Charbonneau, Administrator of the Centre of Canonical Services, and Ms. Ruth Barreau, Assistant to the Dean and program coordinator.

A special thanks also to all the participants in the webinars, who by their presence, support our initiatives and encourage us to continue.