



Roman Curia Information

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026



Opening Prayer

ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

PATRON SAINT OF IMMIGRANTS, ORPHANS
AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS

1850 – 1917



O HOLY MYSTERY OF LOVE,

As we lead and serve in ministries of your Church, may we act with the tenacity and endurance of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini who dedicated her life to founding ministries to serve critical needs. Although we may not travel the world in our service, help us to remember the influence and impact we have on those we serve and those who serve alongside us.

Help us find strength in our faith to carry out your ministry.

Recommit us today to serve you earnestly with our hands,
our eyes, our thoughts, and our hearts.

All you Holy Men and Women: pray for us.

AMEN.



Briefing about the Roman Curia

The Roman Curia

Can. 360 The Supreme Pontiff usually conducts the affairs of the universal Church through the Roman Curia which performs its function in his name and by his authority for the good and service of the churches. The Roman Curia consists of the Secretariat of State or the Papal Secretariat, the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church, congregations, tribunals, and other institutes; the constitution and competence of all these are defined in special law.

Can. 361 In this Code, the term Apostolic See or Holy See refers not only to the Roman Pontiff but also to the Secretariat of State, the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church, and other institutes of the Roman Curia, unless it is otherwise apparent from the nature of the matter or the context of the words.

- Code of Canon Law, Chapter Five

Supreme Pontiff

Pope Leo XVI



Roman Curia

Secretariat
of State

Dicasteries

Tribunals

Other
Institutions

Dicasteries

A general term used to refer to the various departments that make up the Roman Curia or administrative offices of the Vatican. The term refers to the various congregations, pontifical councils, tribunals, and other offices that are part of the Vatican's administrative structure. Reforms, such as those in *Praedicate Evangelium* (2022), have streamlined its structure by reducing dicasteries and clarifying competencies.

Dicasteries of the Roman Curia

This list is not exhaustive; it highlights the dicasteries with which Catholic health care interacts most regularly.

Dicastery	Mission / Description	Current Prefect / Head
Dicastery for Evangelization	Oversees the Church's missionary mandate and fundamental questions of evangelization; presided over directly by the Pope with two sections.	Pope (Prefect); Pro-Prefects: Card. Luis Antonio G. Tagle; Archbp. Rino Fisichella
Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith	Promotes and safeguards Catholic doctrine on faith and morals, including disciplinary matters.	Card. Víctor Manuel Fernández
Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life	Supervises religious orders and societies of apostolic life.	Sr. Simona Brambilla, M.C. (Prefect); Pro-Prefect: Card. Ángel Fernández Artime, S.D.B.
Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life	Promotes the vocation of the laity and pastoral care of family and human life.	Card. Kevin Joseph Farrell
Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development	Addresses issues of justice, peace, migration, health, ecology, and human dignity.	Card. Michael Czerny, S.J.

The Curia Needs to Be Focused on Mission and Communion

“In this way, the mission of Jesus on earth, which continues in the Holy Spirit through the Church, becomes a criterion for discernment in our lives, in our journey of faith, in ecclesial practices, and also in the service we carry out in the Roman Curia. Structures must not weigh down or slow the progress of the Gospel or hinder the dynamism of evangelization; instead, we must “make them more mission-oriented”

“We are called, especially here in the Curia, to be builders of Christ’s communion, which is to take shape in a synodal Church where all cooperate in the same mission, each according to his or her charism and role. This communion is built not so much through words and documents as through concrete gestures and attitudes that ought to appear in our daily lives, including in our work.”

- Pope Leo XIV, Address to Roman Curia in December 2025

The Church: A Mystery of Communion

4. The reform of the Roman Curia demands attention to, and appreciation for, yet another aspect of the mystery of the Church. In her, mission and communion are so closely united that we can say that the purpose of mission is precisely that of “making everyone know and live the ‘new’ communion that the Son of God made man has introduced into the history of the world”.

This life of communion makes the Church synodal; a Church marked by reciprocal listening, “whereby everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the College of Bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth (cf. Jn 14:17), in order to know what he says to the Churches (cf. Rev 2:7)”. This synodal nature of the Church is to be understood as “the journeying together of God’s flock along the paths of history towards the encounter with Christ the Lord”. It has to do with the mission of the Church and the communion that is in service to that mission and is itself missionary.

- Praedicate Evangelium: On the Roman Curia and Its Service to the Church in the World

Service of the Roman Curia

8. The Roman Curia is at the service of the Pope, who, as the successor of Peter, is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the Bishops and of the whole company of the faithful. [15] By virtue of this bond, the work of the Roman Curia is also organically related to the College of Bishops and individual Bishops, as well as to Episcopal Conferences and their regional and continental groupings, and the hierarchical structures of the Eastern Churches. All these are of great pastoral benefit as expressions of the affective and effective communion existing among the Bishops. The Roman Curia is not set between the Pope and the Bishops, but is at the service of both, according to the modalities proper to the nature of each.

- Praedicate Evangelium: On the Roman Curia and Its Service to the Church in the World

Principles and Criteria for the Service of the Roman Curia

1. Service to the mission of the Pope.
2. Co-responsibility in communio.
3. Service to the mission of the Bishops.
4. Support for the particular Churches and their Episcopal Conferences and for the hierarchical structures of the Eastern Churches.
5. The vicarious nature of the Roman Curia.
6. Spirituality.
7. Personal integrity and professionalism.
8. Cooperation between Dicasteries.
9. Interdicasterial and intradicasterial meetings.
10. Expression of catholicity.
11. Reduction of Dicasteries.



Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith

The task of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith is to help the Roman Pontiff and the Bishops to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world by promoting and safeguarding the integrity of Catholic teaching on faith and morals. It does this by drawing upon the deposit of faith and seeking an ever deeper understanding of it in the face of new questions.

The Dicastery consists of two Sections: Doctrinal and Disciplinary, each coordinated by a Secretary who assists the Prefect in accordance with the specific area of its competence.



**Cardinal Victor
Manuel Fernández**
Prefect



**Msgr. Armando
Matteo**
Secretary



**Archbishop John
Joseph Kennedy**
Secretary



**Archbishop
Charles Jude
Scicluna**
Adjunct Secretary



**Msgr. Philippe
Curbelié**
Under-Secretary



Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has the task of promoting the human person and the God-given dignity of all, together with human rights, health, justice and peace. It is principally concerned with matters relating to the economy and work, the care of creation and the earth as our 'common home', migration and humanitarian emergencies.

It examines and spreads the Church's social doctrine on integral human development and, in the light of the Gospel, recognizes and interprets both the current and future needs and concerns of the human race.



Cardinal Michael Czerny, S.J.
Prefect



Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, FMA
Secretary



Msgr. Jozef Barlaš
Under-Secretary



Cardinal Fabio Baggio, C.S.
Under-Secretary



Msgr. Robert Vitillo
*Senior Advisor
Research and
Reflection*



Fr. Shawn Conoboy
*Regional
Coordinator -
Americas*



Pontifical Academy for Life

The Pontifical Academy for Life, was established by Pope Saint John Paul II with the *Motu Proprio Vitae Mysterium* of 11 February 1994. The objective of the Pontifical Academy for Life is the defense and promotion of the value of human life and of the dignity of the person.

The specific responsibility of the Academy is to study, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the problems connected with the promotion and defense of human life; to form persons in a culture of life – in the areas of its proper competence – through appropriate initiatives, and always with full respect for the Magisterium of the Church; and to inform, in a clear and timely manner, Church leaders, the various biomedical science institutions and societal health care organizations, the media, and civil society in general, about the most significant results of its own study and research (Cf. *Vitae Mysterium*, 4).



Archbishop Renzo Pegoraro
President



Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia
President Emeritus



Fr. Andrea Ciucci
Coordinating Secretary



Nunziatina Comoretto
Scientific Section



THE SHARED STATEMENT OF IDENTITY *for* THE CATHOLIC HEALTH MINISTRY

We are the people of Catholic health care, a ministry of the church, continuing Jesus' mission of love and healing today. As provider, employer, advocate, citizen – bringing together people of diverse faiths and backgrounds – our ministry is an enduring sign of health care rooted in our belief that every person is a treasure, every life a sacred gift, every human being a unity of body, mind and spirit.

We work to bring alive the Gospel vision of justice and peace. We answer God's call to foster healing, act with compassion and promote wellness for all persons and communities, with special attention to our neighbors who are poor, underserved and most vulnerable. By our service, we strive to transform hurt into hope.

AS THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH CARE, WE COMMIT TO:

- + Promote and Defend Human Dignity
- + Attend to the Whole Person
- + Care for Poor and Vulnerable Persons
- + Promote the Common Good
- + Act on Behalf of Justice
- + Steward Resources
- + Serve as a Ministry of the Church



*We Will Empower Bold Change to Elevate
Human Flourishing.SM*