

## Theme

In the growing body of theological and spiritual literature on the family over recent years there is hardly any publication that does not explicitly refer to the 'domestic church'. Christian households are said to be or called to become 'little churches of and in the home'. Since the Second Vatican Council's retrieval of this concept from patristic precedents, more recent magisterial teachings of the Roman Catholic Church speak of the Christian family as 'a specific revelation and realization of ecclesial communion' (FC 21).

In spite of this broad interest and official endorsement, however, the concept itself today still dwells in a 'doctrinal vacuum' (Michael A. Fahey). Where the model of the 'church in miniature' is not used to further align the family with the ecclesial institution, it simply serves as a 'pious metaphor' to restore some spiritual dignity to the Christian household. Likewise, theological treatises on the Church seem more concerned with its universal character than with its smaller, local units and so the 'domestic church' has remained a marginal and exotic note in ecclesiology as well.

One may wonder, however, whether small communities, as families are, have indeed so little to tell the 'new family of God' to which Christ has called his disciples to belong. Can the churches really afford to neglect the specific competences that families have when it comes to serving and sharing with each other, to dealing with differences and otherness of its members, be they related to gender, age, ethnicity or religious conviction, and to encountering God in ordinary life with its everyday ties, duties and responsibilities?

The conference is intended to revisit critically the notion of domestic church and to explore the potential, both theological and pastoral, that the idea of *minusculae Ecclesiae* may have for the life of the churches and of families.

The conference is targeted towards scholars and practitioners who are working in the fields of ecclesiology, family studies, ecumenical theology, moral theology, social ethics, practical theology, contextual theology, public theology, gender studies, feminist theology, church history, biblical studies, patristics, and hermeneutics, amongst other fields.

The conference language is English.

## Registration & Information

### Conference fees

	Registration before 20-02-2010	Registration after 20-02-2010 or on site
Senior Scholar	120 euros	150 euros
Junior Scholar	60 euros	75 euros
K.U.Leuven member	-	-
Conference dinner (optional)	45 euros	45 euros

**Registration** - Please register by sending  
- participant name(s)  
- full address(es)  
- e-mail(s)  
- the total amount of payment  
to [seminar@intams.org](mailto:seminar@intams.org)

### Payment should be made to

- Name: K.U. Leuven  
- Bank account number: 734-0066603-70  
- IBAN: BE60 7340 0666 0370  
- BIC: KREDBEBB  
- Reference: 400/0003/24987 + name of the participant.  
Please note that payment on site upon arrival can only be made in cash (euros).

### Arrivals

Wednesday 10 March 2010 between 14.00 and 17.00  
at Catholic University Leuven, Faculty of Theology,  
Sint-Michielsstraat 6, 3000 Leuven, Belgium.  
Upon registration you will receive all further practical details.

### Travel & accommodation

Participants are required to take care of their own travel arrangements, accommodation and meals.  
Information can be found at [www.intams.org](http://www.intams.org)

**For all further information contact the Conference Secretariat:**

## INTAMS Chair for the Study of Marriage & Spirituality



# The Household of God and Local Households

## Revisiting the Domestic Church

### International Conference Catholic University Leuven

10 - 13 March 2010



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT  
**LEUVEN**

Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek  
Research Foundation - Flanders

[seminar@intams.org](mailto:seminar@intams.org)  
[www.intams.org](http://www.intams.org)

Co-organizers:  
Ecclesiological Investigations International Research Network  
Centre for Ecumenical Research, K.U.Leuven

# Programme



## Wednesday 10 March 2010

14:00-17:00 Arrival & Registration

### 19:30-21:00 Opening Session

19:30-19:45 Welcome

19:45-20:30 Lecture

#### Fine-tuning the Notion of 'Domestic Church'

**Michael A. Fahey**, Prof. of Theology  
Boston College - Boston, MA, USA.

20:30-21:00 Introduction into the Conference

#### Thomas Knieps-Port le Roi

INTAMS Chair for the Study of Marriage & Spirituality,  
Catholic University Leuven - Belgium

21:00 Opening Reception

## Thursday 11 March 2010

### 09:00-10:30 Plenary Session I

#### Household of God and Human Relations. What Type of Relations Do We Need in the Church?

09:00-10:00 Papers

**Bernd-Jochen Hilberath**, Prof. of Dogmatic Theology  
University of Tübingen - Germany

**Mary McClintock Fulkerson**, Prof. of Theology  
Duke University Divinity School - Durham, NC, USA

10:00-10:30 Public Discussion

10:30-11:00 Break

### 11:00-12:30 Plenary Session II

#### Family and Religion in Judaism and Christianity

11:00-12:00 Papers

**David Hunter**, Cottrill-Rolfes Chair of Catholic Studies  
University of Kentucky - Lexington, KY, USA

**Warren Zev Harvey**, Chair, Department of Jewish Thought  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem - Israel

12:00-12:30 Public Discussion

12:30-14:30 Lunch

### 14:30-16:00 Plenary Session III

#### Church of Churches, Family of Families: Contextual and Ecumenical Considerations

14:30-15:30 Papers

**Henk Witte**, Prof. of Systematic Theology  
University of Tilburg - Netherlands

**Francis Appiah-Kubi**, Prof. of Theology  
St. Peter's Regional Seminary - Cape Coast, Ghana

15:30-16:00 Public Discussion

16:00-16:30 Break

### 16:30-18:30 Paper Session I

Free evening

## Friday 12 March 2010

### 9:00-10:30 Plenary Session IV

#### What Type of Family is Needed for the (Domestic) Church?

09:00-10:00 Papers

**Brent Waters**, Prof. of Christian Social Ethics  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary - Evanston, IL, USA

**Jana M. Bennett**, Assistant Prof. of Religious Studies  
University of Dayton - OH, USA

10:00-10:30 Public Discussion

10:30-11:00 Break

### 11:00-12:30 Plenary Session V

#### What Church Do Families Need?

11:00-12:00 Papers

**Stephanie Klein**, Prof. of Pastoral Theology  
University of Lucerne - Switzerland

**Andrea Grillo**, Prof. of Sacramental Theology  
Pontificio Ateneo S. Anselmo - Rome, Italy

12:00-12:30 Public Discussion

12:30-14:30 Lunch

### 16:30-18:00 Paper Session II

18:30-19:30 Ecumenical Prayer Service

20:00 Celebratory Conference Dinner

## Saturday 13 March 2010

### 09:00-10:30 Plenary Session VI

#### Universal Church and Local Communities

09:00-10:00 Papers

**Richard Gaillardetz**, Murray/Bacik Prof. of Catholic Studies  
University of Toledo - OH, USA

**Antoine Arjakovsky**, Prof. of Theology  
Ukrainian Catholic University - Lviv, Ukraine

10:00-10:30 Public Discussion

10:30-11:00 Break

### 11:00-12:00 Closing Session

11:00-11:30 Concluding Reflections

**Gerard Mannion**  
Ecclesiological Investigations International Research Network

11:30-12:00 Discussion with participants

12:00 Coffee & Departures

