

August 14, 2026

Dear Provincials and Formators,

I am writing to tell you about an exciting opportunity at CTU for your men in formation, and to ask you to encourage them to take part.

Until the pandemic, CTU designated one course each semester as a public lecture course. The first hour is a lecture open to the public; the remainder of the class meeting is reserved for registered students, who meet with the instructor to discuss the lecture and readings. We are resuming this practice this fall.

I have enclosed the details of the planned course, *Theologians of the Vatican II Era*. It will meet seven times between September 15 and November 3, on Tuesdays at 7pm. The lectures will be offered by Mary Kate Holman (Fairfield), Kathleen McManus, OP (Notre Dame), Thomas O'Meara, OP (Notre Dame), Robin Ryan, CP (CTU), and Antonio Sison, CPPS (CTU). The opportunity is especially rich because Tom O'Meara, who will lecture on Congar, Rahner, and Küng, worked with each of those towering figures. Steve Bevans and Steve Millies will shepherd the whole course to ensure its academic coherence.

I hope you will impress on your students how rare and important this chance is to engage the theology of the Vatican II era in this way. Many of them were born as that era was ending. The theological climate in which they are being trained was shaped by Vatican II, and the thread of living memory is beginning to slip away. A direct encounter with the theology of the era is, we believe, vital to their formation and preparation, and it will help them better understand the context for theology in the era of Pope Leo. I hope you will agree.

We have designed this to be easy. Your students may, of course, take the course for credit. But knowing that their degree programs and other commitments keep them busy, we have scheduled it on Tuesday nights, when only one other course meets—so there is little chance of a conflict at CTU. Students may also attend the public lecture in the first hour and profit from it without enrolling in the full course to read or write papers. We invite them to attend the lectures alone without the usual fee, as CTU's guests — a gift we are glad to offer your communities. Please encourage others in your communities to attend as our guests as well. We hope you will consider joining us.

Questions about this opportunity may be directed to Steve Millies (smillies@ctu.edu), chair of our Historical and Doctrinal Studies department, who is organizing the course.

CTU is your theologate. Your communities have gathered this community of scholars to form and prepare your men for ministry to the post-Vatican II Church. It is our pleasure to honor your generosity with this singular chance to engage directly the theological climate that has shaped our time. Please encourage your students to take advantage of it.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Enzo Del Brocco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "E".

Fr. Enzo Del Brocco, C.P., PhD
President
Catholic Theological Union