



the BridgeDialogues

laity & clergy reimagining the church

A collaborative effort of Voice of the Faithful, FutureChurch, & Association of U.S. Catholic Priests



Discussion questions after viewing or reading Massimo Faggioli's talk

After viewing Prof. Faggioli's talk and/or reading the transcript, use these questions—or those you devise on your own—as a way to begin the dialogue. Note that you may spread questions over multiple sessions or use these initial questions as springboards to later sessions and other questions about how clergy and lay people both experience and engender clericalism.

1. What most surprised you about Prof. Faggioli's comments regarding Vatican II? Do you see lay people in the Church as simply "the non-ordained"?
2. Were you surprised to learn that the original distinction between lay and ordained was an administrative separation rather than a sacramental one? Does that affect your understanding of "proper roles" today for priests and parishioners?
3. Which would have the strongest positive effect on reducing clericalism: seeing both clergy and laity sharing the status of "priestly people," or seeing both as sharing a similar status because they are "the baptized"?
4. Prof. Faggioli says groups trying to promote a corporate model for the Church set up a Church "enslaved to money." Would a corporate Church have any effect on the clericalism already embedded in the hierarchy, or is it just a newer version of the older administrative model that feeds clericalism?
5. What would be your first "prescription" for the Church to curb clericalism? Can you take steps towards that goal today?