

LOVE AND COMMUNION IN THE THOUGHT OF DIETRICH VON HILDEBRAND. ON THE OCCASION OF UNA CARO

MAY 18, 2026 | 9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Raphael (Raffaello Sanzio), *Marriage of the Virgin*, 1504. Oil on panel. Pinacoteca di Brera, Milan.

STUDY DAY

In November 2025, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith issued the doctrinal note, *Una caro: In Praise of Monogamy. Doctrinal Note on the Value of Matrimony as an Exclusive Union and Mutual Belonging*. While the document draws upon the perennial wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Bonaventure, and many others, as well as the more recent teaching of Karol Wojtyła/John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, it also marks a historic milestone: the first extensive citation of Dietrich and Alice von Hildebrand within an official doctrinal document.

Hildebrand's books *In Defense of Purity* (1927) and *Marriage* (1929) marked a sea change in the Catholic theology of marriage and prepared the ground for the Second Vatican Council's affirmation of the unitive dimension of married love in *Gaudium et Spes*. These works, alongside later books like *The Metaphysics of Community* (1930), *Ethics* (1953), *The Heart* (1965), *Man and Woman* (1966), and *The Nature of Love* (1971), comprise an original personalist philosophy.

The **first conference of the Hildebrand Chair for Christian Personalism** seeks to take up *Una caro's* call for deeper reflection on the theme of unity and exclusivity in marriage. In this perspective, conjugal unity is not merely a legal status, but the manifestation of an original truth about the person who finds fulfillment in the gift of self and the formation of the "we."

By exploring Dietrich von Hildebrand's original contributions—especially his notion of the *intentio unionis* (desire for union) and the "rehabilitation of the heart"—this conference will bring Hildebrand into dialogue with both the *philosophia perennis* and more recent thinkers, notably Karol Wojtyła/John Paul II. Attention will also be devoted to the contribution of Alice von Hildebrand, whose work on the specific vocation of man and woman was also highlighted in *Una caro*.

Program

Welcome Address

Fr. Alberto Carrara, L.C., Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy (APRA)

Opening Remarks

John Henry Crosby, President of the Hildebrand Project

Speakers

Rocco Buttiglione, John F. Crosby, Elisa Grimi, Rodrigo Guerra López, Robert McNamara, P. Eamonn O'Higgins, L.C., Marta Rodríguez Díaz.

Location

AULA MAGNA, Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum

CALL FOR PAPERS

Applications

- Scholars who are currently pursuing or have completed a doctoral degree
- Early-career researchers and professors

Topics

Contributions should be related to the theme of the conference, with particular reference to:

- Christian personalism
- The thought of Dietrich von Hildebrand and/or Alice von Hildebrand (with particular attention to the following themes: love, communion, freedom, truth, virtues)
- Philosophical and theological implications of *Una Caro*

Submission Guidelines

Applicants are invited to submit to cattedrahildebrand@upra.org

- Title of the paper
- Abstract (max. 300 words)
- Short biographical note (name, surname, institutional affiliation, research areas)

Deadlines

- **Submissions: May 8, 2026**
- **Notification of acceptance: by May 11, 2026**

Language

- **Italian.** English is allowed, providing a written Italian version



INFORMATION AND APPLICATION

cattedrahildebrand@upra.org

Via degli Aldobrandeschi 190,
00163 Roma

upra.org

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Hildebrand
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