



# Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter  
November, 2014

## Scott Hackl to explain St. Paul's Catholic program at UW-Madison on Nov. 16

Scott Hackl is the Senior Director of Advancement for the St. Paul Catholic Center at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Located in the heart of the Madison campus, near the foot of Bascom Hill and across from the Library on State Street, St. Paul's Chapel provides a center of Catholic activity for UW students. If you have a student in Madison, are considering UW for a young person in your life, or would simply like to learn about this wonderful apostolate on the Madison campus, this presentation is a MUST for you.

Scott Hackl graduated from the School of Business at the University of Wisconsin in 2004. He is currently active in his parish in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, where he resides with his wife, Gina, and his five children, with the sixth on the way. Scott is also active in volunteering and consulting with many Catholic organizations. He has a deep conviction of the need for Catholic evangelization, in every parish and in our world, which revolves around the necessity of daily prayer.

Please come and bring a friend to hear Scott Hackl discuss,

### “St. Paul’s Chapel-UW: Forming the New Faithful”

WHERE: St. John the Evangelist Church Hall  
8500 W. Cold Spring Road  
(enter from north parking lot)

WHEN: Sunday, November 16

TIME: 2:00 p.m. - Program  
1:45 p.m. - Rosary



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2015: The St. Gregory VII Chapter of CUF needs at least \$12 per contributing member to meet its expenses for one year. CUF International, for those who are interested, asks for a contribution of \$40 per year, which includes a subscription to the *Lay Witness* magazine. Those who contribute at least \$12\* to the Chapter will receive this newsletter by First Class Mail, and can buy books at a significant discount at our meetings. To receive this Newsletter by the Bulk Mail Service, a contribution is not necessary. However, unless you return the form every year, you will not receive every mailing. With printing and mailing costs rising, those who are unable to provide us with at least a few dollars to help defray expenses will only receive every 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Newsletter (unless you provide an email address). If you want to make sure you continue to receive each Newsletter, please fill out the form below and return to: ANN TAUCHER; P.O. BOX 370302; MILWAUKEE, WI 53237-0302. (\*Priests and religious are complimentary.)

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# **“An extraordinary Synod, indeed”**

## ***The Catholic Difference, by George Weigel***

### ***Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.***

*Southern Nebraska Register, October 24, 2014, p. 4*

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According to Vatican-speak, a specially scheduled session of the Synod of Bishops is an “Extraordinary Synod,” meaning Not-an-Ordinary Synod, held every three years or so. In the case of the recently-completed Extraordinary Synod of 2014, extraordinary things did happen, in the “Oh, wow!” sense of the word. And if this year’s Extraordinary Synod was a preview of the Synod for which it was to set the agenda, i.e., the Ordinary Synod of 2015, that Synod, too, promises to be, well, extraordinary. How was the Extraordinary Synod of 2014 extraordinary? With apologies to the Bard, let me count the ways:

1. The 2014 Synod got an extraordinary amount of press attention. Alas, too much of that attention was due to the mass media misperception that The Great Moment of the Long-Awaited Catholic Cave-in was at hand: the moment when the Catholic Church, the last major institutional hold-out against the triumph of the sexual revolution, would finally admit the error of its ways and join the rush into the promised land of sexual liberation, symbolized in this instance by a Catholic cave-in on the nature of marriage. What ought to have gotten the world’s attention – the witness of African bishops to the liberating power of monogamy and lifelong marital fidelity – got sadly short shrift, though Third World women are the principal beneficiaries of the truth about marriage the Church received from its Lord.

2. The 2014 Synod demonstrated the extraordinary self-confidence of bishops from dying local churches who nonetheless feel quite comfor-

table giving pastoral advice to local churches that are either thriving or holding their own. Many northern European bishops and theologians (and bishop-theologians) acted as if the blissful years when they set the agenda for the world Church at Vatican II had returned. That these same bishops and theologians and bishop-theologians have presided over the collapse of western European Catholicism in the intervening five decades seemed not to

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### **“why were no representatives of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute on Marriage and the Family invited to a Synod on the family?”**

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matter to them in the slightest. Happy days were here again.

3. The 2014 Synod was extraordinary, or at least the media claimed it was, for an unprecedented public display of discord among cardinals. Perhaps those who found this either unprecedented or unseemly could consult Galatians 2:11, where Paul reports that he “rebuked” Peter “to his face.” Or ponder the fierce arguments among North African bishops during the Donatist controversy. Or look into the quarrel between Bishop Cyprian of Carthage, a doctor of the Church, and Pope Stephen, Bishop of Rome. Or read the debates at the first session of Vatican II. The 2014 controversies were indeed noteworthy, in that otherwise intelligent men whose position had been pretty well demolished by fellow-scholars were incapable of admitting that they’d gotten it wrong. But upon

further review (as they say in the NFL) that isn’t so new either.

4. The 2014 Synod was extraordinary in that a lot of theological confusion was displayed by elders of the Church who really ought to know better. The idea of the development of doctrine was especially ill-used by some. Of course the Church’s self-understanding develops over time, as does the Church’s pastoral practice. But as Blessed John Henry Newman showed in the classic modern discussion of the subject, all authentic development is in organic continuity with the past; it’s not a rupture with the past. Nor is there any place in a truly Catholic theory of doctrinal development for rewriting the words of the Lord or describing fidelity to the plain text of Scripture as “fundamentalism.”

5. The 2014 Synod was extraordinary in its demonstration that too many bishops and theologians (and bishop-theologians) still have not grasped the Iron Law of Christianity in Modernity: ***Christian communities that maintain a firm grasp on their doctrinal and moral boundaries can flourish amidst the cultural acids of modernity; Christian communities whose doctrinal and moral boundaries become porous (and then invisible) wither and die.***

6. One more thing: why were no representatives of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute on Marriage and the Family invited to a Synod on the Family? Extraordinary, indeed: in both Vatican-speak and plain English.

George Weigel’s column is distributed by the ***Denver Catholic Register***, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: (303) 715-3123

**THE FALL-WINTER-SPRING SCHEDULE:**

- November 16    **ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL-UW: FORMING the NEW FAITHFUL**, by Scott Hackl (at St. John)
- December 14    **MSGR. POPEK BIRTHDAY/CHRISTMAS DINNER** (at Meyer's Restaurant)
- January 18     **C.S. LEWIS and FAITH LESSONS for an INCREASINGLY FAITHLESS WORLD**, by Dr. Pesta
- February 15    **AFTERNOON OF RECOLLECTION**, by Fr. James Kubicki, S.J. (at Sacred Heart Church)
- March 15        **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- April 19         **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- May 17          **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- September 20   **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- October 11      **MSGR. POPEK AWARD DINNER----**Recipient:    **Rev. Fr. Dennis Kleinmann**



**Catholics United for the Faith**

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Join us December 14  
Msgr. Popek Birthday/Christmas Dinner  
Meyer's Restaurant

**Come and bring a friend to hear  
Scott Hackl**

Senior Director of Advancement  
St. Paul Catholic Center, UW Madison  
discuss,

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