

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **US-China Catholic Association (USCCA) hosted by the University of St. Thomas Invites Registration for the 2026 International Conference in Houston, Texas**

*Early-Bird Registration Through May 1, 2026*

The US-China Catholic Association, in partnership with the University of St. Thomas in Houston, invites Catholic leaders, educators, scholars, students, and members of the Chinese Catholic diaspora from across the United States and abroad to register now for the 2026 USCCA International Conference, **“Following the Way of Christ: Nourishing Trust and Friendship.”** This multi-day gathering will bring participants together around the shared themes of faith, friendship, culture, and community.

**Keynote speakers include: Fr. Thomas Betz, OFM Cap.,** St. John the Evangelist Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and **Dr. Fenggang Yang,** Professor of Sociology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.

In addition to the keynote addresses, more than 25 speakers, including clergy, scholars, and practitioners, will share their experiences and insights on mission work, faith formation, pastoral ministry, social services, faith practices, and Chinese culture. Participants will hear first-hand accounts of the lives of Chinese Catholics in China and will also reflect on how the faith has spread through the diaspora into communities across the United States, where it continues to take root, deepen, and build up the Body of Christ.

Founded in 1989, the US-China Catholic Association serves as a bridge between Chinese culture and the Catholic faith in both the United States and China. The organization creates spaces where individuals and communities can deepen their spiritual lives, celebrate cultural heritage, and participate more fully in the mission of the Catholic Church. The 2026 Conference continues that mission by fostering dialogue, mutual understanding, and solidarity among Chinese Catholics worldwide.

“As this year’s conference comes to Houston, we are honored to partner with the University of St. Thomas as host to this important gathering,” said Peter Tan, Chair of the US-China Catholic Association. “The USCCA exists to build trust, strengthen friendship, and create a welcoming, faith-centered community that reflects both our Catholic identity and our Chinese cultural heritage. Houston is home to one of the largest Chinese populations in the United States, and we are thrilled to welcome participants from near and far.”

“We are honored to host the USCCA 2026 International Conference,” said Dr. Sinda Vanderpool, President of the University of St. Thomas. “As *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* reminds us, Catholic universities are called to bring forward the cultural treasures, both old and new, that enrich the life of the Church and the world. This conference is a meaningful example of that mission in action.”

Organizers encourage all interested participants to **register as soon as possible** to take advantage of the **early-bird rate available through May 1**. With a strong program and broad national and international interest, attendees are encouraged not to delay.

**Register now and don't miss the early-bird deadline of May 1.**

**For registration information and conference details, please visit: <https://www.uscatholicchina.org/conference-30-registration>**

Please visit the USCCA Conference website and browse the [Provisional Program](#) with presentation topics and information about [speaker-presenters](#).

**Media Contact:**

Planning Team of the 2026 USCCA–UST Conference

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