

THE CATHOLIC WORLD

[Routledge Worlds Series](#)
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Spring 2026

[Mathew N. Schmalz & Thomas M. Landy](#)
[Catholics and Cultures](#)
[College of the Holy Cross](#)



ABSTRACT

The Catholic World seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of the Catholic tradition as global, diverse, and multi-faceted with the understanding that “Catholic” itself is a polythetic category, which is shifting and flexible. The volume will situate Catholicism within its global context, provide a substantive overview of key elements structuring Catholic belief and practice, and conclude with a thematic approach that engages Catholic Studies as a sub-discipline. *The Catholic World* aims to be a comprehensive resource for scholars and students who wish to engage Catholicism not as a monolith, but as an ever-evolving and locally instantiated lived religious tradition.

The Catholic World is designed to stand out from similar books by foregrounding issues related to global interconnectivity, particularity, and lived religious practice in a bewildering array of local cultures. The book’s title takes the term “world” in a literal, geographical sense, rather than focusing on Catholicism as its own internal world. It also understands that focus not simply by

studying the actions of elites—those in the hierarchy, priesthood, or academy—but also by examining the beliefs and practices of the billion-plus lay Catholics in the world. While many chapters will have to provide some introductory information on their designated topic, every chapter will be called to answer at its center, how in the context of its era, the Church’s global nature and aspirations impact and shape the topic described.

The Catholic World will be published in the [Routledge Worlds Series](#), in hard copy, paperback, and e-book formats. After the submission of initial drafts, interested contributors will have the opportunity to attend several workshopping sessions on Zoom or in person at the College of the Holy Cross. Workshop travel, lodging, and food will be paid for by the [Catholics & Cultures](#) initiative and [The Journal of Global Catholicism](#). Interest in the workshops will need to be indicated by June 1, 2025. While the editors cannot guarantee that we will be able to include all interested participants in the workshops, we are committed to collegial collaboration in the development of *The Catholic World*. Around two years after its initial publication in hard copy format, the editors will aim to make *The Catholic World*, in its entirety, Open Access through [Routledge Press digital platforms](#). While we cannot guarantee Open Access, the editors will pursue funding options.

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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR *THE CATHOLIC WORLD*:

- Submissions should be no longer than 5000 words, inclusive of notes and bibliography. • All chapters should be original and not previously published.
- All chapters must be complete with citations, a bibliography, and an abstract. If there is some overlap with your previous publications, please email catholicworld@holycross.edu. Generally, some overlap is understandable and permissible as long as it is appropriately cited. Quoted content over 400 words must receive appropriate permission from the relevant publisher/author.
- All chapters should address lived Catholic practice in some way unless a different understanding has been reached with the editors.
- Abstracts are due June 1, 2025 to catholicworld@holycross.edu.

- Manuscripts of completed articles are due December 1, 2025 to catholicworld@holycross.edu, with editorial comments and revisions to follow.
- Publication is expected Fall 2026. The volume will be published first in print. However, we will explore Open Access options with the contributors and Routledge Press/Taylor & Francis Group.
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