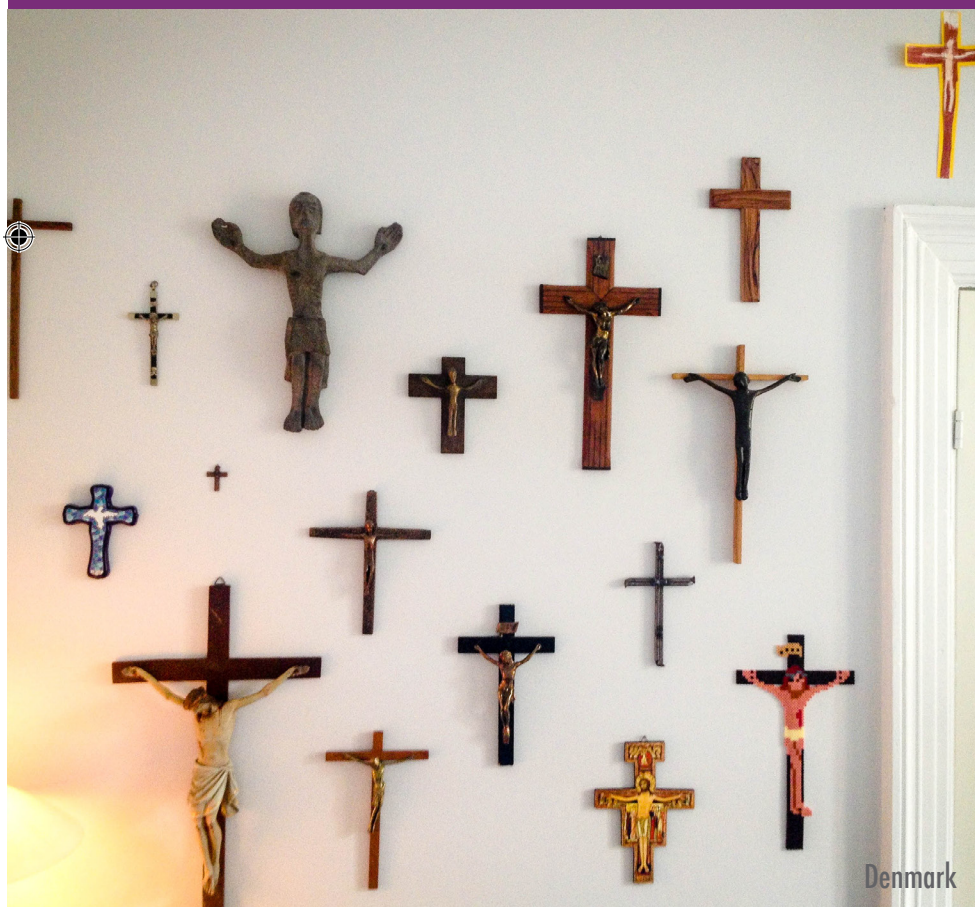


Most Catholics experience the faith through a single cultural lens. Yet people all around the world live and imagine it in a rich diversity of ways. Catholics & Cultures widens the lens with a scholarly rigorous and vividly accessible look at the religious lives and practices of contemporary Catholics in countries around the globe.



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Catholics & Cultures



www.catholicsandcultures.org

Catholics & Cultures, an initiative of the Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J. Center for Religion, Ethics and Culture at the College of the Holy Cross, aims to engage scholars from around the world in the study of contemporary Catholic life in comparative cultural contexts. The initiative focuses on “lived Catholicism,” the ways lay Catholics actually practice and believe, in particular cultures and everyday contexts of their lives.

The initiative sponsors scholarly conversations, international conferences, and publications, including the electronic Journal of Global Catholicism. The Catholics & Cultures website serves as a growing, changing depiction of the global Church today for an international and interreligious audience.



Uganda



El Salvador



Iraq



India

The Catholics & Cultures website enables viewers to:

- Consider the places in the world where Catholicism is practiced publicly, with religious displays in city squares, streets and stores, and compare to cultures where religious practice is largely reserved for the home and sacred spaces.
- Sample the myriad Marian feasts and festivals celebrated around the world.
- Explore the melding of Catholicism and culture and its influence on gender roles, marriage, family life and death rituals.
- Discover the diversity of shrines, with ex-voto offerings such as flowers, notes and candles, tokens of miracles and healing, and elaborate works of art.
- Watch a charismatic service or an Eastern Catholic rite.

The Catholics & Cultures website features research articles, interviews and bibliographies, photographs and videos, maps, graphics and more to provide viewers a global sense of what it means to be Catholic today. Because culture is shaped significantly by social and economic conditions, the site also offers demographic data by country to aid in comparison and add perspective. Website visitors can search by country or search cross-cultural themes among Catholic practices and values.

Theologians and church leaders have long engaged in philosophical analysis of faith and culture, but far less work has been done to study Catholic life in this globally comparative context. Your participation in this initiative will give scholars, students and Catholics everywhere a richer understanding of the role of Catholicism among the people and within the cultures where it is lived.