

CATHOLIC/CRYPTO

CONFERENCE 2022

MEDIA TIP SHEET

Synopsis

The Catholic/Crypto Conference 2022 is the first conference of its kind, bringing together both Catholic and non-Catholic thought leaders in the fields of technology, blockchain and cryptocurrency, alongside Catholic theologians, philosophers and pastoral leaders for two full days of seminars, meet-ups, strategy sessions, networking and fun. The conference aims to educate individual Catholics and Church leaders on cryptocurrency, blockchain and related technologies and to equip them to use these tech advancements for the common good. Conference founder Matthew Pinto believes Catholics need to be at the center of the conversation with new technologies or risk forfeiting these tools to those who might use them in ways that are contrary to human thriving.

Additional News Angles

Cancel Culture can endanger how Catholics evangelize; blockchain and distributed networks can prevent censorship

YouTube, Google, Facebook and dozens of other websites and Big Tech businesses have actively taken stances contrary to Catholic teachings. This has led to instances of “cancel culture,” directing people away from Catholic ministries and messages because they do not conform to the secular narrative and the Big Tech firms that fund them.

Videos are taken down, websites are pushed to the bottom of search results, Facebook groups are banned. Because cryptocurrency is decentralized, it provides the Catholic Church and Catholic ministries with a way around Big Tech and the Cancel Culture.

Future of bitcoin and cryptocurrency

There are dozens of news stories every day about the future of bitcoin, cryptocurrency, and blockchain technology, and, because the technology is still new, many people are skeptical, confused or even fearful of it. There are few, if any, experts in the media who are talking about these new technologies, and their ramifications, from a Catholic or Christian perspective, much less an entire conference dedicated to how these technologies can further the mission of the Catholic Church and uphold the common good.

Biography

Matthew Pinto

A pioneer in Catholic marketing and ministry development, Matthew Pinto has been at the forefront of multiple Catholic initiatives since the early 1990s. In 1998 he founded Ascension Press, leading the Catholic media outlet and publisher to global prominence until 2022. Pinto is also the founder of Spark Catholic Communications and co-founder of the Theology of the Body Institute, Envoy Magazine, The Maximus Group, and CatholicExchange.com. He has authored or co-authored more than a dozen books and educational resources, including the best-selling *Amazing Grace* series, which is commonly recognized as the “Catholic *Chicken Soup for the Soul*,” *Did Adam & Eve Have Belly Buttons?*, and *Freedom: Twelve Lives Transformed Through the Theology of the Body*. He also conceptualized and co-wrote *A Guide to The Passion: 100 Questions About the Passion of the Christ*, a New York Times religious best-seller, with sales exceeding 1 million copies.

Pinto is a founding member of the Catholic Marketing Network (CMN), a recipient of the Outstanding Catholic Leadership Award (2004) from the Catholic Leadership Institute, and he has served on multiple boards. He and his wife Maryanne have been married for 28 years and are the proud parents of six children.

Suggested Interview Questions

1. Why should the Church be attentive to technological changes that have the potential to change large sections of the culture, communications, the economy and more?
2. Does Catholic theology and our view of the created world predispose us towards technology or away from it?
3. What was the Catholic response to the internet when it first arrived on the scene in the early 1990s?
4. What is blockchain technology and cryptocurrency?
5. What is Web 3.0?
6. What is the metaverse?
7. What promise might cryptocurrency, blockchain and Web 3.0 offer Catholics or Catholic institutions?

8. Is this conference too far ahead of the curve? Do you think Catholic leaders are aware of these new technologies and the need to be attentive to them?
9. What are the ramifications if Catholics are slow to embrace these technologies or others that will come our way in the future?
10. How do you respond to someone who says that so many modern inventions easily lead to evil?
11. What are possible use cases for cryptocurrency?
12. What are possible use cases for blockchain technology?
13. What are possible use cases for the metaverse or Web 3.0?
14. What are possible use cases for NFTs or “smart contracts”?
15. Can the use of blockchain technology bypass Big Tech and their efforts to limit the influence of the Catholic Church online?
16. Why should Catholics come to this conference?
17. Who specifically should come to this conference?