To mark the 400th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622), the Pontifical Salesian University has organized an international convention to celebrate and reflect upon his legacy.

Saint Francis de Sales has influenced the history of Spirituality and Religious Life up to the present day not only through his writings, including the Introduction to the Devout Life and the Treatise on the Love of God, but also through his own way of life. Therefore, it is worthwhile to study his legacy for the Church and spiritual life today.

Francis was not only the founder of the Order of the Visitandines, but also an inspiration for founders of various orders, congregations and institutes through his spirituality and works, from the seventeenth century to the twentieth century.

The convention was organized by the Institute of Spiritual Theology of Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Salesian University. The Preparatory Committee consists of the professors:

In the atrium of the university, there is an exhibition about Francis de Sales: old and new art combined with some quotes from the bishop of Geneva. If you want to see the content: click here and also here

Download the program here

Download the Homily ENG
For the first time in history, on the occasion of the Convention, 14 of these Congregations were brought together. Various representatives told how the bishop inspired their founders and continues today to be a source of inspiration.

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**Friday, November 18**

**Session 1**

Order of the Visitation of Saint Mary – **IT FR ENG SPA** - Mariagrazia Franceschini
Institute of the Sisters of Saint Francis de Sales - **IT ENG FR SPA** - Elena Pettenon
Little Sisters of Charity of Mary of Sorrows - No texts or translations available - Massimo Schiavi
Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales - **IT ENG FR SPA** - Isaac John

**Session 2**

Society of Saint Francis de Sales - **IT ENG FR SPA** - Wim Collin
Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales - **IT ENG SPA FR** - Joseph F. Chorpenning
Congregation of the Oblate Sisters of Saint Francis de Sales - **IT ENG FR SPA** - Anne-Véronique Lapeze
Sisters Daughters of Saint Francis de Sales - **IT ENG FR SPA** - Maria Paola Campanella
The Salesian Missionaries of Mary Immaculate - **IT ENG FR SPA** – Nihita Paul

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**Saturday, November 19**

**Session 3**

Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians - **IT ENG SPA FR** - Eliane Petri
Saint Francis de Sales Association - **IT ENG SPA FR** - Margaret Margeton
Society of Priests of St. Francis de Sales - **IT ENG SPA FR** - Daniel Moulinet
Salesian Sisters of the Oblates of the Sacred Heart - No texts or translations available - Grazia Benghini

**Session 4**

Educational Convergences between St. Francis de Sales and Don Bosco - **IT ENG SPA FR** - Michal Vojtas
Mary in the Life and Thought of Francis de Sales. Iter and Contexts of Marian Devotion - **IT ENG SPA FR** - Antonio Escudero
Francis de Sales and the Protestants: the Duty of Christian Charity - **IT ENG SPA FR** - Emile Amougou

**Session 5**

Peter, the Foundation and not the Founder of the Church - **IT ENG SPA FR** - Aimable Musoni
Contemplation and Action in Saint Francis de Sales: Impetus for an Iter of Christian and Religious Formation - **IT ENG SPA FR** - Giuseppe Roggia
Session 6
Sacred Eloquence in the XVI Century and the Theological-Pastoral Criteria of St. Francis de Sales’ Preaching - IT ENG SPA FR - Vincenzo Marinelli
Living in a Peaceful Way the Experience of Uneasiness; Xavier Thévenot in the Footsteps of St. Francis de Sales - IT ENG SPA FR - Thierry La Goaziou

Sunday, November 20
Session 7
“My Very Dear Daughter” Francis de Sales and Women - IT ENG SPA FR - Wendy Wright
The Salesian Missionaries of Mary Immaculate - IT ENG FR SPA - Nihita Paul
Called to Sanctity: the Proposal of St. Francis de Sales and of Pope Francis - IT ENG SPA FR - Eugenio Alburquerque
Antoine Favre and the Latin Letters - IT ENG SPA FR - Miran Sajovic
Conclusion - IT ENG SPA FR - Ezio Bolis

For the digital copy of Fr. Morand’s book St. Francis de Sales: A Program of Integral Formation click here.