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David Gibson of Fordham's Center on Religion and Culture; Bishop John Stowe of Lexington, Kentucky; Heidi Schlumpf, NCR executive editor; Massimo Faggioli of Villanova University; and Michael Lee of Fordham University participate in a panel event discussing the U.S. bishops' "eucharistic coherence" document. (NCR screenshot/YouTube)



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As the Nov. 15-18 U.S. bishops' conference meeting approaches, Catholics and others are watching the controversial document on "eucharistic coherence," which was originally planned to cover denying Communion to pro-choice politicians such as President Joe Biden. In a wide-ranging conversation, four experts discuss the document and what they hope to see at the meeting of the church leaders next week.

Panelists included Bishop John Stowe of Lexington, Kentucky; Massimo Faggioli of Villanova University; Michael Lee of Fordham University; and Heidi Schlumpf, NCR executive editor. The panel was moderated by David Gibson of Fordham's Center on Religion and Culture, which co-sponsored the event with NCR.

Resources:

- The U.S. bishops' proposed new document on the Eucharist may not mention pro-choice Catholic politicians like President Joe Biden, but [Msgr. Kevin Irwin thinks the document reads as if it could have been created before the Second Vatican Council](#).
- [Marianne Duddy-Burke says](#) in a commentary that the institutionalization of the Eucharist affects the spiritual health of millions of Catholics every single day.
- [NCR columnist Carmen Nanko Fernández says](#) the leaked draft of the U.S. bishops' eucharistic teaching document demonstrates how disconnected the U.S. hierarchy has become from the realities on the ground
- Although many bishops would like to backpedal the PR train wreck of the Eucharist document, don't be fooled by the bishops' spin, [we write in our editorial](#).
- Keep up with all of NCR's [coverage of the U.S. bishops' fall 2021 assembly here](#).
- All of NCR's past coverage of [Biden, bishops and Communion can be found here](#)

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This story appears in the [**Bishops, Biden and Communion**](#) and [**USCCB Fall Assembly 2021**](#) feature series.