



聖若瑟大學
UNIVERSITY OF
SAINT JOSEPH
MACAO



USJ
DOCTORAL FORUM
2026

USJ Doctoral Forum in Religious Studies and Philosophy

CONFERENCE DATE:

5 June 2026 | 19:00

LOCATION:

*University of Saint Joseph's Seminary Campus
(Rua do Seminário)*

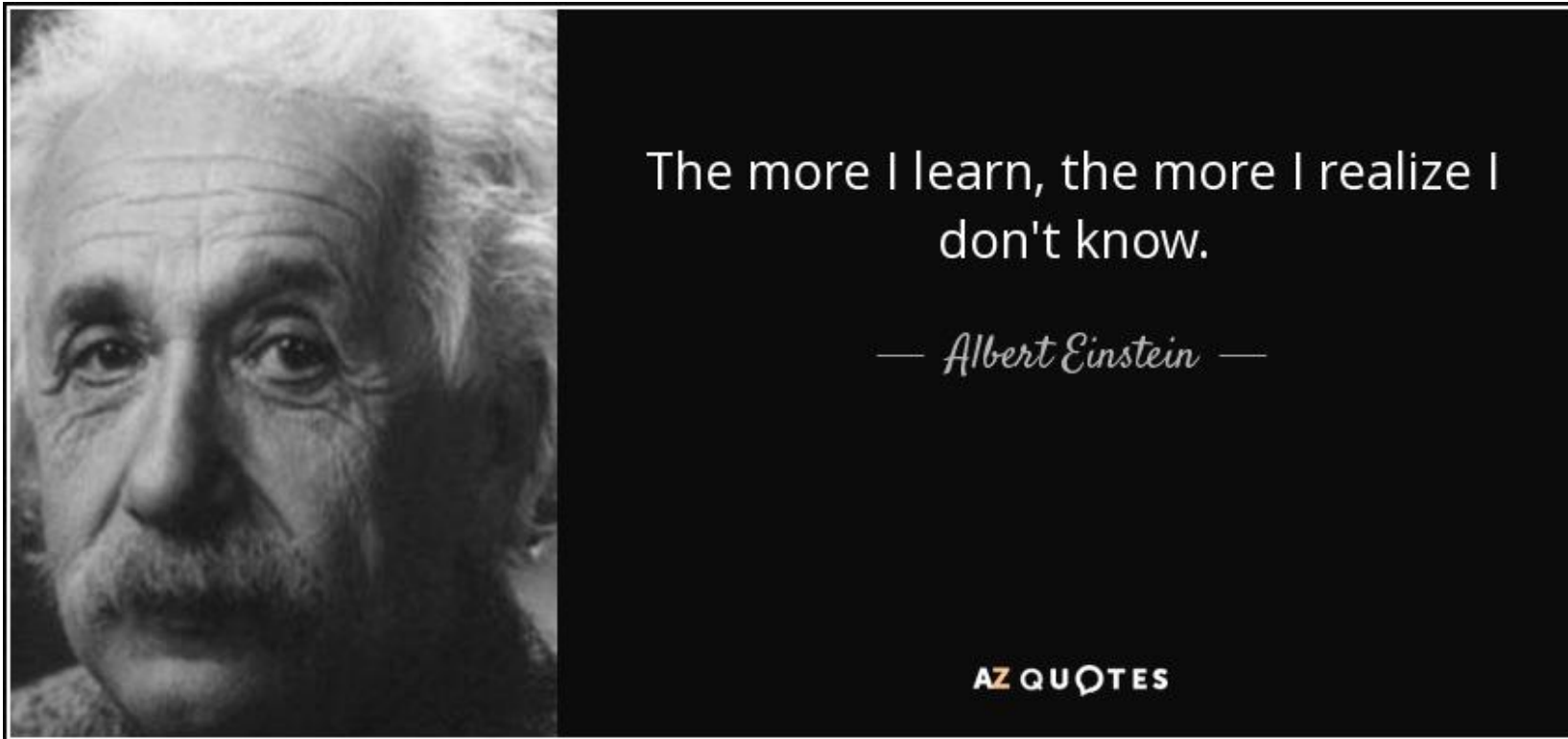
**A Pastoral Analysis of the Catechetical Development with reference to
Christian Initiation within the Chinese Catholic Community in Macau (1576-2026)**

CHAN Si Weng, Magdalene



Original Title:

‘Catechesis under the Sign of *Misericordia*’ serving
the New Evangelization: Pastoral Analysis of
Catechetical Approaches in Macau



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Remain!

now with historical depth
(450 years of Catholic
Church in Macau)

**The title must reflect
what I CAN do, not
what I HOPE to do.**

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Research motivation
and research methods

↑
WHY and HOW?

↑
Research objectives

Catechesis

God speaks to people



Word of God



Church **resounds/echos**



People

People's response:
Conversion



Christian Initiation

WHAT?

Definition of catechesis,
catechetical materials,
catechetical pedagogy,
catechists, formation for
the catechists, audience,
number of baptized.....

**A Pastoral Analysis of the Catechetical Development with reference to
Christian Initiation within the Chinese Catholic Community in Macau
(1576-2026)**

WHEN?

Periodization, historical , political
influences, establishment of the Macau
Diocese, diverse groups of missionaries
in Macau,

WHERE and WHOM?

Time of starting evangelize the Chinese,
the first Chinese bishop, how the Chinese
understand the benefits of being Catholic,
from "caring for Portuguese" to "mission
to Chinese, adapting strategies to
Chinese.....

FROM MACAU TO THE WORLD: CELEBRATING 450 YEARS OF MISSION & MERCY
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MACAU A.D. 1576-2026

天主教澳門教區成立



慶祝活動系列詳情，請掃描二維碼

Please scan the QR code for details about our celebratory events
Leia o código QR para obter detalhes sobre os nossos eventos celebrativos



Research Motivation

Opportunity

- 450th anniversary → time for academic review and future planning

Existing research

- institutions, missionaries, architecture, church-state relations

Missing

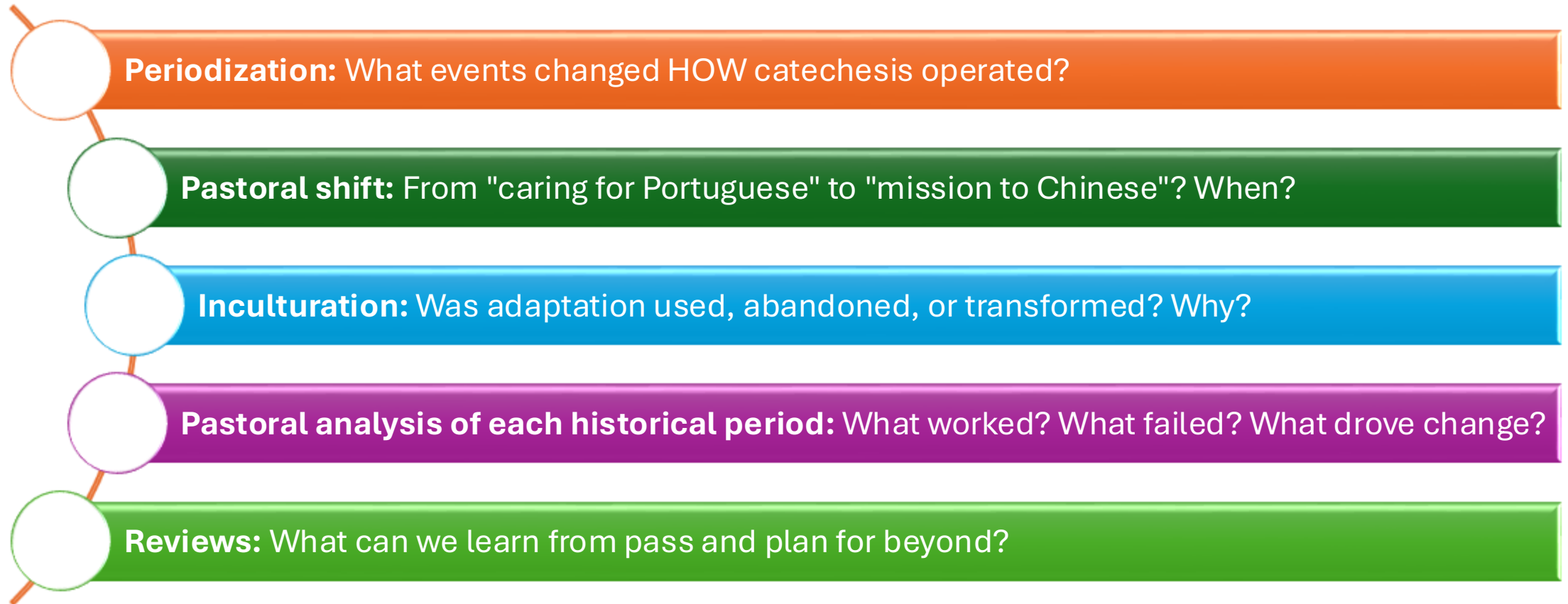
- Long-term, systematic pastoral analysis and theological reflections of Chinese community's initiation and catechesis

Research Gaps

1. Lack of historical periodization of catechesis
2. Lack of pastoral evaluation
3. Unclear logic of catechetical development
4. Insufficient practical guidance

These gaps are NOT just historical – they are PASTORAL gaps.
→ Filling them requires THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION.

Research Questions



Each question asks NOT just "what" but "what does this mean for pastoral practice?"



Research Objectives

1

Establish Periodization

as framework for theological reflection

2

Evaluate Effectiveness

Apply the Theological-Pastoral Discernment Method to assess catechetical practice across periods.

3

Propose Recommendations

Ground concrete pastoral guidance in historical wisdom, not abstract ideals.

The Core Contribution —

Not History Itself, But Theological Reflection and Pastoral Analysis

What This Research is NOT

✓ Historical Chronicle of Macau Church



✓ Narrative of What Happened



✓ Adding New Historical Facts



What This Research IS

✓ Theological Reflection on That History



✓ Pastoral Analysis of Catechetical Effectiveness



✓ Discerning Logic and Driving Forces Behind Evolution



Research Design & Methods

1. Data Collection

Quantitative:

Population, clergy, vocations, parishes, institutions.

Qualitative:

Pastoral plans, catechetical materials, teaching methods, catechist profiles.

Combines numerical data with primary documents to show how catechesis happened on the ground.

2. Periodization

Boundaries set by operational changes in personnel, language, materials, or sacramental requirements.

Divides history by real changes, not arbitrary decades.

3. Pastoral Analysis

Reconstructs each period's catechetical reality.

Examines what catechesis looked like in each historical period.

4. Synthesis

Traces cross-period themes — bilingual context, lay catechist roles, inculturation.

Identifies patterns across periods to show how the Church adapted teaching to local context.

5. Future Directions

Proposes catechetical methods informed by historical patterns.

Uses historical insights to inform contemporary catechetical practice.

Tentative Outline

Part I: Introduction

Chapters 1–3

Sets up the pastoral question — not merely historical inquiry.

1

Part III: Synthesis and Discernment

Chapter 5

Where the theological reflection takes place.

3

Part II: Description and Analysis of Catechetical Development

Chapter 4

Periodization as framework for theological reflection.

2

Part IV: Reviews and Recommendations

Chapters 6–7

Pastoral wisdom for today, drawn from history discerned.

4

Significance & Contribution



For the Church

Evidence-based guidance for catechetical renewal — honoring 450 years of heritage while planning for the future.



For Academia

First systematic pastoral analysis of the Chinese Catholic community in Macau — a model for applying the Theological-Pastoral Discernment Method to historical research.



For the Candidate

Preparation for catechetical formation and for serving the local Church with theological depth and pastoral wisdom.

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天主教澳門教區成立



天主教澳門教區
DIOCESE DE MACAU

Prayer for the 450th Anniversary
of Catholic Diocese of Macau

