

Thursday 12th September 2023, 6 PM
University of New Orleans Saal
Innrain 52, first floor (1.OG)

Iam templis antiquus honos: Marco Girolamo Vida and the culture of Catholic reform

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The career of Marco Girolamo Vida is traditionally divided into two parts: until the 1530s he was the Christian Virgil and prophet of Neo-Classicism, the contemporary of Raphael and protégé of the Medici popes; thereafter he turned to his ecclesiastical duties as Bishop of Alba, laying aside the cultural interests of his early life. Looking at his 1550 *De rebus diuinis* as well as the church renovation he sponsored in the late 1540s, this paper shows that his life as a bishop was far from culturally barren. In a decade in which the future of the church came under serious dispute, Vida was engaged with controversial, even heretical ideas, and used them to explore new possibilities in Christian art and poetry.