

*The*  
**ANGELICVM**

NEWSLETTER OF THE PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS



## LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

# An academic project in pursuit of truth



**Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P.**  
*Rector Magnificus*

Dear Friends,

The Angelicum is dedicated to the intellectual formation of our students, and is one of the world's foremost institutions handing on the theological tradition of St. Thomas Aquinas. St. Thomas is called the common doctor, *doctor communis*, referring to his importance for theology, philosophy, and for the Catholic tradition more generally. There are many ways to understand this phrase, but I think one thing that this phrase expresses is that Aquinas is like a meeting place in the pathways of human civilization for thinking about the truth. Thomas Aquinas' thought is a place where one can integrate several perspectives, rather than an end to the conversation; it brings access and a greater openness to truth, rather than a monochromatic or solitary dictum. The intellectual tradition of the Dominican Order is distinguished by a great love for the universality of open questions, seeking answers, and making distinctions in pursuit of truth.

And the pursuit of truth is always ongoing, progressing and seeking new perspectives. In a way, we can think of the life of the mind and the academic project of the Angelicum as a door into the living room of the Catholic Church, the initial foyer that connects to many other rooms. Although we do

not propose an exclusive study of Aquinas, I think that the centrality of our Thomistic heritage invites us to appreciate many other domains of thought through this doorway, or through the front entrance room of St. Thomas' thought. St. Thomas offers us a kind of pathway to universal citizenship in the intellectual conversations of our common Catholic heritage.

We are really fortunate at this moment at the University to have a wonderful and extensive, rich tapestry of professors in all of our faculties. In recent years, the Angelicum has added to its faculty lineup distinguished professors in Biblical studies, Patristics, and Interreligious Relations, all areas of study which benefit from the essential foundations of Thomistic philosophy and theology. Additional faculty hires in key disciplines will put the Angelicum at the cutting edge of doctoral research and student formation across important areas of contemporary theological inquiry. It is a really great moment to explore the depth of the intellectual tradition of the Church, and it is our goal to ensure that this academic project can continue to be strengthened in coming years. We thank you for your support!

In union of prayers,  
Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P.  
Rector Magnificus

Cover: Doctoral student Fr. Dominic Buckley (Diocese of Orlando) works with his thesis director in the Angelicum cloister last Fall. At the Angelicum, our professors are deeply committed to the academic project and work closely with our students, from the Bachelor to the Doctoral levels, to provide an unrivaled formation.

Photo credit: Stefano Dal Pozzolo

# FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

For more than eight hundred years, our Faculty, the largest in the Angelicum, has welcomed lay and religious students from all over the world, training them in theological studies. The wide range of education we offer is guided by the doctrine of St. Thomas Aquinas, after whom the University is named. **Our commitment is aimed at forming virtuous leaders capable of evangelizing and promoting integral human development.** This path is based on deep self-knowledge and the harmonious collaboration of faith and reason in light of the teachings of St. Thomas.

Thanks to the high demand we receive each year, we are **the only Pontifical University in Rome to offer the Baccalaureate in Theology in both English and Italian.** This possibility amplifies opportunities to meet and exchange with other cultures. We also have the License with six specializations, and Doctoral studies.

For those who do not intend to pursue the degree, there is the possibility of obtaining diplomas corresponding to one year of study in Spiritual Theology, Ecumenical or Interreligious Studies and Pastoral Theology.

Starting next year, our Faculty has **established a new diploma entitled "Nostra Aetate"**, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the declaration of the same name by the Second Vatican Council, which supports the continuing education in the field of interreligious relations. The diploma course will be in English only.

*Fr. Dominik Jurczak, O.P., Dean of the Faculty of Theology*

## A WORD FROM OUR STUDENTS

After broadening my theological horizon at Princeton and courses in England, I wanted to return for further studies in Rome. Studying the Thomist tradition seemed a necessary choice in order to develop a coherent, compelling and unified theological foundation that could ensure a true theological dialogue at the service of the Church today. The arrival of world-renowned professors at the Angelicum has infused a renewed academic vitality in the university and represents a vital momentum that will enable it to continue to be of great

service to the Church in coming years, for the glory of God and for the good of the world.

The Angelicum has a dual uniqueness that combines the development of learning and spiritual friendships with an integrated and coherent study of the Christian faith and the world. At the Angelicum, the mind is not separated from the heart - academic life is not only complementary or secondary to spiritual life, but is integral. The success of the university's academic programs lies in the fact that their teaching leads students to pray more and, by praying more, they go deeper into theology.



**Luca Colacino**

*Pursuing a Bachelor's degree*

# FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

**A**s Socrates reminds us in Plato's dialogue *Phaedo*, **we must take care to learn how to recognize good arguments, lest we abandon our confidence that we might come to know the truth.** The enterprise of philosophy, with its examination of what can be known by the natural powers of reason, unites what we do today in the Faculty of Philosophy at the Angelicum to those earliest endeavors in ancient Greece and around the world. **We maintain and live out that centuries-old, uninterrupted line of investigation taking its start from our patron, St. Thomas Aquinas.** We not only learn to read what he wrote and understand his thought, but also to be illuminated by the clarity of faith. We learn to apply his insights to new questions, and even to ask what he might never have thought could be explored. Situating ourselves in the heart of Christendom and in one of the great cities of ancient antiquity, the Faculty of Philosophy unites men and women from around the world to continue this work in the tradition of and under the patronage of St. Thomas Aquinas. The faculty offers degrees at the Bachelors (English and Italian), License, and Doctoral levels. We invite Catholics, Christians and all men and women of good will to share with us our common task to become true lovers of wisdom.

*Fr. Dominic Holtz, O.P., Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy*



## A WORD FROM OUR STUDENTS



**Valentina Pizzezy**

*Bachelor's degree, '25*

**A**fter high school I was determined to study philosophy, but I wanted to do it in an environment that would make me grow both culturally and also from a spiritual perspective. I was led, providentially, to the Angelicum, which offered me not only an excellent philosophical preparation but also the opportunity to study in a spiritually fruitful and lively cultural environment. I found an academic community and professors who were very knowledgeable and helpful, enabling me to study a philosophy that reconciles faith and reason. I also received a complete and rigorous preparation, attentive to the purely philosophical aspect (with disciplines such as logic, metaphysics and epistemology) as well as the study of the history of phi-

losophy. I also appreciate the thorough Thomist approach, allowing me to fully understand fundamental philosophical issues, while not neglecting the study of other currents of thought.

From lectures on the history of philosophy, to stimulating conversations with fellow students and professors, to the academic conferences I have been able to attend over the years, everything has been fundamental to the development of a philosophical culture. All this is found within a context that allowed me to cultivate my faith through a liturgical life that is an integral part of the university. I am very happy to have had the opportunity to study in an environment like the Angelicum, which welcomed me from the very beginning and has allowed me to grow in so many ways.

# FACULTY OF CANON LAW

**T**he Faculty of Canon Law at the Angelicum, founded in 1898, has witnessed various reforms within canon law itself, within the university structure and several pontificates. Throughout its history, it has welcomed prestigious students and trained numerous canonists, contributing significantly to the development of this discipline.

Most recently, **the faculty counts Pope Leo XIV among its distinguished alumni**, a fact which is a cause of great pride, demonstrating the capacity of our formation to help prepare future leaders for the Church.

Canon law, understood as a sacred science with a pronounced practical dimension, is honored within the Dominican tradition as an important path of academic study. The formation emphasizes the **true function of canon law within the life of the Church** - not a discipline that is rigid and opposed to the work of the Spirit, but rather one that is at the service of the Holy Spirit for the good of souls. The Faculty offers the Licentiate and Doctorate cycles, as well as a two-year propaedeutic theological cycle designed for lay students. The faculty consists largely of Dominican friars and religious sisters, who combine academic and legal expertise with concrete experience in the practice of canonical law. Several professors are active in the Roman Curia, particularly in the ecclesiastical tribunals and the Sacred Roman Rota.

*Fr. Loïc-Marie Le Bot, O.P., Dean of the Faculty of Canon Law*

## A WORD FROM OUR STUDENTS

**I** arrived at the Angelicum in 2016, at the end of my novitiate, and am now nearing the end of my doctoral work. Studying here has allowed me to grow in my sense of belonging to the great Dominican religious family and to receive a solid academic formation, which I can place at the service of the Church today.

The bilingual instruction, continuous possibility of direct and conversational dialogue with my professors, ample library resources, the incredible availability of all the staff to help find the most suitable solution for each situation... These are just some of the positive aspects of the Angelicum, which

welcomes you right in the center of the city, located in the heart of Ancient Rome.

The multiculturalism of the student community, the loving care for the liturgical life, and also the moments of fraternal celebration and pilgrimages together outside of Rome immediately make you breathe in an open, familiar atmosphere and provide a clear sense of the universal Church.

For me, studying at the Angelicum is a beautiful and dynamic adventure of intellectual and spiritual nourishment, and preparation to be an active witness in the larger community.

**Sr. Federica Casaburi, O.P.**  
(Roman Congregation of St. Dominic)  
*Pursuing a Doctoral degree*

# Introducing the John Henry Newman Academic Chair

With Prof. Andrew Meszaros, Chairholder

***Please share with us about yourself and how you became interested in John Henry Newman.***

I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio (USA) in a Hungarian family, in a bilingual household. I first got to know some Dominicans during my undergraduate degree at Boston College, and then I met the Black Friars while studying Theology at Oxford. There, I learned about the Oxford movement and began reading Newman's works. That's what set me off on the Newman track. At Louvain, I studied Cardinal Newman in greater depth. My Master's thesis expanded into my doctoral work, dedicated to "A Theology of History and Doctrinal Development according to J.H. Newman and Yves Congar".

***Why is the thought of Newman important for our times?***

Newman has so much to offer, but one key thing is that he is an authentically catholic thinker; "catholic" in the sense of a holistic and universal thinker. He wants to assimilate all that is true, good and beautiful in the Catholic theological tradition, and through this lens he tries to integrate things that are seemingly opposites or contradictory, like Faith and reason; the role of the laity and of the magisterium; and also the affirmation of Divine inspiration of Sacred Scripture and also the value of historical studies. I

think that there are both intellectual and ecclesiological implications for us within Newman's thought. It can impact how we think, how we conduct ourselves as academics, and also how we live out the Christian vocation.

***What are your hopes for this new Chair?***

I look forward to teaching specifically on the thought of John Henry Newman, to help share it with a wide cohort of students, both clerical and lay, from all over the world. Another goal of the chair is to cultivate expertise in Newman's thought by supporting graduate research. In this way we will cultivate the next generation of people who can teach and engage with Newman's thought. My ultimate hope is to allow Newman to be integrated into the wider stream of Catholic thought. We want to bring Newman into the conversation and really to integrate his insights - for example, on discernment and conscience, and education and doctrinal development - into the larger Catholic theological vision.

***St. John Henry Newman will soon be given the title "Doctor of the Universal Church", following the approval given by Pope Leo XIV in July. This Fall, the Angelicum is proud to inaugurate the first Chair in Rome dedicated to his thought.***





## Other chair opportunities

In addition to the Newman Chair, the Angelicum is raising funds for a number of other distinguished chairs to bring world-class scholars to teach our students. These include John Paul II Chairs, which cover a specific area of Catholic engagement with contemporary disciplines:

- *Bioethics, Science and Religion*
- *Church and Culture*

In addition, we seek support to hire distinguished professors in Theology, Philosophy, Canon Law, and Social Sciences, particularly for our Italian-language sections in each faculty.

For those interested in supporting an academic chair, please contact Eduardo Andino, Chief Advancement Officer, at [advancement@pust.it](mailto:advancement@pust.it) for more information.

## Leo XIV Chair in Canon Law, Civil Law, and Religious Freedom

**A**s a shared project between our Social Sciences and Canon Law faculties, we are raising funds for a Leo XIV Chair in Canon Law, Civil Law, and Catholic Social Thought. At a time when we have just welcomed a new pope who has a doctorate in canon law from the Angelicum, we have a tremendous opportunity to raise awareness of and appreciation for the role of canon law in the Church. Canon law has its sources in the natural law and divine revelation and is a means of governance in the Church. It regulates the relations among the faithful in order to facilitate the ultimate goal of the Church, the good of souls.

In addition, we are living in important times for the Church to reflect more deeply on the relationship between the Church and secular society. The

Church has had a social teaching since its inception, but the body of doctrine known specifically as Catholic Social Teaching took its rise in a special way from Pope Leo XIII, who reflected on the application of Catholic ethics and principles in the new context of an industrialized modern world. Since then, the Church's teaching has included reflection on how we can be a leaven and a prophetic voice within modern moral debates and contribute to the common good of society. Through this chair, theological reflection can meet reflection on law, the common good in modern society, and the importance of religious freedom, among other topics, as we determine how to be a Church which is at once missionary and supernatural, but which can also contribute to the temporal welfare of nations.



Leo PP. XIV

# FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

The Faculty of Social Sciences (FASS) at the Angelicum was founded in the early 1950s, as an Institute of the Faculty of Philosophy, in response to Pius XII's request to supplement philosophical and theological studies with courses that directly addressed the phenomena of contemporary society. In 1974 it was erected as an independent faculty.

Following the method of the Social Doctrine of the Church: **observe-judge-act**, we cultivate the study and research of social reality, with a view to integral human development, in order to provide students with the theoretical and methodological tools to analyze, compare and interpret complex international social realities and problems, in function of operation in the field of work, pastoral care, peace and justice. Our courses and seminars offer integrated and advanced knowledge in various disciplines, comparing them with the values of Christian social thought in a **multidisciplinary approach**.

The curriculum of studies in Social Sciences is organized in three successive academic cycles: Baccalaureate, License with majors in political science or economics and management, and Doctorate. Courses are mainly in Italian; students can also take exams and develop their research projects in the main European languages (English, French, Spanish). Our goal is to train **leaders for the common good**: the attention given to the political, ethical and economic dimensions aims to strengthen students' professional and reflective skills, so that they are able to make an innovative contribution in decision-making processes, in diversified areas of expertise and leadership positions, in the service of the common good and the dignity of the person, in different **international contexts and cultures**. Our students - 82% lay, 55% women - come from more than 40 different nations on all continents.

*Sr. Helen Alford, O.P., Dean of the Faculty of Social Science*



## A WORD FROM OUR STUDENTS



**Luz Margarita Paredes**

*Faculty of Social Science,  
Pursuing a Bachelor's degree*

I am originally from Peru, and am someone who has always pursued her dreams, in spite of difficulties and sacrifices encountered along the way. I chose to emigrate to Italy to achieve my goals, leaving my country, family and friends behind. With determination and hard work, I earned an "Accountant Programmer" degree from the Duca D'Abruzzi Technical School in Rome, attending night school and doing internships in social work. My education was enriched by significant experiences such as participating in European projects in the health and sociocultural fields. These brought me closer to

volunteering and made me realize the importance of helping others and engaging in the sociopolitical field of immigration. Now I am a student at the Angelicum in the STRONG program, continuing to pursue my interest in the social sciences. I have found the university to be a place where I can improve my skills and contribute to social change. Here, cultural and linguistic diversity enrich my worldview, combining academic and spiritual formation. With this formation, I am preparing myself to make a difference bringing a strong spirit of optimism, and building a future through each experience.

## UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Angelicum extends *warm congratulations to our alumni* on their recent appointments and thanks them for their service.

Bernardito C. Auza, '89  
*Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union*

Kevin P. Doran, '97  
*Bishop of Achonry (Ireland)*

Jenrry Johel Velásquez  
Hernández, '07  
*Bishop of La Ceiba (Honduras)*

Anthony John Ireland, '04  
*Archbishop of Hobart (Australia)*

John E. Keehner, Jr., '99  
*Bishop of Sioux Falls (Iowa, USA)*

Joselito Ramalho Nogueira, '00  
*Bishop of Pagadian (Philippines)*

Richard F. Reidy, '94  
*Bishop of Norwich (Connecticut, USA)*

Ronald Anthony Parco Timoner  
*Bishop of Pagadian (Philippines)*

## UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENTS

• **Summer renovation work** included all the cloister walkways, leaving them ready for the first day of class. The central cloister garden is projected to be completed in November.

### UNIVERSITY EVENTS

• On October 27 **the university will join Pope Leo XIV for Mass in St. Peter's Basilica** for the start of the academic year, along with members of the other Pontifical universities in Rome.

• The university will host **the relic** of the skull of our heavenly patron, St. Thomas Aquinas, in October.

### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

• **Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P.** was confirmed for another term (4 years) as rector of our university.

• **New staff: Father Corwin Low, O.P.** was appointed the new director of Development and Mission Advancement at the Angelicum, effective September 1. Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P. will continue to work in the office, and expand the university's efforts through parish missions.

• The Faculty of Theology has begun a **new Diploma in Theological Studies**, a one-year program designed for religious men and women, consecrated persons, and lay people engaged in apostolic life, formation, or pastoral ministry.

• The Fr. Val Mcinnes chair for the 2025-26 academic year will be **Fr. Michał Paluch O.P.** (first semester) and **Fr. Terence Crotty O.P.** (second semester), both prominent figures in contemporary theology and biblical studies.



### OBITUARIES:

✦Fr. Orlando Rueda Acevedo, O.P.  
*Rector of Convitto*  
(1960 - 23 June 2025)

SUMMER 2025  
UPCOMING ANGELICUM EVENTS

SEPT. 26, 2025  
ARLINGTON, VA



**CHRISTIAN VIRTUE IN  
AMERICA'S NIETZSCHEAN  
WASTELAND: THOMISTIC  
REFLECTIONS**

**Fr. Michael Sherwin, O.P.**  
*Professor of Fundamental  
Moral Theology*

Join us this Fall as the Angelicum brings our lecture events to the Washington, D.C. area for the first time. This event reflects our ongoing mission to bring the enduring insights of St. Thomas Aquinas into conversation with the pressing moral and cultural issues of our time.

FEB. 3, 2026  
NEW YORK, NY



**SECOND ANNUAL  
AQUINAS LECTURE**

**Fr. Wojciech Giertych, O.P.**  
*Theologian of the Papal Household*

We are excited to announce the second edition of the Aquinas Lecture. This event offers profound reflections on Catholic theology from a leading Church voice and close advisor to several Holy Fathers.

APR. 14, 2026  
ANGELICUM, ROME, IT



**ANGELICUM DINNER  
& HILLBILLY THOMIST  
CONCERT  
-AMERICA WEEK 2026 -**

In the Spring, we will host a festive dinner and live concert on campus in our newly-renovated cloister. This special evening, part of America Week celebrations in Rome, brings together friends, students, and supporters for food, fellowship, and joyful music rooted in the Dominican tradition. The night will also feature a showcase of our historic campus renovations and an address by Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P.

Contact Bryce Connolly at [bconnolly@pust.it](mailto:bconnolly@pust.it) for details

**PARISH MISSIONS ACROSS THE USA**

- Oct. 27 - 29, 2025 - Cathedral of the Incarnation (Nashville, TN)
- Jan. 26 - 28, 2026 - St. Thomas More Parish (Sarasota, FL)
- Feb. 9 - 11, 2026 - Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish (McSherrystown, PA)
- Feb. 9 - 11, 2026 - Holy Redeemer Parish (Vancouver, WA)
- Feb. 23 - 25, 2026 - St. Agnes Parish (Naples, FL)
- Mar. 2 - 4, 2026 - St. Rita Parish (Dallas, TX)
- Mar. 9 - 11, 2026 - St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish (Scottsdale, AZ)
- Mar. 16 - 18, 2026 - Holy Family Cathedral (Tulsa, OK)
- Mar. 23 - 25, 2026 - St. Michael Parish (Fernandina Beach, FL)

# HOW TO DONATE



## Introducing the Torch-Bearers Circle

We're proud to introduce and invite you to become a member of the **NEW Torch-Bearers Circle** through pledging a recurring monthly gift to the mission of the Angelicum.

While the name is new, the impact remains the same. A pledged monthly gift allows us to plan strategically with confidence as we seek to support the friars, faculty, and, most importantly, the students of the Angelicum.

To express our gratitude and draw you more deeply into this mission, we'll be sending you a small package in the coming weeks. Here's what to expect:

- *Torch-Bearers' Circle sticker*
- *Angelicum emblem sticker*
- *A Dominican Rosary, handmade in Rome*
- *Branded Rosary case*

AND

As we welcome new members into the Torch-Bearer Circle, we're excited to offer a lasting expression of gratitude. **All donors who begin a monthly gift before May 31, 2026 (the close of our academic year) will be honored as Founding Member. Your name will be inscribed on a plaque displayed at the Angelicum – a permanent witness to your faith and generosity.**

Visit [angelicum.it/give](https://angelicum.it/give) to begin your monthly gift and become a member of the Torch-Bearers Circle Today!



Imagine the joy of knowing your monthly gift helped form the next Saint John Paul II—or the next Pope Leo XIV.

*That's the legacy you're building—starting today.*

To learn more or make a wire transfer online, visit:

**ANGELICUM.IT/GIVE**

Donations made by US citizens via the Angelicum's 501 (c)3 charitable arm are tax deductible:

*"International Dominican Foundation"*  
1 Galleria Blvd., Suite 710-B  
Metairie, Louisiana 70001 USA



*"The Angelicum supports world class scholarship, with students from 99 countries. Help us strengthen this crucial educational mission for the Church. Please contact us for more info about giving options."*

*Eduardo Andino, Chief Advancement Officer*

Be part of our renewal. Visit [renewal.angelicum.it](https://renewal.angelicum.it) to learn more and contribute.



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Metairie, LA 70001

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"The International Dominican Foundation"

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[ANGELICUM.IT/GIVE](https://ANGELICUM.IT/GIVE)