

The background of the entire page is a reproduction of Raphael's fresco 'The Immaculate Heart of Mary'. It depicts the Virgin Mary with a serene expression, her hands clasped in prayer, and a radiant heart visible through her translucent red gown. The heart is encircled by a crown of thorns and emits a brilliant, golden light that fills the lower half of the image. Mary is wearing a blue mantle over her red dress. The overall tone is warm and reverent.

The
ANGELICVM

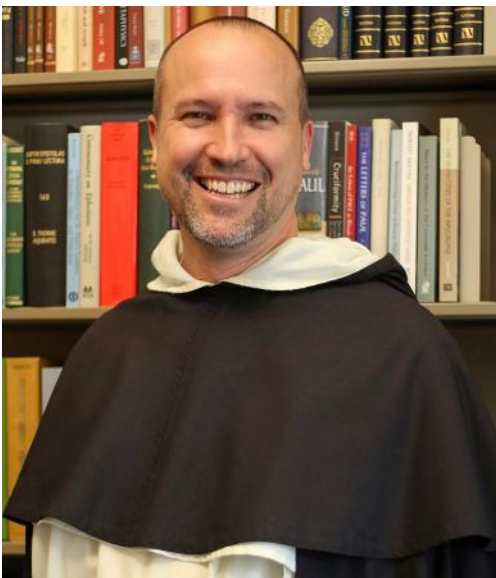
The newsletter of the
Pontifical University of
St. Thomas Aquinas

Pastores dabo vobis
juxta cor meum

no. 15 | *Episcopal Issue*
SUMMER 2023

"I will give you shepherds after my own heart."

A question we ask ourselves in Rome: *Are we educating a future pope?*



Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P.

Really, it is worth asking since Fr. Karol Wojtyla came through our classrooms in 1946, shortly after his priestly ordination. He would later formulate his apostolic exhortation to the entire Church called **Pastores dabo vobis** - "I will give you shepherds after my own heart" (Jer. 3:15).

In that passage, God promises to provide faithful shepherds who will care for his flock with wisdom, compassion, and devotion, protecting them from harm and keeping them united in faith.

In light of this promise, this issue is dedicated to our Angelicum alumni who have been appointed as bishops and cardinals in the Church worldwide. Their appointments show our university's global reach, and demonstrate our university's mission to form shepherds for the Church. We could be educating a future pope - right now!

The Church recognizes the ongoing need for intellectual formation of priests, and while not everyone is called to study theology at the doctoral level, bishops and cardinals are required to study at the highest levels to safeguard the deposit of the Catholic Faith. The Angelicum provides essential intellectual formation for those seeking to preach the Gospel with clarity, lead others to truth, and care for souls. Our alumni are equipped to dive deeply into the truth of the

Gospel, and to preach and teach in a way that makes profound truths accessible to all people, whether in Papua New Guinea, Nigeria, France, or the United States. Rather than separating study from practical ministry, our university recognizes that the two go hand in hand.

To effectively fulfill their roles, our shepherds must possess a deep knowledge of the truths of our faith and be able to communicate these truths clearly to others. As Pope John Paul II said, "The priest's ministry would be deprived of its necessary foundation if it lacked a suitable human formation," which includes "a sufficiently broad knowledge of the doctrine of the faith." Fidelity to the truth and a zeal for evangelization are essential aspects of their mission, and pastoral charity impels them to bring the Gospel to all. **Friends, this is the mission of the Angelicum!**

In other news, I am excited to share with you the recent addition to our team. Eduardo Andino has joined us as the Chief Advancement Officer, based in the United States. I have personally known Eduardo for quite some time; he was exploring a potential vocation with the Dominican Order while I served as Vocation Director. It is remarkable to see how life has unfolded for him since then. Eduardo is now happily married and the father of a beautiful family.

As the Chief Advancement Officer, Eduardo will expand our fundraising efforts and bring a broader perspective to our strategies. His experience, dedication, and personal commitment make him an excellent addition to our team.

United in prayer as we work together to support the current and future shepherds of the Church,

Fr. Benedict

INTRODUCING EDUARDO ANDINO

CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER

q: I understand that working for the Angelicum is not your first encounter with the Dominicans. How did you first get to know the Order?

a: As a college student in New Haven, CT I began attending mass with the Dominicans at St. Mary's parish. The beautiful architecture and the silence of the place were conducive to prayer. And of course the Dominicans did a great job with all aspects of parish life: preaching, the liturgy, and community events. Dominican spirituality, with its combination of prayer and study in service of evangelization suited my temperament, as I love to read and had a great desire at that time to share my faith with others on campus. Aquinas gives us a model of teaching the faith with such a strong appeal to reason.

q: How did you end up working in advancement?

a: I was doing a Master's in theology at Notre Dame and thought I would go on to become a theology professor. But an opportunity opened up to work at a fundraising consultancy, where I got to help several mission-driven organizations. I learned a lot and enjoyed the work. So after a while I took an opportunity with First Things magazine, leading their fundraising efforts. Talking to supporters, you encounter such a variety of people, life experiences, interests, and lines of work. If you really take time to listen to people, generally they are willing to open up, and it's

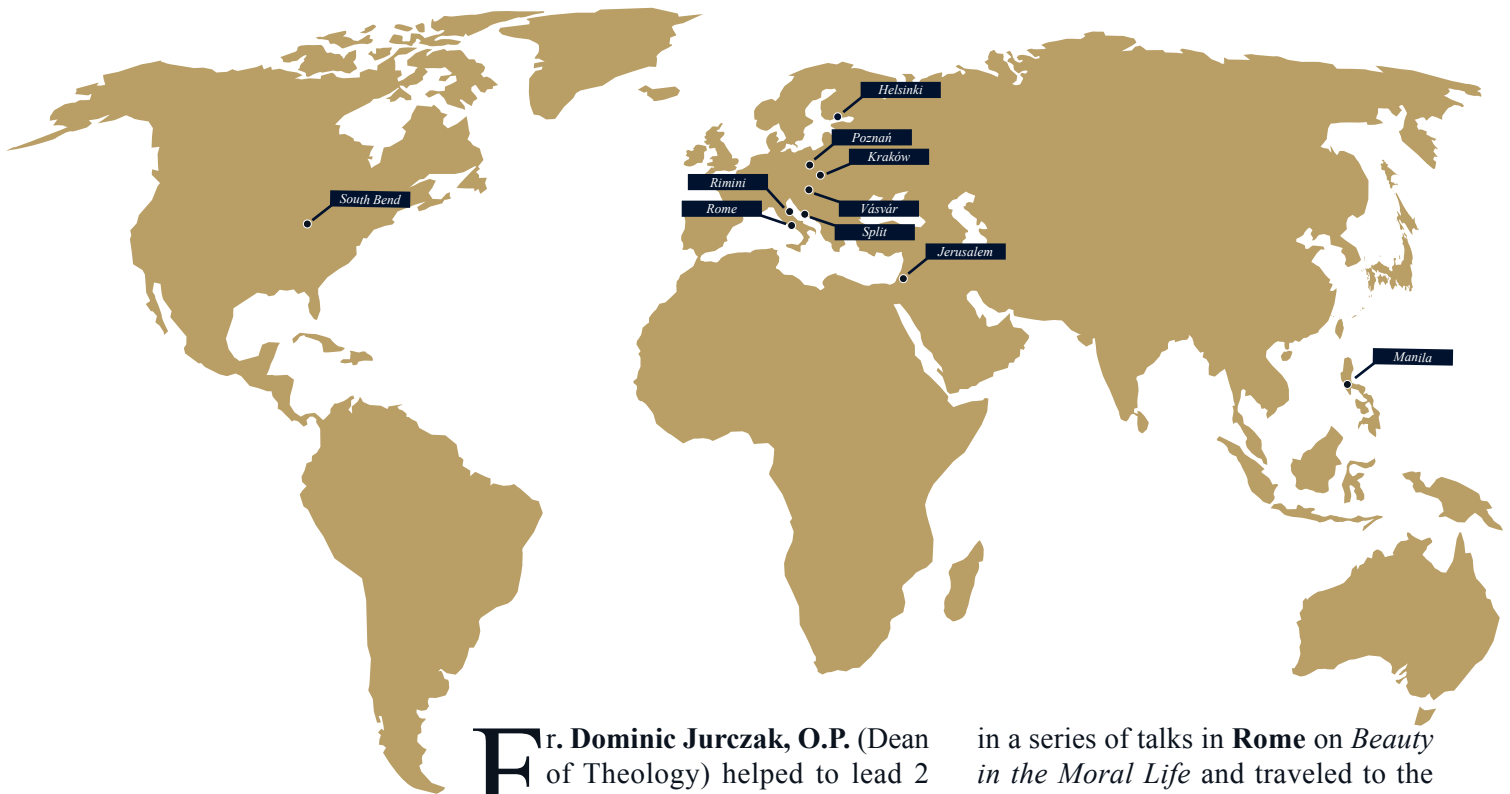
very special to hear their stories. And it's a way of expanding my own sense of the world, too. Ultimately, you need to try to develop humility in order to ask people for money. Some people are very uncomfortable talking about money, but it's not about the money, and it's not transactional. It's about accomplishing a worthy mission and finding the satisfaction and fulfillment, as a donor, that you can advance that mission in a privileged way. I've heard quite a number of people joke that no kids grow up saying they want to work in development. It's a vocation that picks you.

q: What compelled you to join the Angelicum?

a: The Church has a global mission, so serving that mission in Rome, the heart of the Church, at a university with students from all over the world, gets you up close to the very essence of the Church. And higher education is a very important component of the Church's global mission. The Angelicum's most famous alumnus, St. Pope John Paul II, stressed the connection between the pontifical universities and the Church's mission of evangelization. Education is the first step in teaching the faith well, and in understanding how to explain it in different cultures and contexts. Again, the Dominican charism of prayer and study in service of evangelization is very conducive to this kind of environment within the Church.



SUMMER MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD



Fr. **Dominic Jurczak, O.P.** (Dean of Theology) helped to lead 2 workshops on Sacred Music organized by the Dominicans; one in **Kraków** and another on Gregorian chant in **Poznań, Poland** in July.

Sr. Helen Alford, O.P. (Dean of Social Sciences) presented the keynote address to the European Business Ethics Network conference held in **Rimini, Italy** in June.

Fr. Dominic Holtz, O.P. (Dean of Philosophy) and **Sr. Catherine Droste, O.P.** (professor) were speakers at the “Truth as Dialogue: Conversation on St. Thomas Aquinas and the Contemporary Questions on Truth” at the University of Santo Tomas (**Manila, Philippines**) in July.

Fr. Michael Sherwin, O.P. (Director of Institute of Spirituality) participated

in a series of talks in **Rome** on *Beauty in the Moral Life* and traveled to the **University of Notre Dame** for discussions on the future of Thomism.

Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P. (Director of Mission Advancement) served as chaplain for a pilgrimage to the **Holy Land**.

Fr. Innocenzo M.V. Szaniszló, O.P. (professor) presented at a theological conference in **Vásvár, Hungary**, on Christianity and public life in July.

Fr. Paweł Trzopek, O.P. (Library Director) attended a conference in **Helsinki, Finland** for training on the latest technology and databases.

Fr. Piotr Janas, O.P. (Vice Dean of Social Sciences) taught a course at the Economy of Francesco International Summer School in **Split, Croatia** in August.

Bishop Martyr & Blessed:
Bl. Anton Durcovici
 (1881-1951)

Anton Durcovici was born in 1881 in a small town in lower Austria. When Anton was only five years old, his father, a local quarry worker, died of Tuberculosis and his family moved to Romania. Anton quickly mastered the local language. He would serve Mass daily at a local convent and also for the archbishop of the diocese, who later admitted him to the minor seminary when he was seventeen. There, he excelled in the sciences and mathematics.

Anton's greatest desire was to become a priest, and he was sent to Rome for further studies following minor seminary. He attended the Accademia San Tommaso (which would become the Angelicum), and earned a doctorate in scholastic philosophy in 1908. He then obtained a doctorate in theology from the Roman "Collegio Urbana". Both degrees were completed before the age of twenty-one. Due to the age limit at the time, Anton's ordination was delayed for a year. While waiting, Anton served as prefect of studies at the Propaganda Fide college and earned a third degree in canon law. By this time he was fluent in Hungarian, French, German, Italian, Greek and Latin.

Writing home to his archbishop, Anton commented, "...my only wish is to fulfill God's will in every way." When he returned to the diocese of Bucharest after ordination, he did so with marked humility and a desire to give his all to the people. Fr. Anton's zeal to serve was met immediately by the numerous

needs of his diocese. He was assigned as both prefect of the diocesan seminary and full-time professor, while administering a parish and teaching high school.

In 1914, Romania entered World War I against Austria-Hungary. Since Fr. Anton was of Austrian descent, he was interred in a camp in Moldavia for a time until his innocence could be proven. He was eventually released into the care of a cloistered convent for the remainder of the war. He was later appointed rector of the seminary in Bucharest, and in 1948 he was ordained the Bishop of Iași. In his first address to the diocese, he said that God had sent him to Iași "in order that I may serve everyone with all my might until I breathe my last."

Just one year later, the Communist regime arrested Bishop Anton on fabricated charges. He spent the next two years in the Sighet prison, where he was regularly tortured and deprived of food simply because he was a Catholic priest. Shortly before he died from

malnutrition on or around December 10, 1951, Bishop Anton begged his fellow prisoners to pray that he would have a happy death. A Catholic priest who was also imprisoned with him was able to give

him final absolution through the cell door. Bishop Anton was subsequently buried in an unmarked grave and all records of his imprisonment were destroyed. In May 2014, Bishop Anton was beatified as a "martyr for the faith". His feast is celebrated on December 21.

*"...my only wish
 is to fulfill
 God's will
 in every way."*



ANGELICUM SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

Pontifical universities around the world, and particularly in Rome, play an essential role in the life of the Church by forming its future leadership. Indeed, many bishops, cardinals, curial officials, and other future leaders have studied at the Angelicum over the ages. The Angelicum's most renowned alumnus is Pope St. John Paul II, who earned his doctorate in 1948. John Paul II's Thomistic formation proved very valuable during his pontificate, enabling him to engage with contemporary challenges while remaining faithful to the Church's traditional teaching.

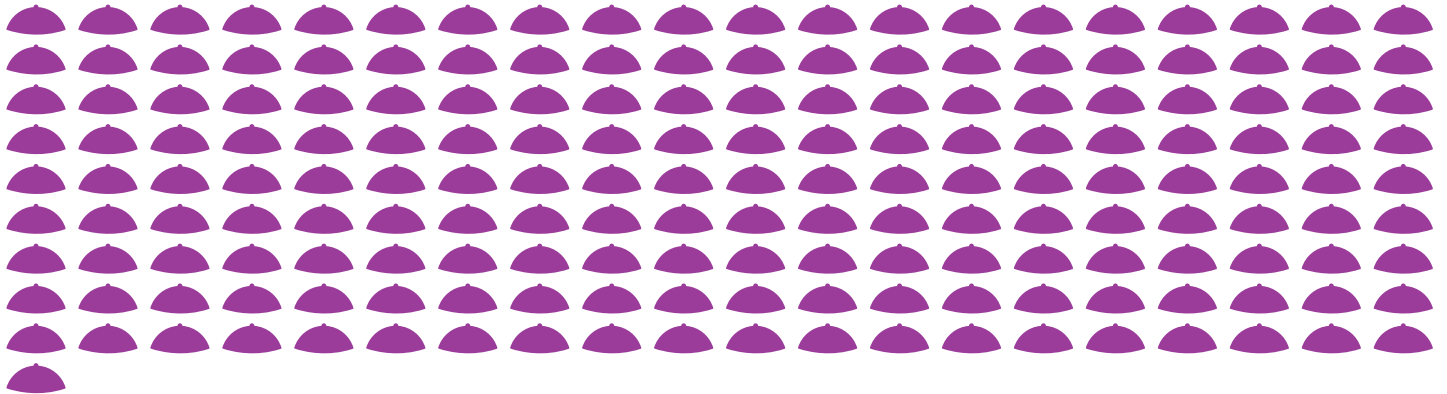
21 ALUMNI APPOINTED CARDINALS SINCE 2003

Since 2003, 21 Angelicum alumni have been appointed cardinals by Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis. Of these, 17 are still alive; they represent about 7.7% of the entire College of Cardinals and 8% of the Cardinal Electors who will elect the next Pope.



197 ALUMNI MADE BISHOPS SINCE 2003

Furthermore, since 2003, 197 Angelicum alumni or former professors have been made bishops, and 181 are currently serving. Out of these, 43 are from the United States, a considerable percentage of the American episcopate. Moreover, 11 are from Brazil, 11 from India, 10 from Argentina, 9 from Spain, 8 from the Philippines, 7 from Italy, 6 from Canada, 5 from Poland, 4 from Indonesia, 3 from Russia (including the Nuncio), 3 from the UK, and 2 from Australia, Haiti, and Ukraine respectively. Furthermore, we have bishops in Eritrea, Kazakstan, Malaysia, Angola, Honduras, Vietnam, Kenya, and Mexico. Indeed, Angelicum alumni and former professors are having a truly global impact as bishops serving in countries in all 5 continents.



110 ALUMNI PROMOTED TO A NEW DIOCESE OR POSITION OF LEADERSHIP SINCE 2003

In addition, 110 Angelicum alumni or former professors were promoted to a new see or position since 2003. These are often bishops who are given a larger or more important diocese or an archdiocese, or who are appointed to positions within the Vatican.

As the only pontifical university in Rome that teaches in English as well as Italian, the Angelicum plays a key role in the formation of American clergy. Indeed, a significant number of current US bishops are Angelicum alumni. They are a testament to the importance of a Roman education in building the future leadership of the Church in the United States.



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

CARDINAL-ELECT

(CONSISTORY IN SEPTEMBER 2023)

- **Archbishop Robert F. Prevost, O.S.A., '87** - (Prefect for the Dicastery of Bishops and of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America)
- **Bishop Sebastian Francis, STL '83** - (Bishop of Penang, Malaysia and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei)

NUNCIO

- **Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, '87** - appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain
- **Bishop Gian Luca Perici, '01** - appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia and Malawi
- **Archbishop Angelo Accattino, '98** - appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Tanzania

BISHOP

- **Bishop Varghese Thottamkara, C.M., '97** - appointed Bishop of Balasore (India)
- **Bishop Paul Gerard Martin, S.M., '93** - appointed Archbishop of Wellington (New Zealand)
- **Bishop Silvio Siripong Charatsri, '01** - appointed Bishop of Ratchaburi (Thailand)
- **Bishop James Shekhar, '04** - ordained and appointed Bishop of Buxar (India)
- **Bishop Michael Lenihan, O.F.M., '87** - appointed the first Archbishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of San Pedro Sula (Honduras)
- **Bishop Felipe Pulido, '98** - ordained and appointed auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of San Diego (USA)

OTHER ECCLESIAL MISSIONS

- **Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, '95** - appointed Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva
- **Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu, '95** - appointed Secretary of the Dicastery for Evangelization
- **Bishop Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A., '87** - appointed Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops
- **Rev. Mauro Mantovani, S.D.B., '11** - appointed prefect of the Vatican Apostolic Library



Called to Shepherd Souls

FR. PETER SRSICH, '20

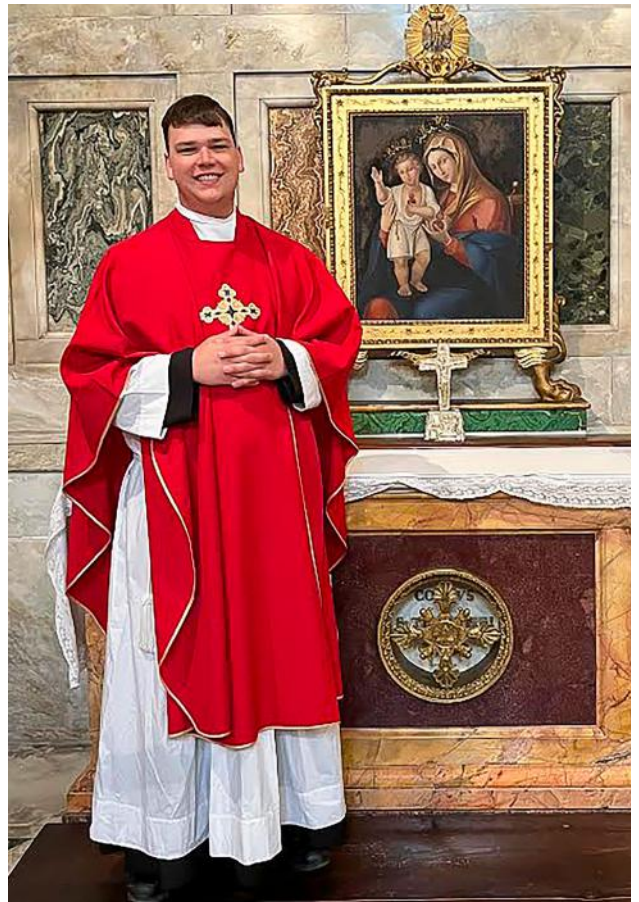
(ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER, USA)

Fr. Peter first began discerning a call to the priesthood when he was in high school in Golden, Colorado. However, his vocational journey took an unexpected turn when he was diagnosed with cancer the summer before his Senior year. It was a physical suffering which also brought a trial of faith. "I questioned how a good God could let this happen." One day, a friend came to visit and bring him Communion and he had an unforgettable experience. He heard the Lord speak to his heart: 'Peter, I know this is hard, and I'm not going to take that away from you, but I'm going to walk with you through it.' "In that moment, everything changed for me. I felt hope in the midst of the suffering. I wanted to dedicate my life to Christ, especially in the context of the Church." Though he wanted to begin seminary right away, he was advised to wait till he had recovered. Shortly after his treatment was completed, he had the opportunity to come to Rome and meet the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in a public audience. His prayer and words touched Peter deeply, encouraging him to continue on the path of discernment. He entered seminary 2 years later.

In 2017, he was sent to study Theology at the Angelicum, and successfully completed his degree in 2020. He was ordained in May of 2021, and has since returned to Rome to pursue a license in Canon Law. Sharing about his time at the Angelicum, he mentioned the

gift of the unity of the formation, with the classes fit together and built upon one another, and also the international setting. "Studying at the Ange, you are in a classroom with other seminarians from America, but also with seminarians, religious and lay people from all over the world. Getting to have that confluence of ideas, experiences and thoughts was really interesting." Looking back, he observed that even the oral exams were a good preparation for the unexpected questions he often receives as a Pastor of a parish.

"My education at the Angelicum gave me the opportunity to become a teacher, to guide people closer to Christ. A huge part of this is being able to speak about the mystery we celebrate intelligently, in a way that makes sense, but without actually trying to solve the mystery or completely answer the questions. To speak about the mystery in a way that invites us into contemplation, which is something many of the professors at the Angelicum were able to do



and taught us by example." In the end, Fr. Peter turned to the foundations of his vocation. "Being a shepherd of souls; that has to be the goal of our learning. That is why we study, to be able to introduce people into the mysteries that we celebrate, and that was something that I got at the Angelicum."

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Planned Giving and Legacy Gifts

Donors can support the Angelicum in a number of ways, and receive valuable benefits in the process. The Angelicum is aware that many people generously wish to make their larger gifts in support of nonprofits and charities such as the Angelicum via the International Dominican Foundation. This allows a donor to provide for their charitable giving apart from their regular incomes. Some people use estate and tax planning techniques to provide for a charity and their heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor's estate.

For more information on Planned Giving, please contact Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P. directly: +1.202.642.3597 || development@pust.it

Charitable Funds

Some of our benefactors would like to establish a fund for the ongoing goals of their choice, such as an endowed fund for student scholarships, for scholarly research, or the ongoing practical support of our university. In partnership with the International Dominican Foundation, the Angelicum has several such funds and they have been our most consistent way of meeting our needs. If you would like more information please write us at:

International Dominican Foundation (ANGELICUM), 1 Galleria Blvd., Suite 710-B, Metairie, LA 70001, USA. Or contact Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P. directly.

Stocks

In addition to making a donation by credit card or check, you can also make a stock transfer or mutual fund transfer. Please contact us in advance of making a transfer to ensure proper acknowledgement and allocation of these types of funds.



UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next academic year we welcome a number of new professors including, Prof. Lewis Ayres, Prof. Therese Yuan, and Prof. Markus Bockmuehl. In our next edition you will learn more about them and the new Project for the Theological Reception of Scripture.
- Fr. Michał Paluch, O.P., rector emeritus (Province of Poland), was awarded the title of Master of Sacred Theology by the Dominican Order.
- Fr. Dominic Holtz, O.P. (Province of St. Albert the Great - Central USA), was appointed dean of the faculty of Philosophy, effective 1 September.
- Archbishop Robert Prevost ('87) of the United States, who serves as the prefect of the dicastery for bishops, and Bishop Sebastian Francis ('83) of Malaysia, who holds the positions of Bishop of Penang and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei, are set to be elevated to the rank of cardinal in the upcoming consistory scheduled for September. Both are Angelicum alumni.
- In June, a week-long seminar *Eternal Beauty: Principles and Disputations* dove into the writings of Aquinas in conversation with modern thinkers under the guidance of Thomistic metaphysicians and other philosophers of beauty. It was co-sponsored by the Catholic University of America's Institute for Human Ecology and the Angelicum.
- In July approximately 30 students from the Angelicum's Thomistic Institute European chapters participated in the 2023 Student Summer seminar on St. Thomas Aquinas. The seminar included an introduction to Thomistic philosophy and theology, as well as a series of talks entitled the 'Creator, Creatures and Causes' for more advanced students. The seminar also included a pilgrimage to the holy sites of Rome. The speakers were Fr. Simon Francis Gaine, O.P. (Director), Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P., Fr. Mariusz Tabaczek, O.P., Fr. Thomas Davenport, O.P., Fr. Philip-Neri Reese, O.P., and Fr. Peter Gautsch, O.P.
- In July, the Angelicum's Thomistic Institute held a week-long Summer Seminar in Asian Philosophy and Scholasticism, led by Fr. James Dominic Rooney, O.P. (Hong Kong Baptist University) & Zemian Zheng (Chinese University of Hong Kong).
- The 3rd Annual Pinckaers Chair Conference, "Thomas Aquinas: Magister Spiritualis" will be held from November 10-11. The event is co-sponsored by the Angelicum Thomistic Institute and the Angelicum Institute for Spirituality.
- In the Fall 2023 and Spring 2023, Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P. and Angelicum friars and alumni will be leading parish missions in New York, Iowa, Texas (2), Colorado, Florida (5), Louisiana and Georgia. **Can you assist us** in a gift providing financial support to offset expenses of a parish mission? It takes approximately \$3,000 in travel expenses, including transatlantic flights and car rentals, for each mission. Your contribution enables us to extend our outreach to financially disadvantaged parishes as well, while helping us get the word out about the Angelicum with an international team of priests.
- Update from the Angelicum Garden: recently a new bird was seen: Eurasian Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*). Check out all of Fr. Albert Trudel's photos on Flickr, search **trudelalbert**.

This year marks the 700th anniversary of the canonization of St. Thomas Aquinas. The Dominican Order is celebrating an extended jubilee year from July 18, 2023 to January 8, 2025. The Vatican is granting a plenary indulgence to anyone who makes a pilgrimage or spends time in recollection at a site connected to the Dominicans during this time. Requirements include prayer for the intentions of the pope, a sacramental confession, and reception of Holy Communion. Those who are ill or home-bound can obtain the indulgence by uniting themselves spiritually to the jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers and suffering to God.





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“For just as it is better to enlighten than merely to shine, so is it better to give to others the fruits of one’s contemplation than merely to contemplate.” *Summa theologiae* II-II 188.6

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