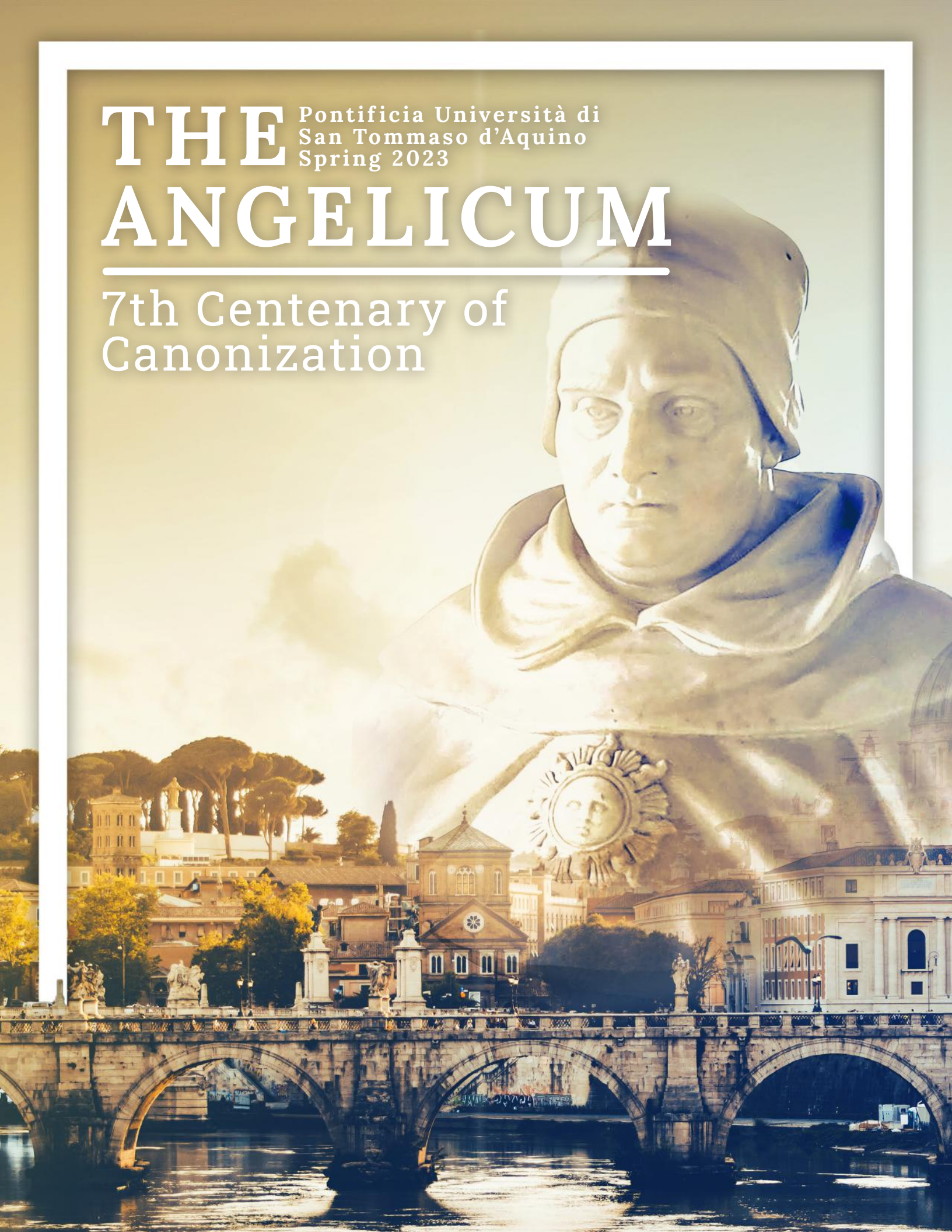


THE Pontificia Università di  
San Tommaso d'Aquino  
Spring 2023

# ANGELICUM

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7th Centenary of  
Canonization



## 700 years of Holiness



Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P.

**W**hat does the 7th centenary of the canonization of St. Thomas Aquinas mean for the Angelicum? As first to give Aquinas the title of “doctor communis,” the 14th century Dominican, Tolomeo da Lucca said, “This man is supreme among modern teachers of philosophy and theology and indeed in every subject. And such is the common view and opinion that nowadays in the University of Paris they call him the ‘common doctor’ because of the outstanding clarity of his teaching.”

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Today Aquinas’ teaching is officially required by canon law for sound preparation for the priesthood and the communication of the Gospel. On a personal note, his teaching on the primacy of God’s grace and insight into human nature has allowed me as a priest to share about how grace perfects our human nature and makes us more fully human, more fully who we truly are. It’s an attractive message for sharing the Faith.

The anniversary shows us that scholarship and excellence go hand in hand with holiness and fidelity. He was not just an academic, but a holy and faithful Dominican. His life inspires our university today to pray and meditate on the Mysteries of the Faith. The life of academia and the scientific study of philosophy and theology need not (and should not) be separated from a life of holiness.

In this issue, we celebrate the canonization of our heavenly patron and the influence he has on the entire world. We thank God for the rich tradition and intellectual treasure of the Angelicum of which you are a significant part.

In particular we count on your generosity to help us strengthen the influence of Aquinas in order to build up the Church and her missionary activity! Our 150 alumni cardinals and bishops, currently serving the Church throughout the world, are a significant influence, not to mention many thousands of priests, religious, and lay leaders.

Imagine that a Gift of \$1,500 (EUR 1,385) / month provides a full-ride scholarship for room and board for a priest from the developing world for doctoral studies. Won’t you help us by giving the gift of education for the building up of the Church with sound theology? Please say a prayer for our mission.

*Fr. Benedict*



MORE ON AQUINAS

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS AND THE ANGELICUM

First foundation of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) in Toulouse	<b>1215</b>
Death of St. Dominic	<b>1221 (6 August)</b>
The official foundation of the Dominican studium conventuale at Santa Sabina in Rome which will evolve into what is today THE ANGELICUM	<b>1222</b>
<b>St. Thomas Aquinas' birth at Roccasecca (region of Naples)</b>	<b>1224/1225</b>
Lives as an Oblate (third order) at the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino	<b>1230-1239</b>
Studies at the studium generale in Naples	<b>1239-1244</b>
Receives the Dominican habit and begins novitiate	<b>1244 (April)</b>
Forced detention at Roccasecca by his family who kidnaps him from the novitiate	<b>1244-1245</b>
Studies with St. Albert the Great at the University of Paris	<b>1245-1248</b>
Teaches for the first time at the University of Paris	<b>1252-1256</b>
Named Master of Sacred Theology by the Dominican Order	<b>1256 (Spring)</b>
<b>Serves as Master Regent in Rome; teaches Dominican seminarians at Santa Sabina</b>	<b>1265 -1268</b>
Serves as Master Regent at the University of Paris	<b>1268-1272</b>
Teaches at Naples	<b>1272-1273</b>
Death of St. Thomas Aquinas	<b>1274 (7 March)</b>
Canonization in Avignon by Pope John XXII	<b>1323 (18 July)</b>
Proclaimed doctor of the Church by St. Pius V	<b>1567 (15 April)</b>
Founding of the Italian-Spanish College of St. Thomas at the Roman convent of Santa Maria sopra Minerva by Mons. Juan Solano, then bishop of Cuzco in Peru	<b>1577</b>
Recognition of the College of the Minerva as a studium of the Roman province	<b>1698</b>
Restoration of the Collegium Divi Thomae to promote Thomism	<b>1882 (24 October)</b>
The College of St. Thomas receives "Pontifical" status	<b>1906</b>
Beginning of the academic year in the Collegium Angelicum under the direction of Blessed Hyacinthe-Marie Cormier (Master of the Order)	<b>1909 (5 November)</b>
The College is moved to the present location, formerly the Monastery of Sts. Dominic and Sixtus.	<b>1932</b>
St. John XXIII, in his Motu Proprio "Dominicianus Ordo", raises the Angelicum to the rank of a Pontifical University	<b>1963 (7 March)</b>
<b>700th anniversary of the canonization of St. Thomas Aquinas</b>	<b>2023 (19 July)</b>
750th anniversary of his death	<b>2024 (7 March)</b>
800th Anniversary of his birth	<b>2025</b>

The Order of Preachers was granted a plenary indulgence for the jubilee of St. Thomas Aquinas, for those who go on pilgrimage to Dominican locations or participate in jubilee events from 28 January 2023 - 28 January 2025.

**See more at [op.org](http://op.org)**

# FR. LUKE DUNDON '11

## HIGHLIGHTS OF MINISTRY AS US NAVY CHAPLAIN

The Angelicum's alumni office presents to you the extraordinary testimony of Fr. Luke Dundon, of the Diocese of Arlington (Virginia) who currently serves as Catholic chaplain for the US Navy with the Archdiocese of the United States Military Services. His extraordinary work with US military service men and women is a sign of the abiding presence of God!

*"I had an amazing experience at the Angelicum that surely helped me in my present ministry as a Navy Chaplain.*

I was enriched by three interweaving realms — that of the classroom, that of the university cloister (courtyard), and that of the chapel. The classroom was rich in its typical manner as professors such as the late Fr. Robert Christian, Fr. Edmund Ditton, and Fr. Luke Buckles would impart their love of Truth to us in the various classes they taught. In between class was time to socialize in the university cloister. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know my religious classmates from around the world. Indispensable to the experience was a trip to the bar for a *caffè macchiato*, and then perhaps a walk through the back university garden where the orange trees grew. The joy that permeated through the student body each day was nothing less than rejuvenating. Lastly, and most importantly, was our time spent in the adoration chapel. Whether it was before class started, or during lunch hour, or before evening classes, the chapel was a priceless treasure of quiet with the Lord.

Living in Rome was not always easy for me. I had never lived in a city prior to that time, so finding quiet was more priceless than green *sambuca* from Abruzzi. When I found that chapel, it truly reminded me of why I was studying, what I was studying, and who I was going to serve for the rest of my life as a priest. When I noticed that the chapel was always full each day, it gave me renewed hope that ministry as a priest was going to be exciting!

Those reminders certainly bore fruit in my life as a parish priest for three years in Arlington, Virginia, following my ordination in 2011. I subsequently answered the Lord's invitation to minister to His people in the United States Navy as a chaplain in 2014. The first few years were daunting to say the least. However, I continued to find the same core principle that St. Thomas Aquinas sang about in his *Tantum Ergo* — it's all about our Lord in the Eucharist.

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I served on a couple ships with the Marines for a number of years. By my fourth and present assignment, I was headed out again on the largest ship we have of the U.S. Navy, an aircraft carrier. Aircraft carriers have the largest number of souls onboard. I was all set to celebrate the sacraments, but I thought I should try something new, so I purchased a monstrance for our deployment, unsure how this would work out. Life on ships is very loud and busy, so living in Rome was good preparation! However, I was not certain how people would respond to our chapel hosting Eucharistic Adoration.

I was floored by what happened next. Once I began offering it, people started coming immediately, and on a regular basis. I naturally enjoyed the time spent with the Lord, but I wanted to know why others were visiting so often, thousands of miles from the nearest coastline. I asked a few folks about their reasons. The response was almost unanimous. Being with him gave them joy and peace that they couldn't find anywhere else on the ship. Quite literally, Jesus was "in the boat" with them!

I credit the Angelicum for prioritizing a similar space for quiet moments spent with our Lord, which really informed everything we studied there. I look back on the memories with fondness and gratitude."

*Say a prayer for the efforts of our Angelicum alumni around the world. Truly they carry out to the world that which they have contemplated in our university classrooms! Thank you Fr. Luke!*



Credit: US Navy Academy

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# LAUNCH OF NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR SISTERS

**T**he St. Catherine of Siena Scholarship Program was started by the Angelicum to bring religious sisters from all over the world to study in Rome for a one-year diploma program in the University's Faculty of Theology or the Mater Ecclesiae Higher Institute of Religious Studies. The program's inaugural class was composed of 20 sisters, each from a different congregation and 12 countries. The project aims to foster intellectual development, moral autonomy, and spiritual growth in the scholarship recipients, by exposure to one of the Church's foremost academic centers and its rich curriculum and therefore empower them as effective Christian servants and leaders as they return to their home regions. The Program was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.



**Sr. Ma Estela Patricio, O.P. - Dominican Sisters of St. Rose of Lima, Philippines**

“Studying and living in Rome is a unique experience that offers both academic and personal growth with its rich culture, historical significance, and vibrant social scene, in part thanks to the vicinity to the Successor of Peter. In particular, I am grateful to have in-depth learning at the Angelicum, which has deepened my spirituality and identity as Dominican with the understanding of Truth in the light of faith. This broadens my perspectives but most of all makes me strive to be a good religious, conscious of the real-life application of what I have learned.”

**Sr. Mary Chiara Middendorf, CK - School Sisters of Christ the King, USA**

“While my year in Rome studying at the Angelicum has enriched me in so many ways, spiritually, intellectually, and humanly, one facet that particularly stands out is a very tangible experience of the universality of the Church. My fellow students came from an incredible variety of cultures, each with their unique story, and God in his Providence brought us all to the Angelicum at this particular time. It has been a gift to receive their stories, to share my own, and to grow together as we pursue truth and are pursued by Truth Himself.”

**Sr. Grace Ann Iguve, O.P. - Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Nigeria**

“Receiving the St. Catherine of Siena Scholarship at the Angelicum is one of the most cherished gifts I have received from God. The advent of this rare privilege changed my entire life. Learning is an amazing thing, but learning in a new place from a new perspective is both rewarding and eye-opening. Personally, studying at the Angelicum has made me globally-minded. The new people I've met, the new language I am learning, the new culture, food and clothes, the pilgrimages I am participating in have all enriched my perspectives in a tangible way, for which I am truly thankful.”

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## THOMISM AND THE EVANGELISATION OF CULTURE: A CONVERSATION WITH FR. THOMAS JOSEPH WHITE, O.P.

**Fr. Jarosław Kupczak: In 2018, You moved to Rome to assume the position of Director at the Thomistic Institute at Angelicum, the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas.**

Fr. Thomas Joseph White: In Rome, the Thomistic Institute supports the main objective of the University of St. Thomas, which is to train priests, conventuals and lay people for work in Catholic universities, colleges, seminaries and other institutions of the Church all over the world. To make this possible, we must, naturally, think also about the prospect of serious research, as without them, there is no teaching at a high university level. The aim of such research is to address the gravest problems and questions that each era poses to the Church. That is why the Angelicum Thomistic Institute in Rome, currently managed by Simon Gaine, O.P., a member of the International Theological Commission, is now focusing on the problems of the relationship between science and religion and the contemporary philosophy of a human person. We are also trying to adapt our Washington way of working in Rome. COVID slowed us down, but we already have several branches of the Roman Institute in secular universities in various cities in Europe: Lisbon, Paris, Cracow, Barcelona and Zagreb.

**In 2021, You became a Rector of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, one of the most recognisable Catholic universities in the world.**

The Angelicum now has about a thousand students from one hundred countries from all around the world. They will all become missionaries and evangelisers of the next generation. Despite all their differences, they share a motivation to assist in the

intellectual mission of the Church and evangelisation of contemporary culture. It is extremely beautiful and magnificent that a Dominican university can help them bring the truth of Christ to all the cultures and countries they come from.

At the centre of our academic curriculum is the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, through which we achieve philosophical and theological unity of our lecturer's work. To this, we add a serious historical study of Scripture and the patristic tradition, along with a confrontation with the philosophical and



Excerpt from an interview with Fr. Jarosław Kupczak, O.P. for Wszystko Co Najważniejsze  
Reprinted with permission.

“The least knowledge of the highest things brings the greatest joy.”

- THOMAS AQUINAS, SUMMA CONTRA GENTILES

theological challenges of the present day.

The St. John Paul II Institute of Culture and the Faculty of Social Sciences play an important role in this last task, tackling a whole range of issues related to human rights, human dignity and problems of more specific economic and political solutions. The influence of the Faculty of Social Sciences has proved to be crucial, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe; a number of this faculty's graduates now play a significant role in various kinds of institutions that greatly affect the shape of this part of Europe.

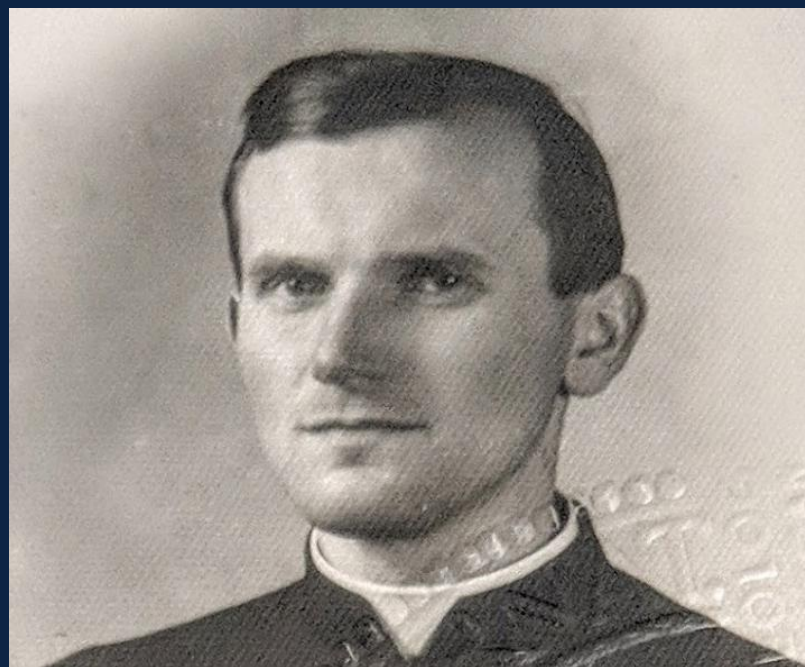
One of the important current goals of the Angelicum is a reflection on inter-religious relations. Through this, we want to help our students from countries with Hindu or Buddhist cultures to think not only about the peaceful coexistence of different religions but also to create an intellectual horizon for the evangelising mission of the Church.

**The best-known graduate of the Angelicum is Karol Wojtyla, John Paul II. In 1946-48 he wrote his doctoral thesis in the field of theology there, under the tutelage of Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P., one of the most eminent Roman theologians of the time.**

There is no doubt that St. John Paul II was our greatest alumnus. We are very grateful to God that he was our student and that our environment acquainted him with the Thomistic tradition, which visibly marked the intellectual achievements of his entire pontificate. Today, lecturers and students at the Angelicum are deeply attached to John Paul II's legacy and achievements. From a personal perspective, John Paul II had a very strong influence on me as well.

The St. John Paul II Institute of Culture at the University of St. Thomas is set not on historical work on the legacy of Karol Wojtyla/John Paul II but rather on looking into the future. Using the great intuitions of the Polish Pope, we want to confidently approach the evangelisation of contemporary culture, especially in Europe.

**I have been visiting the Angelicum regularly for a dozen years or so, and I have noticed a large increase in the number of American professors and students. As one who teaches at the Angelicum, I am impressed by them, both in terms of their intellectual prowess**



**and certain life integrity, an earnest approach to faith and their Christian identity. In Europe, we tend to think of the United States as an exporter of shallow pop culture; at the Angelicum, the renaissance of American Catholicism is a clearly visible phenomenon.**

In terms of statistics, the Catholic Church in the USA is shrinking. The number of practising Catholics continues to decline despite the significant influx of immigrants from the South. Simultaneously, over the recent decades, the Church has been experiencing the affluence of deeply believing young lay people and priests well-prepared to speak confidently about faith in the public sphere. As a result, we can observe a healthy counter-cultural dynamic in the present-day American Church. It is not about a reactionary and defensive attitude but about a certainty – coming from the faith experienced in earnest – that one ought to go out to people living in a secularised world and help them find meaning in life, guide them towards existential landmarks. Thanks to such a courageous attitude of the faithful, there are hundreds of thousands of conversions every year in the United States. Today, many of the converts occupy important roles in academic life, culture, politics and economy.

I worked as a priest in Washington, D.C., for ten years. I witnessed many conversions of young people; I was often impressed by the level of their intellectual and moral life. There are many priestly and monastic vocations among them.

When it comes to Europe, we are dealing with cultures that have been Catholic for hundreds of years and are now radically disputing their roots, aiming to deconstruct them. That is why the missionary life of the Church in Europe must be renewed. And it cannot be done by bishops and priests alone who – which is completely understandable – often view the life of the Church only through the lenses of participation in sacraments. It is the task of brave lay people with proper intellectual preparation to look at the Church’s evangelising mission from a broader perspective, that is, to see it as a transformational force impacting the whole culture – in its high aspect and the everyday one, that shapes our daily choices while also being their first result.

**We are grateful to all who have joined the mission by their financial support and prayers.**

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## COMING HOME

### THE VISIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF DOMINICAN NUNS

In November the university welcomed an international commission of cloistered Dominican Nuns of the Order of Preachers, representing 18 Federations and Associations around the world. Pictured is the dean of Canon Law, Fr. Loic-Marie LeBot, O.P. (Toulouse), presents the first diploma granted for a new program of Canon Law of Religious Life. We honor the gift of the Nuns' contemplative vocation for the entire Church and the Dominican Order. Before the university came to the current location (see p. 3), it was the Nuns' Monastery of Sts. Dominic and Sixtus.

See more pictures.



# ANGELICUM

PERIODICUM TRIMESTRE

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VOLUMEN 100 • FASCICULUS 1 • ANNO 2023

## SUMMARIUM

## DISSERTATIONES

ANTHONY GIAMBRONE, *Meister Eckhart as Bible Translator: Middle High German Volgarizzamento from the Pulpit*

ALBERTO FRIGERIO, *Neo-gnosticismo e manipolazione corporea*

NOTAE ET COMMUNICATIONES ACADEMICAE di Communitas 2022:  
Biblical Law and Natural Law: An Interdisciplinary Symposium, 6–7 May 2022

LOÏC-MARIE LE BOT, O.P., *Loi biblique – Loi naturelle. Le droit canonique comme expression juridique d'une rencontre originale entre loi biblique et loi naturelle*

HELEN ALFORD, O.P., *Natural Law and Business Ethics: A Blossoming Relationship?*

GREGORY GAVIN D'COSTA, *Can Catholic Natural Law theory help us in engagement with Non-Christian Religions?*

## RECENSIONES

NAPIÓRKOWSKI, ANDRZEJ A., O.S.P.P.E.  
*Jesus Christ: The Revealed and the Revealer*  
(Basyli Degórski, O.S.P.P.E.)

WEIMANN, RALPH,  
*Bioethical Challenges at the End of Life: An Ethical Guide in Catholic Perspective*  
(Ezra Sullivan, O.P.)

BAURA, EDUARDO – SOL, THIERRY,  
*Chiesa, persone e diritti. Corso introduttivo al diritto canonico*  
(Giovanni Parise)

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# UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sr. Helen Alford, O.P. (Congregation of St Catherine of Siena of KwaZulu Natal), Dean of Social Sciences, was appointed by Pope Francis on 1 April as the new president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

Fr. Dominic Jurczak, O.P. (Poland) was appointed the new Dean of Theology; Fr. Mariusz Tabaczek, O.P. (Poland) and Fr. Cassian Derbes, O.P. (USA) were appointed vice-deans. The Angelicum's faculty of Theology has over 500 students.

Angelicum canon law alumnus, His Excellency, Msgr. Robert Provost O.S.A., from Chicago, was named the new prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops - a major position that handles recommendations for new bishops. Other alumni have been named to other key positions. Full list is forthcoming.

On 5 May the University's annual inter-faculty study day, *Communitas*, reflected on the theme: "Are Just Wars Possible?"

In May the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture at the University of Notre Dame co-sponsored a closed-door conference at the Angelicum on the aftermath of *Roe vs. Wade* with pro-life academic leaders, medical doctors and lawyers from Europe, Australia and the US to talk about the future of the movement.

In March the Angelicum, Santa Croce and the Notre Dame Rome Gateway, along with the McDonald Agape Foundation organized a multi-day conference on a new book by Fr. Thomas Joseph White: "The Trinity: On the Nature and Mystery of the One God".

In May the Angelicum, together with the McDonald Agape Foundation, organized a conference on: "Creation, Nature and Grace: Catholics and Reformed in Dialogue." The talks can be found on the Angelicum's Facebook page.

In May, Prof. George Weigel taught for the Angelicum's St. John Paul II Institute of Culture for the JP2 Studies Program on the theme: John Paul II - Life, Work, Historical Context.

Fr. Michael Sherwin, O.P., Director of the Institute of Spirituality, spoke at Baptist University in Hong Kong for the Angelicum's Thomistic Institute in April on: "Thomas Aquinas on Friendship, Human and Divine."

Fr. Paul Murray O.P., Fr. Simon Gainé, O.P. and Fr. Michael Sherwin, O.P. presented an on-line Lenten series for the S.E. Asian Patrons of the Vatican Museums. In May, 38 of the patrons came to Rome for an in-presence talk with Fr. Paul Murray O.P., aperitivo and dinner with a representation of our Asian students.



On 19 February 75 Dominican friars studying in Rome gathered at the Angelicum for a ½ day retreat with the Grand Chancellor, Fr. Gerard Timoner, O.P. The theme of the day was presented by Fr. Paul Murray, O.P., (Ireland): "The Mutual Gifts of Study and Dominican Life." Please keep all of our students in your prayers.

The University launched a new scholarship program for Italian speakers beginning their studies in the coming year. More info: [angelicum.it/teologia-borsa-di-studio](http://angelicum.it/teologia-borsa-di-studio)

On 11 May, James Cardinal Harvey presided over the Annual Eucharistic Procession. On 25 May, Robert Cardinal Sarah was the main celebrant for the Mass for the close of the academic year.

Angelicum students and professors, together with the promoter general of the Holy Rosary for the Dominican Order, Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P., distributed rosaries in Rome's piazzas on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. The Master of the Order began the day with Mass.

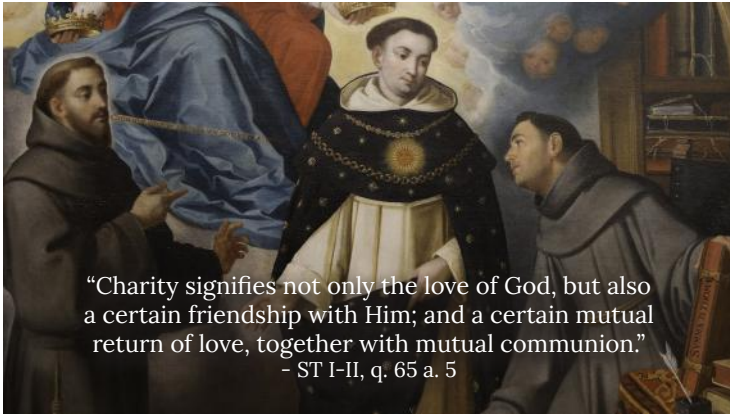


On 18 May, the St. John Paul II Institute of Culture students performed "Our God's Brother," under the direction of Prof. Jarosław Kilian. The institute also hosted an art exhibit "Images of the Merciful Jesus According to the Vision of St. Faustina".



On 20 May our students and faculty participated in Italy's National March for Life.

Angelicum Friars & Alumni led four Lent / Easter parish missions in the U.S. The missions give our scholars and alumni a way to assist in expanding the Angelicum's donor network while preaching the Gospel. Next year's missions are set for New York, Florida, Georgia, Colorado, Louisiana, Iowa and New Jersey with Angelicum Gatherings before or after. Might you be able to host a gathering? (contact Fr. Ben)



“Charity signifies not only the love of God, but also a certain friendship with Him; and a certain mutual return of love, together with mutual communion.”  
 - ST I-II, q. 65 a. 5

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