

The

ANGELICVM

NEWSLETTER OF THE PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS



A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR



*Dear Friends,
Our university is in the midst of physical renovations, and the interior cloister looks entirely different from the way that it looked in the Fall. The bubbling fountain and columned walkways have been covered over by scaffolding and construction board.*

The Angelicum's campus dates back to 1575, when the Dominican Pope St. Pius V constructed a new monastery for Dominican nuns to carry out their mission of prayer for the Order's preaching efforts. Its architecture reflects both the Dominican spirit of prayer and devotion as well as the vitality and apostolic zeal of the Roman Baroque and Catholic Reformation.

Though the campus has not lost its original 16th century beauty, the centuries have taken their toll on various parts of the building. Part of our effort at theological renewal at the Angelicum includes physical renewal of our space. In a very practical sense, this means that the rooms where our firars live must be hospitable; our walls must be resistant to tectonic activity; our pipes must efficiently handle and divert rainwater. Chipping plaster must be patched. Most importantly, however, the building in which our university operates must speak symbolically to our students and the world about our theological mission. As we undertake an effort of theological renewal through our capital campaign, we seek to align ourselves with those who have lived the Dominican charism before us, passing on something of the spirit of St. Dominic and of St. Thomas Aquinas to all of our students, whether Dominican or not. Our fervent prayer is that as our students go back home to over a hundred different countries, they will carry something of the Dominican charism with them, living lives of study and prayer for the sake of evangelization.

All of us at the Angelicum are so excited for this renovation, as it will restore the campus to its original freshness and beauty—we will see the Angelicum as it was when our Dominican forebears first built it 450 years ago! This gives us an occasion to align ourselves all the more closely with the apostolic and prayerful spirit of those who built our campus.

As we restore the Angelicum to its classical beauty, may the God who is Beauty itself bless our efforts, so that our students may learn, grow in their knowledge of God, and hand on to many what they have received.

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

On the cover: Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Vatican Secretary for Relations with States, joined us in October for the groundbreaking ceremony and blessing of the construction for the renovations of the cloister and upcoming projects.

Photo, cover and above: Fabio Pignotto



UPDATE FROM THE MISSION ADVANCEMENT TEAM

Building Through Time: A Legacy of 500 Years

A word from **Eduardo Andino**
Chief Advancement Officer

Every time I visit Rome I make sure to spend a few minutes in the Angelicum's central cloister garden at night. Leaning against one of the columns, I look up at the sky, where the moon and clouds interact while seagulls noisily criss-cross above the roof. Next time I visit, this will be harder to do, as the cloister will be covered in scaffolding. One colleague based in Rome told me that "It's difficult to convey just how claustrophobic it feels." Thankfully, the scaffolding is only temporary, and soon the cloister will shine with its original 16th-century beauty.

Other renovation projects will follow: The Angelicum's front entrance, the library, the priestly residences, the major lecture halls. With each of these, our students and faculty will have to undergo some amount of inconvenience, as normal university life is disrupted. In each case, we will look back and realize just how worthwhile the wait was.

In the United States we don't often have the opportunity of seeing a building that has been occupied and in use since the 16th century. But as we work together to support the Angelicum's renovations we can look both 500 years into the past and 500 years into the future, with the satisfaction of knowing that what we are building now will benefit Angelicum students for generations to come.

Where Saints Are Formed: Renewing Our Sacred Mission

A word from **Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P.**
Director of Mission Advancement

For centuries, our pontifical university has provided faithful Catholic education at the highest level, forming leaders who illuminate the Church and world with sacred truth. As a center of Dominican intellectual tradition, the Angelicum continues to prepare future bishops, pastors, and professors who will in turn form countless others in the Faith.

Within these sacred halls, where St. John Paul II and so many others were formed, our daily rhythm of prayer continues even as scaffolding transforms our historic campus. Each day, students gather before the Blessed Sacrament, and after, seek divine wisdom in the spaces where future saints, martyrs, and blessededs will walk.

These renovations serve both practical needs and a higher purpose—they ensure that the Angelicum will remain a spiritual and intellectual beacon for centuries to come. As our physical surroundings undergo renewal, the contemplative heart of our Dominican mission beats strong, preparing leaders who will guide the Church through the challenges ahead with wisdom, courage, and fidelity to Jesus Christ.

We thank you for your prayer and support of the Angelicum for this mission of renewal at the heart of the Church.

MEET OUR RENOVATION TEAM LEADERS

The first time we visited, we saw that the Angelicum was an incredible place...". Overseeing major renovations on a structure that is nearly over 450 years old is a complex mission, and we are grateful to our two project managers. Glenn Boornazian is from New York City and Cristina studied together at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University. They are experts in the architectural conservation of historic buildings and monuments. Some of their past projects include the US Capitol building; temples, originally Buddhist, in Cambodia; the St. Trophime cloister in Arles, France; and even the Brooklyn Bridge. They will also oversee upcoming projects in the Angelicum library, Convitto and front entry in the coming years. We asked them to share a bit about the project which is now underway.

Please share with us about your experience so far.

G: We are working on an old building that has a lot of history that is just covered over. It is wonderful to work with a client who is so interested in the details, the history, and how it can be incorporated into the present. Even having been in this business for so many years, I can say that this is one of the most exciting projects I have taken on.

What is involved in your work?

G: Our mission is to help the university to find concrete solutions to accomplish the ideas they have for this renovation. We helped to design a plan and sequence of work, put together professional teams and generally to



Cristina Puglisi
Senior Project Manager

Glenn Boornazian
Founding Partner

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keep the whole project organized. But first, we studied the property to get a look at the hidden conditions, as much as we could. This extensive preparatory work will help prevent unexpected changes in the scope of work needed.

C: The team that we have gathered for the renovation includes a fine arts conservator, architects, structural, mechanical and acoustic engineers, and also an archeologist.

What are some updates and challenges as the work progresses?

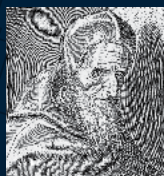
C: During our first visit to the red-dish-orange cloister, peeling paint near the roofline suggested that there were hidden details underneath. After setting up scaffolding to investigate, our careful removal of paint and plaster layers revealed a painted ionic

capital and an entire second order of architecture painted and scored directly on the original plaster, including "travertine" pilasters, cornices, bases and bricks throughout the cloister. We also found the original colors from 1575, which we'll use in the restoration.

One of the greatest challenges we face is simply logistics. We are carefully planning with the Administration to find creative solutions for this. Still, I must say that working on this project is truly a privilege and a pleasure.

G: I am excited to see what comes. I think there may be some surprises, but we are prepared for them. Working on this project will be an unforgettable lifetime experience.

1575



DOMINICAN POPE ST. PIUS V COMMISSIONS

the monastery of Sts. Dominic and Sixtus on the Quirinal Hill. The community of Dominican nuns who move here were founded by St. Dominic himself in 1218, at San Sisto Vecchio.

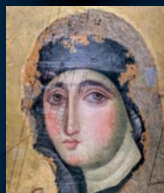
1663



THE CHURCH OF SAINTS DOMINIC AND SIXTUS IS ADDED

to the monastery complex. It is one of Rome's earliest Baroque churches, featuring Bernini's work in its tabernacle, high altar, and a side chapels.

1870



THE MONASTERY IS CONFISCATED

by the newly formed Italian state, turning it into offices managing confiscated Church properties of Rome. The nuns relocate to Monte Mario's "Santa Maria del Rosario" monastery with their Icon of the Virgin, where they remain today.

1928



THE DOMINICAN ORDER PURCHASES

the former Monastery from the State of Italy and renovates it to house the College of St. Thomas.

1932



NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PASSARELLI BUILDING IS ADDED

housing two major lecture halls, including the famous Aula Magna and library.

1967



THE CONVITTO INTERNAZIONALE DI SAN TOMMASO,

a residential college for about 50 priests who study at the university, is added to the complex.

2014



WORK BEGINS ON THE MOST URGENT RENOVATION

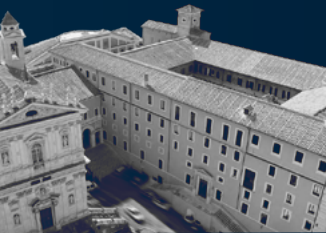
projects for the university, including all the classroom spaces, offices, and the friars' living quarters.

2024



OFFICIAL GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE RENOVATIONS

of the Angelicum cloister and other upcoming capital improvements.



In October, we officially began the renovations of the cloister with a groundbreaking ceremony and blessing of the site by Archbishop Gallagher. Our preparations included an in-depth study of the property by the renovation team. Working closely with the historic architectural authorities of the city of Rome, our architects were able to uncover the original paint colors, and also discovered painted columns and brickwork throughout the cloister. The renovations will restore this original 16th century design, the central fountain and native vegetation, and also install key infrastructure to ensure proper drainage. The area is now entirely covered in scaffolding while it is transformed to its original beauty.



Angelicum rector and major officials with the renovation team at the official groundbreaking ceremony.

Photo: Fabio Pignotto



A model of the cloister following the renovations.

RENEWING THE CLOISTER



Management of the cloister renovation works in action.



First painted Ionic column and surrounding brickwork uncovered by the renovation team



An example of the layers of history found in the cloister, carefully peeled back as part of the preparatory work for the cloister renovations.



The arches of the cloister walkway, above the scaffolding, are being stripped down to the original plaster and then painted in their original colors.

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Further capital improvements

In 2014, the university began a first phase of renovations, focusing on the most urgent areas. Along with critical structural consolidation, all the classroom spaces, offices, and the friars' living quarters were renovated. The learning environments were upgraded to include new classroom technology and HVAC. The renovations within the Priory expanded the number of rooms and provided each with a private bathroom. This was a crucial step in building up the University, which relies on the friars' service.

In October the university began a new phase of restorations. Our aim in the next 3 years is to upgrade some key areas of the complex. This includes the cloister and the front entrance, which are the most public areas of the University and offer a chance to preach the Gospel through the beauty of our campus.

This phase also includes the renovation of the library, which is the nexus of the Angelicum's teaching and research mission. It will include adjusting spaces so that the stacks of books are directly accessible to the students. Finally the major renovations of the Convitto San Tomaso will provide friars and student priests with comparable living conditions to the Angelicum convent, and allow the College to house more friars.

The third phase, from 2028-2032, will focus on longer-term priorities to enrich campus life. This includes the renovation of the underground refectory where the Dominican friars who teach and study at the university take their meals. It will include further expansion of the library, as well as the renovation of our major lecture halls (Aula Magna and Aula Minor). The final stage will be the beautification of our gardens and terraces, as well as several smaller projects to improve access to the campus, increase energy efficiency, and beautify the University's entryway.



Photo: Stefano Dal Pozzolo

UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fr. Philip-Neri Reese, O.P., was appointed the *new Director of the Angelicum Thomistic Institute* for a three-year term.

On *February 4*, we held *our first Aquinas Lecture in New York City*. *Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P.*, rector magnificus, delivered a talk on “The Future of Catholic Theology and Why It Matters in the 21st Century.” The Angelicum’s first major stateside event was well attended, filling the Union League Club.

On *February 15*, university chaplains led *a walking pilgrimage* from the Angelicum to the Dominican convent of *Our Lady of the Rosary on Monte Mario* to venerate the image of the Madonna Avvocata.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The inaugural event for our newly formed *Institute for Interreligious relations* will be held on *March 27*, entitled “Thomas, Thomism and Non-Christian Religions: Retrieving a Thomistic Approach to interreligious relations for the 21st century.

April 2-5 the Angelicum is organizing a *conference “Nicaea 2025”*, a Conference on the *1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea*, organized by Project for the Theological Reception of Scripture in collaboration with the Augustinian Patristic Pontifical Institute (Augustinianum).

The *annual Fr. Val McInnis lecture* will be held on *May 2*, *Fr. Reginald Lynch, O.P.* will give a talk on “Thomas Aquinas on the Eucharist and Trinitarian Communion”. Write us for more information.

SPRING MISSIONS

SPRING 2025 PARISH MISSIONS

We invite you and your friends to join us for a mission near you, and to intercede for the success of these Eucharistic missions.

17-19 February 2025 Osprey, Florida

Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Diocese of Venice

24-26 February 2025 Houston, Texas

St. John Vianney in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

10-12 March 2025 Naples, Florida

St. William in the Diocese of Venice

17-19 March 2025 Orlando, Florida

Holy Cross in the Diocese of Orlando

17-19 March 2025 Birmingham, Alabama

The Cathedral of St. Paul in the Diocese of Birmingham

17-19 March 2025 Woodbridge, Virginia

Holy Family in the Diocese of Arlington

24-26 March 2025 Auburn, Alabama

St. Michael the Archangel in the Archdiocese of Mobile

31 March – 2 April 2025 Venice, Florida

SPECIAL MARIAN Mission at Epiphany Cathedral in the Diocese of Venice

7-9 April 2025 Wichita, Kansas

Church of the Blessed Sacrament in the Diocese of Wichita

Would you like the friars of the Angelicum to do a Parish mission near you? Contact us to learn more and invite them.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE ANGELICUM

To donate 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
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"The Angelicum supports world class scholarship, with students from over 100 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



Planned Giving & 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 Eduardo Andino directly: +1.718.416.5122 advancement@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.

EXPANDING THE MISSION ADVANCEMENT TEAM



BRYCE CONNOLLY

Parish Mission Coordinator

Bryce joins the team as the Parish Mission Coordinator. In this role, he will lead the development of Angelicum's parish missions in both the United States and Europe, as well as assist with the University's fundraising efforts. He brings several years of experience from the non-profit sector, as well as from national and local political campaigns. Bryce resides in the Washington, D.C. area.



It is an incredible blessing to work with the Angelicum in this capacity. The parish missions offer a profound opportunity for all people to connect deeply with Christ in the Eucharist and experience His transformative presence. The combined dedication of the Dominican friars and the timeless wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas serve as tremendous inspiration to be part of the University's mission, as it continues to be the leading institution in Rome for theological education, virtuous formation, and integral human development.



PHIL DICKERSON

Director of Annual Giving

Phil joins the Mission Advancement Team at the Angelicum, bringing years of experience in leading and growing fundraising teams for American-based apostolates. Most recently, he served as National Director of Mission Advancement for St. Paul Street Evangelization. Phil resides in Gettysburg, PA, with his wife, Becca, and their four children: Titus, Gabriel, Martha, and Francis.



I consider it a profound blessing to begin serving as Director of the Annual Fund. I am eager to enhance and strengthen the University's fundraising strategies while building meaningful relationships with U.S. donors. My patron is St. Dominic, and so I am inspired by the Angelicum's mission and its expanding influence as a leading center of theological and philosophical scholarship for the Catholic Church in the United States and beyond. Having known Angelicum's Rector, Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P., and Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P. for over a decade, going back to their time in Washington, D.C., I am excited to collaborate with them in this exciting new role.



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