

# *The* ANGELICVM

NEWSLETTER OF THE PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS



FALL | 24

N°21 | CAPITAL CAMPAIGN EDITION

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR



Photo: Fabio Pignata

Dear Friends,

*Some of you may not know that the building where our university resides was originally constructed as a monastery of cloistered Dominican nuns in the 16th century by Pope St. Pius V. It has served as the Angelicum's campus since 1932. As a university, we are truly blessed to have such a remarkable historic campus where we carry forward the teaching mission of the Dominican Order at the service of the global Church. This October we had the official groundbreaking for renovations of the cloister, the central garden and hallways which are the beating heart of the Angelicum. All of our classrooms are located around this quadrangle, which serves as a central nexus and meeting place for our students, professors, and staff. It is also a location where you can experience the historicity of our campus, the heritage of our monastic predecessors, and of Roman Catholic culture more broadly. It is*

*exciting to begin a restoration project to recover the space's original beauty. This project marks the beginning of a series of renovations on various parts of our campus (which we will cover in more detail in the next edition).*

*Restoring and updating our centuries-old buildings conveys the continuous vitality of the Church's wisdom over the centuries. The things we teach and study are not beliefs of the past, but a belief in the God who continues to build His Church today. We must therefore understand this restoration, and the renovations to follow, as tied into a broader plan to renew this institution. Material renovations are part of a broader strategy that also sets out to hire new professors, provide more scholarships to students, augment the work of our institutes in promoting research and outreach, and more. As we renew our buildings, we seek to renew other aspects of the University, and thus to act as an agent to foster renewal in the Catholic Church more broadly.*

*It seems appropriate, therefore, to take this opportunity to make another important announcement. The restoration project we are embarking on has been made possible by the generous gifts of the Angelicum's benefactors. Similarly, our other academic projects are possible thanks to the financial support we've received. We've been able to accomplish a lot in the past years, but there is still much to do. Therefore, with the blessing of the Master of the Order and his Council, and the approval of our Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that the Angelicum is officially launching its first capital campaign, which will be titled *Renewal at the Heart of the Church*. I hope you will all join me in praying for the success of this campaign to allow the University to continue its critical mission at the service of the Church. Thank you in advance for being a part of our mission in this historic moment!*

*New students at the start of the Fall semester gathered in our student garden as part of their orientation day. They are at the heart of our university and mission. Photo: Stefano Dal Pozzolo.*

In Christ and St. Thomas Aquinas,  
Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P.  
Rector Magnificus

# RENEWAL AT THE HEART OF THE CHURCH



**Mr. Eduardo Andino**  
*Chief Advancement Officer*

Mr. Eduardo Andino is based in the United States. His efforts focus on strengthening our network of potential supporters, to “get the word out to America about the great work that the Angelicum is doing.” We asked him to share with us about the recently announced capital campaign.

*Photo: Fabio Pignata*

## *Please share with us about the name and goals for the capital campaign.*

We came up with the title Renewal at the Heart of the Church because the Angelicum, the pontifical university stewarded by the Dominican Order, is in Rome, the Church’s global headquarters. We have students from all over the world who come here for their theological formation. The more resources and effort we put into providing an excellent and unparalleled formation and education, the more the ripple effects will be felt across the world over generations. The cliché, of course, is that the Church thinks in centuries rather than in months or even years and decades, and we are applying some of that to how we think about the campaign. The goal for the things we are building up now - whether it involves renovating our 16th century building, founding academic chairs, increasing scholarship funds, or organizing new campus initiatives - is the impact 20 years from now, and also 100 years from now through the students that we form, whose contribution will be decades of service to the Church. The more we invest now in an excellent and high-quality education and formation and opportunities for them, the better leaders they are going to be in the future. They will carry with them all the gifts that they receive here as a fruit of the campaign into hundreds of different dioceses and communities all over the world. The four main areas for the campaign are renovations, academic offering, scholarships, and programs and core operations. So when we speak about Renewal at the Heart of the Church, we are starting from the Church’s global headquarters and helping to promote impact in every corner of the world, wherever the Church is present.

## *What is the motivation for this campaign?*

The Roman pontifical universities are among the Church’s hidden treasures. People might know the name of the Angelicum, but there is not a widespread understanding of the profound role pontifical universities play, both at the heart of the Church in Rome, and in the life of the global Church. As I said before, the ripple effects of an Angelicum education, geographically and over time, are enormous, especially in these times, when there is such a great need for a strong formation and excellent theology. And so I think the time has come in the life of the Church, and especially for the American world, to raise awareness of this great potential and to partner with generous friends in making this pontifical university a singularly phenomenal and impactful institution.

*For more information about the capital campaign, contact Eduardo at [advancement@pust.it](mailto:advancement@pust.it)*

# A LIFE-CHANGING SEMESTER

Fr. Nick Vance, '17

(Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA)

I grew up in West St. Paul, MN in a faithful Catholic family, but it wasn't until my freshman year of college that I really experienced an invitation from the Lord into a deeper relationship with Him through prayer and community. I began to get involved with a wonderful college evangelization community called Saint Paul's Outreach, as well as the University of St. Thomas Catholic Studies program. In the spring of 2017, I studied in Rome through the Catholic Studies program at the Angelicum. For those who have not heard of this, Catholic Studies is a semester program for students from Saint John Vianney Seminary at the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, Minnesota, USA). The combination of rich study and great community among the students certainly drew me into deeper prayer during that semester, and had me asking some of the bigger questions for vocation and where God was leading. One day during Eucharistic adoration in the chapel at the Angelicum, the Lord overwhelmed me with so much joy and peace about entering seminary and studying to become a diocesan priest! I kept bringing it to prayer, eventually speaking with the vocation director and a spiritual director upon my return home, and entered seminary right after graduating from college. The past six years of formation at the Saint Paul Seminary truly changed my life, and it was beautiful to be in formation at the same time as my father, as he was preparing to become a permanent

deacon. He was ordained in December of 2023, and it is a joy to serve alongside him and all the other clergy in this Archdiocese.

### **What was your experience at the Angelicum?**

My time at the Angelicum certainly gave me a deep appreciation for a life of study and continued theological formation. The depth of instruction, combined with the culture of seeking excellence in the intellectual life were certainly challenging to me, but it gave me a longing to continue to challenge myself.

### **Did you ever return to Rome during your time of formation?**

I had the opportunity in January of 2024 to visit Rome for a few weeks as part of our seminary formation. It was very surreal to come back seven years later, now a transitional deacon on the way to priesthood. I made sure to stop by the Angelicum during that time to pray a holy hour of thanksgiving for my vocation!

### **A word of gratitude.**

I am so grateful to the students, faculty, and staff of the Angelicum for a semester that changed my life! The environment of study and community drew me into deep prayer, and it was there that the Lord really started to draw me to priesthood. Please know of my prayers for all of you, and I hope that you will pray for me and all the people that I am called to serve!

*Fr. Vance was ordained to the priesthood on May 25th, 2024.*



*Fr. Vance, from Rome to Ordination: top (far left), middle (far right), bottom (with family)*

# ACADEMICS

*Providing students with unrivaled formation by expanding our faculty of world-class professors.*

The academic offering of the university is at the heart of our mission. With this campaign, we are raising funds for a series of chairs at the Angelicum revolving around key thinkers or key areas that are part of our four core faculties (Theology, Philosophy, Social Sciences and Canon Law). These will further strengthen the learning opportunities for our students. One example of a chair that we are preparing is the "John Henry Newman Chair". Newman is a pivotal figure and important model for the Church in the modern era, but there is no major chair in Rome that focuses on this. He was a thinker much after the model of Aquinas, who took the knowledge and thought of his time and put it together with Catholic wisdom. Newman's witness can help our students to deeply understand and communicate the synthesis of faith and reason, as he did.

We are also raising funds for a series of chairs inspired by St. John Paul II, the Angelicum's most illustrious alumnus. He was greatly influenced by the Thomistic tradition and brought that tradition to bear on contemporary disciplines, such as social sciences, economics, and also Catholic social teaching and the Church's engagement with culture and the contemporary world. We understand that you cannot go wrong with deep study of St. John Paul II. Thinking with him will help us to think with the Church, and to think deeply within both the Thomistic and wider Catholic tradition. Since one of the key goals for our educational mission is for our students to go out and preach the Gospel, sharing it in their own contexts, it is important for them to see how this great pope and Angelicum alumnus interacted with the modern world, and his effective methods of evangelization in our times.

In addition to these theological chairs, we are also planning to add chairs to strengthen other areas of our core faculties, including Social Sciences, Philosophy and Canon Law.



Photos: Stefano Dal Pozzolo

## MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

*Help deserving students from all over the world receive an Angelicum education.*



*Photo: Stefano Dal Pozzolo*



**T**he university subsidizes the tuition of every student, but further assistance is necessary, especially for students from around the world. We offer various scholarship opportunities, including merit-based scholarships designated for specific demographics such as religious sisters, seminarians, priests doing advanced studies, and lay people. Additionally, we have a strategy to provide a pool of scholarships for people from developing countries. This helps build up the intellectual and theological infrastructure of the Church in places where it is smaller, more persecuted, or new. Our students who go on to teach in houses of formation or even found new universities and houses of study can then bring their Angelicum education to their own countries, establishing great outposts for the handing on of the faith.

One of our strategies for scholarships is making sure that we can get high-level doctoral scholarships for Dominican friars. The Dominicans have always had a great preaching mission of study and prayer in service of evangelization and sharing the Gospel. And so it is very important that we build up a highly educated and well trained Dominican theological teaching and preaching force over the course of the next several decades. In this way, all over the world, wherever Dominican life is found, it will continue to be marked by a superb quality of theological leadership, both in terms of education and also in terms of preaching and theological output. This also includes writing books and undertaking research, making an incisive contribution to the Church in coming years.

Lay students are becoming an increasingly important part of our mission, as they take up teaching roles and find innovative ways to share the Gospel in the world. The depth of experience for lay students studying in Rome is unique and formative in ways they couldn't get elsewhere. Providing scholarships for these lay students is another priority for our campaign, as we aim to equip them to be effective teachers and evangelists.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

*Restore our 16th century campus and share the beauty of Catholic architecture.*

**T**he Angelicum university is located in the beautiful 16th century convent and church of Sts. Dominic and Sixtus, in Rome. The structure is a vivid example of the spirit of the era of the Catholic Reformation, of its impulses, its feelings and its art. It also captures the confident spirit of baroque Rome, which gave rise to global missionary impulses that brought huge new swathes of the world into the Catholic family. At the same time, this spirit also gave rise to great theology and scholars, as well as immense artistic beauty. All this is visible on our campus.

It is important for us, as stewards of this campus, to renovate it. Renovations show us that, even though these buildings were built nearly 500 years ago, what they stood for then is still alive today. They are not crumbling, dilapidated monuments of the past, but symbols of the Church's life and vigor today. The great spirit which gave rise to missionary and theological impulses still breathes on our campus.

The Church is alive today; God is working today. When you come to the Angelicum, you see the joyful, theologically-inclined student body who are taking in the wisdom of the tradition of the centuries and hoping to live it out today. We find it highly appropriate that the building where they study shares that same newness, freshness, and vitality.

The mission is given greatest freedom when both the people undertaking the project and the setting where they are undertaking the project communicate the same foundation. God is alive. God is at work. God is building up the Church. The renewal of our infrastructure is a very important part of our overall theme of renewal at the heart of the Church.

*The groundbreaking for the cloister renovations took place in October. Look for more about our renovations in the next edition.*



Photo: Fr. Dominik Jurczak, O.P.



Photo: Stefano Dal Pozzolo

## PROGRAMS AND CORE OPERATIONS

*Ensure the vigor of the university's apostolates and teaching mission for years to come.*

The university has always operated with the Dominican spirit of poverty and simplicity, which includes a prudent concern for the future of our university. One of the key initiatives of the campaign is the long-term financial stability of the Angelicum. We see the need to have some amount of reserve and modest endowment so that the university can weather the unpredictability of life, storms like economic fluctuations or a pandemic, and keep this tradition of education going during hard times as well as good ones.

The university has strong campus institutes focused on specific areas of formation and evangelization; supporting them is another key priority for the campaign. The newly founded Angelicum Institute for Interreligious Relations, under the leadership of Fr. Martin Ganeri, OP, responds to the diverse backgrounds of the global student body, which comes from over 100 different countries. Many of them will return to places where faiths like Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam are in the majority. The institute provides in-depth academic grounding in these faiths, as well as the students' own Catholic theological tradition, equipping them to effectively engage these traditions back home. Similarly, the Angelicum Institute for Ecumenical Studies focuses on Catholic encounters with Protestants and Orthodox Christians, providing crucial preparation for ministering in these ecumenical contexts.

The St. John Paul II Institute of Culture focuses on the Church's encounter with Western culture, politics, social life, and art, aiming to regain and renew the Church's strong tradition of inspiring the arts. For example, it has hosted exhibits featuring artists commissioned to paint the mysteries of the Rosary. This project is part of the larger aim to regain and renew the Church's strong tradition of inspiring the arts.

Further projects also seek to reclaim other areas of public life as having a deeply Catholic grounding and background.

The Angelicum Thomistic Institute conducts a academic work on the relationship between Catholic theology and secular sciences, entering into areas where there is not often a theological angle at play. It has founded student chapters at European, Asian, and African universities to share the riches of the Catholic tradition.

The Angelicum has also begun a new project, Angelicum Media, which is developing high-quality media content. We are currently in the final stages of our first public video series on Catholic social thought. The project will also include online courses to share the university's formation with a global audience beyond the campus. These initiatives help ensure the vibrancy of the Angelicum's apostolates and teaching mission for years to come.



## HIGHLIGHTS

# UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FALL 2024

In a unique celebration to start the academic year, *the Rector* presided over *a Mass at the Tomb of St. Peter* with 95 students, followed by a cappuccino together—an experience beyond comparison!

On *October 7*, in response to Pope Francis' call, the Angelicum community made a *walking pilgrimage to the Basilica of St. Mary Major* (on World Rosary Day) to pray with the universal Church for the upcoming *Jubilee Year, beginning January 1, 2025*.

The Catholic Information Center awarded the *St. John Paul II New Evangelization Award* to the Thomistic Institute in Washington, D.C. Fr.

Dominic Legge, O.P., Director, and Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P., founder of the Institute, accepted the honor together on *October 1*.

*Bishop Robert Barron* delivered a lecture entitled, "Does Our Idea of God Matter for Politics and Economics?"

Our Faculty of Philosophy is pleased to announce a remarkable *increase in student enrollment this year*. The demand for the strong formation offered at the Angelicum is growing!

*Angelicum Thomistic Institute* has expanded with new chapters in Romania and Serbia. In addition, the ATI's Science and Religion Project hosted the Gold Mass for Catholic Scientists on the Feast of Albertus Magnus.

*Fr. Mariusz Tabaczek, O.P.*, presented his new book, *Theistic Evolution: a Contemporary Aristotelian Perspective*, at Oxford University.

As part of the capital campaign, "Renewal at the Heart of the Church," the *Angelicum inaugurated restoration work on the university cloister with a blessing ceremony* attended by dignitaries, architects, and the entire Dominican community.

To celebrate the *30th anniversary of the Common Christological Declaration*, the Angelicum's Ecumenical Institute hosted a conference with His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East.

Homily of **Archbishop Anthony Fisher**, OP (Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia) for the Mass of the Holy Spirit for the Solemn Inauguration of the Academic Year October 24, 2024



Photo: Peter Yigeng Feng

"...As our beloved graduates will tell you, here [at the Angelicum] you will study with the serenity and passion of that Angelic doctor, both of which were demonstrated by his master [St. Albert the Great] but also his master's Master, Christ. Today Jesus describes His advent as fire rather than water, dividing people rather than uniting them, dialectic before resolution (Lk 12:49-53)...In his treatment of charity in the *Secunda Secundæ*, our patron uses the image of fire to describe the force of God's love in those most closely united to him. The closer we get to the God who is love, the more intensely we should sense it..."



Full homily and pictures

# HOW TO SUPPORT THE ANGELICUM



*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*

To donate or make a wire transfer online, visit: [ANGELICUM.IT/GIVE](https://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*



## MAKE THE CHURCH’S GLOBAL MISSION YOUR LEGACY

### 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 minimizes 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](mailto:advancement@pust.it).

**Y**our bequest to the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas is a gift for future generations of graduates whose education and formation you will make possible. Thanks to your support, Catholic leaders will receive the faithful intellectual and spiritual foundation which they need to share the Gospel throughout the world.



*Contact us for more information.*

# JOIN US FOR A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN EVENT

## THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC THEOLOGY AND WHY IT MATTERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P.

FEB 4 2025  
6PM

 Union League Club  
38 E 37th St., New York, NY 10016

## FIRST ANNUAL ANGELICUM AQUINAS LECTURE

In support of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas - Angelicum in Rome



<https://bit.ly/aquinaslectureNYC>

**THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Registration is required to attend. Click or scan the QR

## TESTIMONIALS



*"As a proud and grateful alum, I know first hand the outstanding work the Angelicum does in preparing men for the priesthood, and educating men and women religious and lay faithful to serve as instruments of evangelization. If you are considering a planned legacy gift, I can think of few more worthy recipients than the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome."*

Cardinal Timothy Dolan,  
Archbishop of New York, STL '76



*"Supporting the Angelicum, both during and after our lives, is a calling from God. The example set by Angelicum graduates of following in Christ's footsteps has brought us and so many others closer to God. We pray that our support and the support of others will continue for many years after our passing."*

Barb and John Fitzpatrick



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Renewal at the Heart of the Church

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