

The ANGELICVM

The Newsletter of the
Pontifical University of
St. Thomas Aquinas

THE WORD OF GOD

From the roots of the Old Testament to the
fulfillment in the definitive Word, Jesus Christ

no. 17 | Scripture Issue
FALL 2023

From the Rector



Dear friends,

We are pleased to report that the Angelicum is continuing to grow and is undergoing a sustained renewal. I would like to share some of the highlights here below.

We have the highest numbers of registrations for the autumn semester in the last decade. We are up by 7.6% year-over-year. A portion of this increase can be attributed to the fact that many U.S. bishops are sending us seminarians and priests for the first time. We currently have over 200 priests, religious, and lay persons writing licenses and doctorates at the university.

We are persistent in our acquisition of world-class faculty in our various disciplines, especially in theology, each year. This school year, we have 18 new professors (both permanent and annual visi-

tors) providing the university with one of the best centers for theological formation in the Church today. One exciting new expansion has been the creation of the Project for the Theological Reception of Scripture that is highlighted in this issue. In our next issue, we will highlight our Interreligious Relations Institute which will train Catholic theologians to provide a better understanding of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Our aim is to facilitate not only dialogue understanding and mutual rights of religious freedom, but also Catholic theological analysis of these traditions in view of informed evangelization. These Institutes help make the Angelicum a center of international academic conversation. They also give our students guidance on how to use their theological education to teach and evangelize once they return to their home countries.

The Angelicum will host an amazing array of international conferences as well as academic and spiritual events. See in this issue information about our parish missions in the United States that support the National Eucharistic Revival movement called for by the U.S. bishops. The Eucharist has always been core to our values here on campus, and we are happy to share that we are in our twenty-third year of the student-led initiative to have Eucharistic adoration during school days.

We continue our material renewal and are in conversations with the Italian government to provide final permission for our work on the Angelicum entrance area, library, and Convitto. We are grateful to our generous benefactors who have made these renovations possible.

All these efforts converge to contribute to the fact that our university provides outstanding spiritual and academic formation of clergy, religious, and lay leaders in the Catholic Church. Thank you for walking in this exciting journey with us. Your support and prayers are always appreciated.

In Christ,

Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P.

Rector Magnificus

Congratulations to our Rector Magnificus, Fr. Thomas Joseph White, awarded the title of Master of Sacred Theology by the Order of Preachers.



Cover image: "Jesus the True Vine" (Athens, 16th century): This classic icon depicts Jesus teaching his Apostles, who receive life by their connection to the True Vine. Sacred Scripture - from the roots of the Old Testament to the fulfillment in the definitive Word, Jesus Christ - is a privileged place to encounter Christ, and where His Spirit continues to speak to the Church in every generation.



ANGELICUM PREACHERS GO ON MISSION

A team of over 30 Angelicum professors, alumni and students is leading a grassroots evangelization initiative called "The Presence of God" parish missions, in line with the U.S. Bishops' National Eucharistic Revival. These missions, supporting our university, have taken place in five states. The three-day parish retreats focus on helping families recognize God's presence in their lives. Please keep them in your prayers and consider contributing to support this international preaching effort and the mission of the Angelicum.

Are any of the upcoming missions near you or someone you know? We invite you to join us:

- 13-17 Jan. 2024
Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in Ocala, FL
- 27-31 Jan. 2024
St. Madeleine Sophie Catholic Church in High Springs, FL
- 3-7 Feb. 2024
Incarnation Catholic Church in Sarasota, FL
- 3-7 Feb. 2024
Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fleming Island, FL
- 17-21 Feb. 2024
St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Austin, TX
- 24-28 Feb. 2024
Christ the King Cathedral in Atlanta, GA
- 2-6 Mar. 2024
Holy Angels Catholic Parish in Woodbury, NJ

See more on our website by scanning the QR code:



MEET THE NEW PROFESSORS OF THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY



FR. EMMANUEL ALBANO, OP



PROF. LEWIS AYRES



PROF. MARKUS BOCKMUEHL



FR. ANTHONY GIAMBRONE, OP



PROF. THERESE YUAN

FR. EMMANUEL ALBANO, OP

DOMINICAN FRIAR OF THE PROVINCE OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS IN ITALY

Fr. Albano holds a Doctorate in Theology and Patristic Sciences from the Pontifical Patristic Institute Augustinianum. He has been serving as a professor at the Puglia Theological Faculty in the "Regina Apuliae" institute of Molfetta and in the "San Nicola" Institute of Ecumenical-Patristic Theology, of which he is now Coordinator. Among his publications: *"I silenzi delle Sacre Scritture. Limiti e possibilità di rivelazione del Logos negli scritti di Filone, Clemente e Origene"* (2014), [*The silences of the Holy Scriptures. Limits and possibilities of revelation of the Logos in the writings of Philo, Clement and Origen*] (2014), *"Il tempo dei profeti. Profetia e profeti nel cristianesimo delle origini"* [*The time of the prophets. Prophecy and prophets in early Christianity*] (2020), *Il Credo commentato dai Padri. Vol. 5: Crediamo nella Chiesa una santa cattolica e apostolica* (2021) [*The Creed commented by the Fathers. Vol. 5: We Believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church*], as well as numerous contributions to edited volumes and scholarly articles. He is a member of the Italian Research Group on Origen and the Alexandrian tradition (GIROTA), of the International Association of Patristic Studies (AIEPS) and a sympathetic member of the Consulta Universitaria per la Storia del Cristianesimo e delle Chiese [University Council for the History of Christianity and the Churches] (CUSCC).

PROF. LEWIS AYRES

MCDONALD AGAPE DISTINGUISHED CHAIR IN EARLY CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY SPRING 2024 & 2025

Professor Ayres is Professor of Catholic and Historical Theology at Durham University where he served as the inaugural holder of the Bede Chair of Catholic Theology from 2009 to 2013. He is also Visiting Professorial Fellow at the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne, and holds a M.A. from the University of St. Andrews and a D.Phil. from Oxford University.

Prof. Ayres has written extensively on Trinitarian theology in Augustine and the Greek writers of the 4th century. His publications in this regard include *Nicaea and Its Legacy: An Approach to Fourth Century Theology* (2004), and *Augustine and the Trinity* (2010). He is currently finishing a book on the fundamental developments in Christian exegesis and theology that occurred around the end of the second century entitled *As it Is Written: On the Shaping of Christian Argument AD 150-220* and co-editing *The Cambridge History of Early Christian Theology*. Prof. Ayres also writes on the modern reception of early Christian theology, and on modern discussions of Scripture, Tradition and the nature of theology. With Medi Volpe he edited *The Oxford Handbook of Catholic Theology* (2019 & 2024). He also serves as the current Vice-President of the North American Patristics Society.

PROF. MARKUS BOCKMUEHL

MCDONALD AGAPE DISTINGUISHED VISITING SCHOLAR OF SCRIPTURE AND PATRISTICS

Prof. Bockmuehl's teaching and research is in the area of the New Testament in the context of biblical, Jewish and early Christian studies. His approach stresses the symbioses of history with theology, of Christianity alongside Judaism, and of exegesis in and as reception especially of the first three centuries. He is a professor at the University of Oxford, where he is a Fellow of Keble College and has also served as Associate Head of the University's Humanities Division (with responsibility for graduate studies). Among his authored books are *Seeing the Word: Refocusing New Testament Study* (2006), *Simon Peter in Scripture and Memory* (2012), and *Ancient Apocryphal Gospels* (2017). Other recent books include *Creation ex Nihilo* (2018, ed. with Gary A. Anderson), *Austin Farrer* (2020, ed. with Stephen Platten) and the English translation of Wolfram Kinzig's *Christian Persecution in Antiquity* (2021).

FR. ANTHONY GIAMBRONE, OP

MCDONALD AGAPE DISTINGUISHED VISITING SCHOLAR OF SCRIPTURE AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Fr. Giambrone is a Professor of New Testament and Vice-Director of the École biblique et archéologique française de Jérusalem. Fr. Giambrone is the author of many academic and popular publications, including *A Quest for the Historical Christ: Scientia Christi and the Modern Studies of Jesus* (2022) and *The Bible and the Priesthood* (2022).

PROF. THERESE YUAN

VISITING PROFESSOR WITH THE PROJECT FOR THE THEOLOGICAL RECEPTION OF SCRIPTURE AUTUMN 2023

Dr. Yuan holds a Ph.D. in Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity from the University of Notre Dame where she wrote her dissertation entitled *"He has Founded it Upon the Seas": The Earth in Biblical Cosmology* under Prof. Abraham Winitzer. While at Notre Dame she was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award. Dr. Yuan has presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature as well as the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature.

Learn more about the Faculty of Theology's professors, courses, events, scholarships and more at their new website → angelicum.it/teologia





THE PROJECT FOR THE THEOLOGICAL RECEPTION OF SCRIPTURE

*How can we help theologians
venerate and interpret the
Bible as the living word of
God spoken in the Church?*

There is an ancient Jewish tradition that refers to the Bible as a “tree of life,” a living source of wisdom (Prov. 3:18). The tree is rooted in the Torah and in ancient prophecy. It sprouts in the people of Israel. Its branches extend through time and space, over generations, living through theologians and Scriptural commentators who bring the wisdom of the Bible forward into every age. The people of God come to find shade and life in the shadow of that tree. The Book of Revelation applies this same image of a “tree of life” to Christ in heaven, where his light illumines the whole city of God (Rev. 22:2-5). Jesus is the ultimate “interpreter” of the Bible, revealing the mystery of God, and his Cross is the tree of salvation that has roots in the Old Testament, and that lives as a vine in the people of God: “I am the vine and you are the branches,” (John 15:5). Since Christ’s passion Scripture has been opened for us, as St Thomas himself asserts (Expos. in Ps. 21.11).

But how can the Bible be a tree of life for Christians in our own era? The Catechism tells us that because only one Word is spoken in all the Scriptures, the one Word who was in the beginning with God, the Church venerates those Scriptures as she venerates the Lord's body (paras 102-4). How can we help theologians venerate and interpret the Bible as the living word of God spoken in the Church? Modern studies of the Bible in its original cultural context abound, and they certainly provide new insight into the probable intentions of the human authors of Scripture. Other modern styles make use of a wide variety of modern theoretical work, and open up new possibilities for conversation with the forms of reading hallowed by tradition. Vatican II insisted that Scripture must be read in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written, and thus this project hopes to bring all these different modern styles into dialogue with traditional Christian visions of Scriptural reading.

One central resource for those seeking to venerate and interpret Scripture is the Church's tradition. The

early Christian period saw the formation of a set of reading practices and assumptions about Scripture that have shaped Christian thought ever since. In the light of Christ, the unity of the Scriptures formed the basis for all reading and was constantly performed in the liturgy. Close scholarly attention to the words of the text found its natural complement in recognition that texts were given so that depths of meaning might be teased from them under the guidance of the Spirit. Speculative theology found its roots and constant point of reference in the multiple layers of the text, while the studying of Scripture and the praying of Scripture mutually informed each other. The emerging doctrinal and credal tradition of the Church resulted from and formed the flowering of this Scriptural culture over the centuries. Medieval and early reformed modes of reading emerged against this background; thus, shaping a vision of Scripture for our day demands of us a constant dialogue with these traditions.

How might we shape such a dialogue? This is not a project for any one person, or any one modern pro-

fessional sub-division of theology. We need a concerted international coordination of scholars (Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox) who together reflect on the interpretation of Scripture after modern exegesis, and as the inspired word of God.

This Project for the Theological Reception of Scripture will serve as a fulcrum around which many conversations may turn, and a foundation that may shape thinking throughout Church and academy. Courses are offered at the baccalaureate, licentiate, and doctoral level by professors associated with this project. The Project will also host a public biennial international conference on topics related to the theological reception of Scripture, to assemble experts from around the world in an ecumenical format. The goal is to facilitate an international network of professors and graduate students through the biannual meetings in Rome as a reference for conversations that happen between them as well as encourage scholarly research and publication on these topics.



Our inaugural conference will take place this summer, bringing together a wide array of experts in biblical, patristic, and contemporary theology to reflect on Scripture as the root and source of Christian theology in an ecumenical context.



UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT AS CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE

An International Symposium

17 - 20 June 2024 • Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Rome)



FR. PATRICK CARTER, OSB, '19

OUR LADY OF CLEAR CREEK ABBEY, OKLAHOMA, USA

My name is Father Patrick Carter and I am a priest and monk of Our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey in eastern Oklahoma (USA). My monastery is a part of the congregation of Solesmes, which was founded in France by Dom Prosper Guéranger after the French revolution. From the beginning, the congregation of Solesmes has been characterized by the solemn celebration of the liturgy and a devotion to the office of the Roman pontiff. In addition, from very early on there was a strong current of Thomistic theological formation due to the influence of Dom Paul Delatte, the third abbot of Solesmes. Clear Creek Abbey was founded in 1999 by the monastery of Fontgombault. The founders were a small group of American and French monks who, having been formed in France, brought these characteristics to the new foundation.

I entered Clear Creek in 2007, after having studied philosophy and theology at Thomas Aquinas College. In 2017, I was sent to the Angelicum to begin a licentiate in Thomistic theology which I completed in 2019. That first period of study in Rome included many courses in Thomistic theology and philosophy in English and Italian. After a period of working in Rome for the international Benedictine confederation, I returned to the Angelicum in 2021 to start work on a doctorate in Thomistic theology. This work is focused on Aquinas's ideas about the types of duty related to the virtue of justice. Studying at the Angelicum has been a wonderful opportunity. The history and culture of the Roman church is directly accessible, while the global nature of the Church forms part of one's daily experience. I will soon return to my abbey to begin teaching

theology to our monks in priestly formation.

The Angelicum is largely marked by the study of the life and works of St. Thomas Aquinas. Aquinas himself lived in a time of great intellectual development and ferment. In that environment, he knew how to receive well that which was handed on to him from philosophers, Fathers of the Church, and earlier scholastic authors. At the same time, he innovated and transcended them in his own synthesis. This spirit of continuity and innovation which animated the theological genius of Aquinas is necessary today. The Angelicum is contributing to this movement of historical ressourcement and theological development. I hope that my own work has carried this project forward by combining both aspects of historical analysis and theological reflection.

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:

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1 Galleria Blvd., Suite 710-B
Metairie, Louisiana 70001 USA

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 minimizes 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

NEW LEADERSHIP

- Fr. Mirosław Sander OP was appointed the new Secretary General by the Master of the Order.
- Fr. Marcelo Solórzano OP was appointed the new director of the Mater Ecclesiae Higher Institute of Religious Studies.
- Fr. Paweł Trzopek OP is the new director of Permanent Formation for those considering a sabbatical program.

FACULTY UPDATES

- Fr. Gerard Timoner, Master of the Order, has awarded Fr. Thomas Joseph White the title of Master of Sacred Theology. This honorary academic title was conferred on December 7, 2023.
- The Fr. Val McInnes Chair will be held by Fr. Mariusz Tabaczek, OP (Autumn 2023) and Fr. Albino Barrera, OP (Spring 2024).

NEW PROFESSORS

Faculty of Philosophy

- Prof. Arthur James (Introduction to Philosophy of Education)

Faculty of Social Sciences

- Prof. Gabor Ambrus (The Challenge of Modern Technology)
- Prof. Mulumebet Kassa (Political Economy)
- Prof. Stefano Menghinello (Seminar Indicators and Methods)
- Prof. Giulio Merlani (Modern History)

Faculty of Theology

- Fr. Emmanuel Albano, OP (Patristics)
- Prof. Lewis Ayers (Patristic Theology and Scripture)
- Fr. Albino Barrera, OP (Economic Ethics)

- Prof. Markus Bockmuehl (Patristics)
- Fr. Peter John Cameron, OP (Homiletics)
- Sr. Alexandra Diriart, CSJ (Dogma)
- Fr. Anthony Giambrone, OP (Biblical Theology)
- Fr. Artur Hacia, OP (Moral Theology, Psychiatry)
- Fr. Alejandro López Ribao, OP (Church History)
- Prof. Bruce D. Marshall (Trinitarian and Sacramental Theology)
- Rev. Msgr. Michael Nazir-Ali (Ecumenism and Muslim-Christian Relations)
- Fr. Mirosław Sander, OP (Canon Law and Sacraments)
- Prof. Therese Yuan (Biblical Theology)

RECENT EVENTS

- The opening of the academic year included an address from Sr. Raffaella Petrini, FSE, vice-secretary general of the Vatican City State and Angelicum professor, following the Mass of the Holy Spirit.
- The Faculty of Social Sciences organized the conference “Education: the only useful contribution of the Church to Modern Society?” with Fr. Friedrich Bechina, former Under-secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education.
- In November the Angelicum Thomistic Institute and the Angelicum Institute for Spirituality organized the Third Annual Pinckaers Chair Conference “Thomas Aquinas: Magister Spiritualis”.
- The Hillbilly Thomists, co-founded by the rector, played their first concert in Rome over Thanksgiving weekend.



CALL FOR PAPERS

NICAEA

and the Church of the Third Millennium: Towards Catholic-Orthodox Unity

International Conference • Rome, 4 - 8 June 2025

The Council of Nicaea (325) is foundational for Orthodox-Catholic unity. The Council inaugurated a synodal way of addressing theological and canonical issues at the universal level. The Nicene Creed provided a theological vision of the triune God that continues to guide the common faith of Christians, in particular, of the Orthodox and Catholic Churches. The conference will focus on uniting and dividing theological and ecclesiological issues by discussing the legacy of the First Ecumenical Council.

Confirmed Speakers Include:
 Prof. Lewis Ayres | Prof. Mark DelCogliano | Prof. George Demacopoulos
 Rev. Dr. Fr. Hyacinthe Destivelle | Prof. Paul Gavrilyuk
 Rev. Prof. Cyril Hovorun | Prof. Dimitrios Keramidas | Prof. Young Kim
 Dr. Georgios Kordis | Dr. Andrej Jevtić | Prof. Matthew Levering
 Bishop Kyrillos (Los Angeles) | Prof. David Luy | Prof. Bruce Marshall
 Rev. Prof. Amphilochios Miltos | Prof. Irina Paert
 Prof. Aristotle Papanikolaou | Ms. Katerina Pekridou
 Metropolitan Job of Pisidia | Rev. Dr. Mark S. Smith
 Prof. Richard Swinburne | Prof. Julija Naett Vidovic
 Rev. Prof. Thomas Joseph White | Prof. Dr. Myriam Wijlens
 Archbishop Rowan Williams | Prof. Gayle Woloschak

To submit your paper proposal by 1 March 2024,
 visit iota-web.org/Rome2025/ or scan this QR code:





Co-organized by the International Orthodox Theological Association (IOTA) and
 the Institute for Ecumenical Studies of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum)

Angelicum Thomistic Institute
 Project for Science and Religion 2023-24



IMMATERIALITY IN THE AGE OF SCIENCE

Monthly lectures and Q&A
 streamed live at 7 pm CET (Rome)

Featuring
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 Msgr. Stephen Rossetti
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For more information & to register:
angelicum.it/thomistic-institute




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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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“Sacred Scripture is divinely ordered to this: that through it, the truth necessary for salvation may be made known to us.”

-St. Thomas Aquinas, *Quaestiones quodlibetales*, 7.6.1

CONTACTS FOR THE ANGELICUM

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