

THE The Pontifical University of
St. Thomas Aquinas
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ANGELICUM

MARCH FOR LIFE



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"So choose Life, that you may live..."

Deut. 30:19

Cover: A statue of St. Joseph is carried during Italy's
March for Life.

Credit: don Elvir Tabaković, Can. Reg.

Left: Angelicum student, Fr. Benedict D'Souza, S.M.
(New Zealand) during Italy's March for Life.

Credit: don Elvir Tabaković, Can. Reg.

Right, top to bottom:

Bishop Byrne from his Mass of Installation as Bishop of
Springfield, Nov. 2021.

Credit: Gillian Jones/Catholic Communications, Diocese
of Springfield, MA.

Sr. Raffaella Petrini, F.S.E. students and staff from
the faculty of Social Sciences, at a celebration of her
appointment.

Credit: don Elvir Tabaković, Can. Reg.

Italy's Annual March for Life up the Via dei Fori
Imperiali towards Piazza Venezia

Credit: don Elvir Tabaković, Can. Reg.

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March for Life Italy



Dear Friends,

Isn't it true that a Culture of Life is something which cannot be taken for granted in today's world? The dignity of the human person, created male and female in the image and likeness of God, made to love and to be loved, is a message that must be carried to our world.

We thank God that our students embrace the call of John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae* "to face this enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the 'culture of death' and the 'culture of life' (...) with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life."



Soon our students will join together with thousands to prayerfully protest the unjust Italian laws that destroy human life and hurt women and families. Each year we start with a Mass and then join Italy's annual *Marcia per la Vita* which moves through the streets of Rome and finishes a three minute walk from our university in Piazza Venezia.

In this issue you will see a glimpse of how the Gospel of Life is the fruit of the Angelicum's mission to form "virtuous leaders capable of evangelizing and promoting integral human development."

We will hear from one of our seminarians on our Lenten journey through Rome's ancient pilgrimage. Finally, we share stories of new life as two of our distinguished Alumni respond to the call for extraordinary service to the Universal Church.

Easter is just around the corner and the pandemic will soon be gone. Won't you help us to further spread the Gospel of Life and the Good News of Jesus Christ by becoming a monthly donor? In this issue, as you can see, your generosity is having a major impact on the Church!

THANK YOU and happy Easter!

Fr. Benedict Crowell, O.P.

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P.S. Please say a prayer for our efforts in three parish missions in Colorado and Kentucky!

The Lenten Pilgrimage of Station Churches

By Brent Derschmidt, Diocese of Portland, Oregon (3rd year theology)

Greetings from the Eternal City of Rome! This Lent, I pray that the Lord will give you the grace to receive all He desires for you as we prepare to celebrate Jesus's Resurrection and triumph over sin and death. With a slow resolution to the pandemic, no doubt there is anxiety, frustration, and discouragement; but the Lord has not, and will not abandon us in our need. Instead, we have an invitation to go deeper into his Sacred Heart, despite the internal restlessness we may be feeling. Lent always offers this opportunity. Every Lent is a journey to the Cross, and beyond it to the Resurrection. In this way, Lent is a sort of pilgrimage.

The idea of going on a pilgrimage predates Christianity. The Israelites led a kind of pilgrimage through the desert for forty years awaiting the Promised Land. Jews (including Jesus himself) went on pilgrimage to the Temple for the different Jewish Feasts. Christians have been doing the well-known "Camino de Santiago" ever since the Middle Ages to visit the tomb of St.

James the Greater. Pilgrims carry many different intentions, but they all have one thing in common: they all journey towards a specific destination.

In Lent each year, Christians have the common destination of the Cross. In Rome, pilgrims from across the city participate in what is called the Station Church Pilgrimage. The tradition dates back to the 4th century, with Mass celebrated at a different ancient Roman church on each of the 40 days of Lent. The pilgrimage starts on Ash Wednesday at the Basilica of Santa Sabina (HQ of the Order of Preachers) which contains the earliest known depiction of the Crucifixion. Starting Lent in this basilica reminds us of our destination: the Cross. For centuries, pilgrims began there and continued to the 39 other churches to venerate the saints and martyrs upon whose witness the Catholic Church was built. It is an experience of Faith that reinforces the truth that we do not travel alone. We are accompanied not only by faithful pilgrims, but are also joined by the millions of saints of the Church Triumphant who have gone before us,

fearlessly witnessing, and often dying, for their faith.

The Station Church pilgrimage provides the opportunity to walk the same steps of centuries of saints and countless pilgrims who have gone before us, and who today still journey with us. This beautiful tradition encourages us to open the door of our hearts to Christ. May our Lenten journey purify and strengthen us to accompany Jesus all the way to Golgotha with hearts renewed and purified, for soon we shall see His glory.



Ash Wednesday Mass in the Basilica of Santa Sabina - the first of the Lenten Station churches



*Brent's 3rd year Theology class at the Pontifical North American College
Credit: PNAC photo service; used with permission.*

Fr. Glenn Morris, O.P. The Friar-of-all-Trades

“Join the Dominicans and see the world.” It is a phrase frequently used tongue and cheek by Dominicans, but it certainly applies to Fr. Glenn Morris, O.P. This year Fr. Glenn celebrates his golden jubilee of 50 years of priesthood, half of which he has served at the Angelicum.

As a young man, from the town of Vijayawada in Southern India, he was drawn by the witness of the newly arrived Irish Dominican friars. He entered the Order at the age of 16, and was ordained nine years later for what today has become the Indian Province of Mary Star of Evangelization. He fulfilled his dream of teaching Philosophy and along the way, he accomplished so much more.

Fr. Glenn arrived at the Angelicum in 1992 for doctoral studies in Philosophy. The plan changed, when he was asked by the Successor of St. Dominic to also be the Rector of the Convitto Internazionale San Tommaso d'Aquino, the Dominican Order's residential college for diocesan priests, just next to the Angelicum. While there, he was among the first professors who taught in English, paving the way for the Angelicum's English degree programs which are unique among Rome's pontifical universities.

After going back to India for a third term as the Rector of St. Charles

Seminary (Nagpur), he returned to the Angelicum in 2009 to serve as the Secretary General until 2018, overseeing the transfer of the university administration offices to a newly renovated wing.

His service to the friars as Prior of the community from 2016 - 2022 gave him an insider's perspective to the growth of one of the largest religious communities in Rome. Fr. Glenn organized schedules and living situations to accommodate multiple years of construction and renovations throughout the convent.

Slow to take any credit himself, Fr. Glenn is proud of all that has happened. Fr. Joseph Fox and Fr. Virgilio Ambrosini helped to get the project off the ground. “Fr. Joseph dreamed about these renovations more than 25 years ago,” said Fr. Glenn. “He campaigned for

funds convincing donors that the professors needed better living conditions. We cannot forget the late Fr. Virgilio, who worked zealously on the first phase of the renovations. Both should be appreciated for their vision and hard work.” The renovations and growth of the community has certainly had its impact on the friars. Fr. Glenn shared, “Before, no one wanted to live at the Angelicum; now we have made the place so good that they do not want to leave!” Fr. Glenn is grateful for the, “the strong family atmosphere, despite cultural differences,” enjoyed by 74 friars from 29 countries.

Finally, Fr. Glenn wanted to express his personal gratitude for everyone who contributed to this massive project over the years. “The love and care of our Benefactors is seen in their provision for us and our way of life. In gratitude we remember their intentions in our conventual Mass.”

Angelicum scripture professor Fr. Justin Schembri shared what Fr. Glenn was too modest to include, “I think his life here at the Angelicum is a life of sacrifice; he has always sacrificed his own good for the good of others. He came for the purpose of teaching and ended up doing everything else.”

Thank you, Fr. Glenn, for 25 years of service at the Angelicum... and counting!



photo: Agenzia Romano Siciliani

Dies Academicus: The sapiential rain of Wisdom

Each semester the Angelicum comes together to discuss and reflect on a timely topic as a university community. Recently we considered “Theology and the Spiritual Life in a Secular Age,” by welcoming Archbishop J. Augustine Di Noia, O.P., Adjunct Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, who spoke on: “Rigans Montes de Superioribus: Divine Wisdom In Teaching and Learning” and Monsignor Pierangelo Sequeri, Dean of the Pontificio Istituto Teologico Giovanni Paolo II per le Scienze del Matrimonio e della Famiglia, who spoke on: “Deciphering the Sacred in the Secular Age. The Institution and Charism of European Theological Intelligence.” The event was filled to capacity.

Fr. Serge-Thomas Bonino, dean of Philosophy, summarized, “It rained a lot this morning. I do not speak as a meteorologist but I speak of the sapiential rain to which St. Thomas referred in his principle *Rigans montes*. From the mountains of these two prominent theologians we have heard, they have come to us as overflowing rivers of wisdom capable of fertilizing our academic year.”

“This theology, predominantly contemplative, aims above all to reveal and give us a glimpse to make us fall in love with the intrinsic beauty of God’s Wisdom, (...) that unfolds as much in the order of creation as in history and especially in the folly of the Cross of Jesus. This theological wisdom, DiNoia reminded us, is teachable and therefore has a vocation to be disseminated. Indeed, it can enlighten cultures and the life of societies, as shown

by the exemplary collaboration between the Thomistic theologians of Salamanca and the missionaries of the New World” in regard to human rights.

Monsignor Sequeri invited us to “listen to cultures, discern and gather the truths present within them in order to enrich the intelligence of faith, in order to “breathe in Christian hope.” Monsignor encouraged everyone to not give up deciphering the unconscious presence of the Spirit in a world that cannot help but wait in the depths of itself for the revelation of God’s Love. The sacred, he tells us, does not disappear but changes form.

The full texts of the talks will appear in the upcoming issue of the ANGELICUM Journal (see p. 14). To listen now to the podcasts of the talks, search for “Dies Academicus 2021 Angelicum”.



Archbishop J. Augustine DiNoia, O.P.



Mons. Pierangelo Sequeri
used with permission: Pontificio Istituto Giovanni Paolo II





Photo credits: don Elvir Tabaković, Can. Reg. and Bernadette Bertsch



*Sr. Raffaella sharing with students
Credit: don Elvir Tabaković, Can. Reg.*

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

From the Angelicum to Vatican City:

Meet Sr. Raffaella Petrini, F.S.E.

The Angelicum community extends our warm congratulations to a beloved professor and alumna of the Faculty of Social Sciences. She has been called to serve the Church from within the walls of Vatican City. As she begins her special mission, we wanted to go beyond the headlines, and give you an Angelicum introduction.

Sr. Raffaella Petrini, F.S.E. is the first woman in the history of the Church to be appointed Secretary General of the Governorate of Vatican City State. This makes her the second highest authority within the executive branch of this monarchy. In her new mission, Sr. Raffaella is charged with the oversight of Vatican City, which concerns both the residents, and everything that it takes to make a civil state run smoothly, from infrastructure and telecommunications to economy, currency and healthcare. Though she is in charge of the operational aspect, her mission also includes various interactions at the service of the Holy See. In short, her position is both delicate and multifaceted. It is a mission to exercise the charism of administration for the Catholic Church within the Vatican. Her academic background, her vocation as a consecrated religious woman, and her personality of being attentive to the needs of all, certainly provide her with a strong foundation as she begins this assignment from the Successor of St. Peter.

Who is Sr. Raffaella?

Raffaella Petrini was born in 1969 and is a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist (F.S.E.), whose mission is to restore a sense of the sacred, especially the sacredness of human life, in a world that knows the rupture between the sacred and the secular. Sr. Raffaella holds a Master of Science in Organization Behavior, from the Barney School of Business, University of Hartford, USA, and a degree in Political Science (specializing in Industrial Relations) from LUISS in Rome. In 2011 she completed the Licentiate program for the Angelicum's Social Science program. The topic of her thesis was "The Contribution of Franciscan Hospice Care to a Culture of Solidarity." She then continued in the Doctoral program, successfully defending her dissertation in 2014 entitled, "Health, Equity and Care through the End of Life." Sister is currently a professor of Welfare Economics and Sociology of Economic Processes for the Angelicum's Faculty of Social Sciences.

The Governorate of Vatican City State has a bishop serving as the President, and the Vice-Secretary is a layman. Together with the presence of Sr. Raffaella, their appointments represent an important collaboration of the various vocations within the life of the Church to bring respective gifts for a common mutually enriching approach. The Angelicum is confident that Sr. Raffaella will know how to make the best of this collaboration, having already successfully applied her formation in the Angelicum's multi-disciplinary university setting.

Sr. Raffaella has shown her approach will be one of service with all the gifts proper to her person and religious vocation as a woman "imbued with the spirit of the Gospel," (cf. Paul VI, Address to Women at the Close of the Second Vatican Council, 8 December 1965). As a Franciscan Sister, Sr. Raffaella carries with her, into the Vatican, a profound experience of consecrated religious life - a model and school for the Church (cf. Acts 2:44).

Sr. Helen Alford, O.P., Dean of Social Sciences, and Fr. Francesco Compagnoni, O.P., her doctoral thesis advisor, both recall her love for the family atmosphere of the Angelicum, where dialogue between faculty and students is facilitated in an open and international

environment. This exchange of views has been fundamental to the classes she teaches, such as "Social Doctrine of the Church." Sr. Raffaella has fostered the exchange of ideas in an academic environment where theology and philosophy are brought into dialogue with the other disciplines, such as social sciences, to form students and to serve the Church through a multidisciplinary approach.

The Angelicum's rector, Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P. said, "We are honored that the Holy See has chosen one of our professors to undertake such significant work in the daily life of the Vatican for the service of the universal Church. Sr. Raffaella is deeply qualified for this important role."

The Angelicum has several leadership roles of women religious within the University, including Sr. Helen Alford, O.P. (Dean of Social Sciences), Sr. Catherine Joseph Droste, O.P. (Dean of Theology), and Sr. Maria Silva, O.P. (Director of Administration).

Fortunately, Sr. Raffaella hopes to continue teaching at the Angelicum, even if in a reduced or modified manner due to the commitment that her new position will require of her. As Sr. Raffaella begins her mission with the Governorate of Vatican City, we assure her of our prayers and support. We are very proud of her!



*Sr. Raffaella with her student Olena Komisarenko (above) at a celebration of her recent appointment at the Angelicum.
Credit: don Elvir Tabaković, Can. Reg.*

The Most Reverend William Byrne Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, MA (USA), STB 1992, STL 1994

Bishop Byrne has a passion for communicating the faith in a way that is accessible to the everyday Catholic. His popular YouTube series “Five Things With Fr. Bill” led to a book published in 2020, and his background includes teaching homiletics at the North American College in Rome for 11 years. We caught up with Bishop Byrne to learn more about his time at the Angelicum and why he thinks an Angelicum education is valuable today.

Can you share a bit about your personal background?

I grew up in McClean, Virginia (USA), the youngest of 8 children in a very happy family. My father was a thoracic surgeon and my mother stayed at home. Both were daily communicants and joyful Catholics. One of my sisters entered religious life - Sr. Deidre Byrne, a missionary sister with the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts.



Credit: Katherine Palmiere

Why did you study at the Angelicum?

After 8 years of Jesuit high school and university education, I taught school for a couple of years while discerning the priesthood. I was sent directly to the Angelicum to study after entering the seminary. I’m so grateful, because immersing myself in the Summa Theologiae was both a deep theological experience and a practical guide for a parish priest.

What was your experience studying at the Angelicum? Any favorite professors?

I have many fond memories at the Angelicum, where I developed a great love for the Dominicans. One particular professor was Dr. Nella Philippi, who had a deep interest in American literature. I was an English major in my undergraduate studies, so we had many conversations.

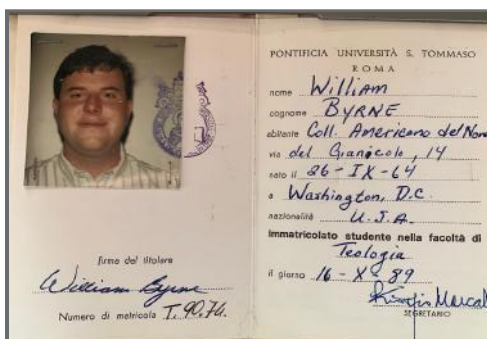
Dr. Philippi exemplified something I loved about the Angelicum - how it

drew from many disciplines, just as Aquinas drew from many different places to explain theology.

How did the Angelicum prepare you for ministry?

Thomistic theology, which is so practical, helped me immensely in pastoral work; for example, in RCIA programs and in confession. That was a great gift.

Another thing was that my admiration for the Dominicans led me to partner



with the Dominican House of Studies in Washington D.C. to help found “Mercy U,” a lay theology program for Catholics who want to deepen their faith through study in the Thomistic tradition.

Would you encourage students to study at the Angelicum?

Yes! The quality and caliber of the professors is very high. The Thomistic method is unbeatable. English S.T.B. courses enable English-speaking students to study in their native language. And the Angelicum - so steeped in history and tradition - gives an important witness to the modern world of the unchanging nature of truth.

Can you tell us a little bit about your work with Angelicum alumni?

In November 2018, I co-hosted - together with Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P. - the first alumni gathering in Washington D.C.. Around a dozen Angelicum alumni attended a lunch with the former rector, Fr. Michal Paluch, O.P. It was a wonderful event and I look forward to seeing more alumni events and opportunities in the future!

For more information on alumni news, events and engagement opportunities, please visit ANGELICUM.it/ALUMNI.



Coat of Arms designed by Rev. George Stuart (Archdiocese of Washington).

Attention Alumni and Friends of the Angelicum!

We are taking steps to organize our world-wide network of Angelicum Alumni! Regional gatherings are being organized in the months ahead. Might you be willing to organize or sponsor one? Contact us: alumni@pust.it and we will assist you.

We also have a growing network of Friends of the Angelicum around the world. Would you be willing to organize or sponsor a gathering for your friends to learn more about our pontifical university? We would be delighted to help you, or to connect you with an upcoming event. Contact us: development@pust.it

ANGELICUM

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Conceived and produced by the intellectual community of the Faculties and Institutes of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, *Angelicum* is a quarterly scientific journal that – in accordance with the munus docendi of the Bishop of Rome – publishes advanced research on the themes of knowledge of God, the person and society, the life and mission of the Church, within the horizon of Thomistic thought.

The final 2 editions of the Journal for this academic year will include a multi-article study of *Frates Omnes*, a contribution of the Angelicum academic community to this area of theological research; they also include the full text of the speeches on Thomism in Contemporary Discourse from the Fall *Dies Academicus* (see article on page 7)

For more information or to get your copy, visit their website: angelicumjournal.com

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- Παιδεία as «suffering that teaches» in the Letter to the Hebrews - by De Virgilio, Giuseppe
- Promulgation as Formal Cause in St. Thomas Aquinas's Definition of Law - by Froula, John
- Creation as Participation: Essentially-Ordered Series, «Spontaneous Creation», and the Rejection of Divine Efficient Causality- by Brown, David O.
- An Alleged Contradiction in Dignitatis Humanae - by Rooney, James
- Il giudizio contenzioso amministrativo canonico strumento pastorale della Chiesa - by Parise, Giovanni
- Reviewed Work: Sulla soglia tra filosofia e teologia in dialogo con Klaus Hemmerle, ed. by Valentina Gaudiano – Alessandro, Clemenzia - by Szaniszló, Inocent-Mária V.
- Reviewed Work: La exégesis en el Espíritu según santo Tomás de Aquino, 1 vol. by Ignacio María Manresa, Lamarca - by Bonino, Serge-Thomas
- Reviewed Work: Job et le problème du mal. Un éloge de l'absurde by Alain Houziaux - by Schembri, Justin
- Reviewed Work: Primacy and Synodality. Deepening Insights, Proceedings of the 23rd Congress of the Society for the Law of the Eastern Churches, Debrecen, September 3–8, 2017 ed. by Péter Czabó - by Destivelle, Hyacinthe
- Reviewed Work: Theology and Ecology in Dialogue by Dermot A. Lane - by Szaniszló, Inocent-Mária V.
- Reviewed Work: La doctrina Societas delinquere non potest by Víctor Martínez Patón - by Fasano, Vincenzo



UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sr. Helen Alford, O.P. (Congregation of St Catherine of Siena of Newcastle, Natal) was named the new Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Fr. Pablo Sicouly O.P., Socius for Intellectual Life of the Dominican Order, addressed the university as part of the festivities in honor of our patron, St. Thomas Aquinas. Fr. Antonio Cocolicchio O.P., the new provincial for the Province of St. Catherine of Siena (Italy), was the celebrant and homilist for the Mass.

A new study abroad program in cooperation with the US based Thomistic Institute has been launched. 10 undergrad students have arrived from the US, Mexico and Romania for a semester at the Angelicum. There are plans to expand the program next academic year. More info: thomisticinstitute.org/study-abroad

A public exhibition of modern art on the Divine Mercy, sponsored by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, the St. Nicholas Foundation and the St. John Paul II Institute of Culture will take place during the month of May in the university's hemicycle area.

The Angelicum Donor Homecoming 2022 will definitely happen from 11-15 May. If you are thinking of coming to Rome now that everything is opening, this is an extraordinary opportunity. Fr. Anthony Akinwale O.P., professor of Theology and Vice Chancellor at the Dominican University in Nigeria will present: *Sapientia et Scientia: Envisioning a Dominican University*. There are a number of great events during these days. Contact Fr. Benedict to reserve your space.

New Professors 2022-2023 Academic Year

- Fr. Michael Sherwin, O.P. of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (USA) has been named the new director of the Institute of Spirituality for the Faculty of Theology.
- Fr. Philip Neri Reese, O.P. of the Province of St. Joseph (USA) will teach for the faculty of Philosophy and assist with the Angelicum's Thomistic Institute.
- Fr. Pius Pietrzyk, O.P. of the Province of St. Joseph (USA) will teach for the faculty of Canon Law.

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Fr. Glenn**

for 25 years of service to the
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allows a donor to provide for their charitable giving apart from their regular incomes. Some people use estate and tax planning techniques to provide for a charity and their heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor's estate. For more information on Planned Giving please contact Fr. Benedict Croell O.P. directly: +1.202.642.3597 development@pust.it

Charitable Funds

Some of our benefactors would like to establish 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 O.P. directly.

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