

THE The Pontifical University
of St. Thomas Aquinas
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ANGELICUM

20 Years of Adoration





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"In order to evangelize the world, we need experts in celebration, adoration and contemplation of the Holy Eucharist."

*St. John Paul II,
Message for World Mission Sunday, October 24, 2004*

Cover: Students in the Adoration chapel of the Angelicum
Credit: don Elvir Tabaković, Can. Reg.

Left: His Eminence, George Cardinal Pell, during the 2021 Angelicum Eucharistic Procession. Credit: don Elvir Tabaković, Can. Reg.

Right, top to bottom:

2022 Eucharistic Procession on the Feast of our Lady of Fatima.

Credit: Bernadette Bertsch

Fr. Albert Trudel, O.P. on pilgrimage with students of the Thomistic Institute Study Abroad program at the Papal Basilica of St. Paul outside the Walls.

The rector with students of the St. John Paul II Institute of Culture from Poland and Ireland.

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20 Years of Adoration



Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P.

What does 20 years of prayer before Jesus in the Holy Eucharist at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas mean for the teaching of theology for seminarians, priests, sisters and lay leaders coming from over 100 countries, and preparing for a life of ministry all over the world?

- A seminarian from Chicago stops in the church during the break from his Christology class to make a quick visit and enkindle a deeper personal devotion to our Savior, connecting what he is studying in the classroom with real visibility of our Lord in the monstrance. His faith is strengthened.
- A newly ordained diocesan priest from Kampala arrives early before his class on Spiritual Direction to say "Good morning" to our Lord.
- After class, a lay student from Rio stops before leaving campus to ask the Lord's assistance for exam week. Feeling a strong consolation, she stays for Benediction as adoration comes to a close for the day.

Twenty years of adoration at the Angelicum is truly fuel for the fire of evangelization!

Love and devotion meet doctrine and dogma, while faith and the virtuous life meet fruitfulness and the spread of the Gospel. The possibilities are life-changing with Jesus as the fount of twenty years of grace.

Adoration was initiated and is sustained by the Angelicum student association. Originally there were questions if they could continue due to time constraints. They organized themselves and sustained the practice because they knew the impact it would have on the life of the university.

Our students, faculty, employees and friars rejoice in the gift of Our Lord's Presence adored in an extraordinary way. We thank God for our heavenly patron, Thomas Aquinas who wrote in his Adoro Te:

"Godhead here in hiding, whom I do adore,
Masked by these bare shadows, shape and nothing more,
See, Lord, at Thy service low lies here a heart
Lost, all lost in wonder at the God thou art."

The Angelicum is the only pontifical university in Rome with Eucharistic Adoration each day of class, an extraordinary practice that is now in its 21st year.

**FROM THE EUCHARIST
COMES STRENGTH TO LIVE
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND
ZEAL TO SHARE THAT LIFE
WITH OTHERS.**

- Pope St. John Paul II



Yours in Christ,

Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P.

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The Enjoyment of a Perpetual Presence



Thomas Aquinas' treatise on transubstantiation in the *Summa Theologiae* is one of the most famous of his writings, in part because his analysis of the mystery has had a profound effect on subsequent official teaching in the Catholic Church. ***What does it mean to say that in the Mass, the bread and wine consecrated by the priest truly become the body and blood of Christ?***

Christ teaches in the Scriptures that the Eucharist is his true body and blood and that this is the universal understanding of the Catholic Church from the time of antiquity. In the institution narrative, Christ says, "This is my body." And likewise in John 6, "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you." Aquinas notes that the teaching was confirmed in Aquinas's own age by the Fourth Lateran Council, which used the term transubstantiation to describe the mystery.

The Eucharistic real presence permits the Church to enjoy a perpetual presence of Christ down through history among us that is tangible and concrete so that we can dwell with Christ and he with us for the duration of our pilgrimage in this world. The Eucharist also allows us to increase in faith meritoriously, by believing in Christ and in his real presence. Most especially, the Eucharist is a tremendous wellspring of grace because it is the very body and blood of Christ through which he gives us a participation in his own charity and in the sacrificial mystery of the cross.

Aquinas then asks the question, how is Christ present in the Eucharist? What is the kind of presence in question? In his answer, he notes that there are two ways one can become present in a new way in a particular place. One way is by a change of place as when one travels from London to New York. The other is when there is a change of substance, as when you build a fire in a given place, so a new substance or reality is generated like a campfire. Christ in glory remains physically unchanged and unaffected in his glorified body, even as he becomes present in many Masses said around the world.

Instead then, we are talking about a change of substance, as when a fire begins to be present in a place it was not previously. Of course, this is a mysterious supernatural presence, and the reality in question, the glorified body of Christ in heaven, already exists and does not need to come into being. But it is rendered present to us in a new location through the sacramental elements.

Finally, the accidents of bread and wine that remain, symbolize effectively what the Eucharist is spiritually, food for the journey, and an effective source of perpetual spiritual refreshment. These signs indicate that the Eucharist is the sacrament of charity. It sustains and nourishes the Church in the love of Christ.

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Study Abroad

THE THOMISTIC INSTITUTE ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL ROME PROGRAM

The Angelicum collaborates in study-abroad programs from several universities from the US and around the world. This Spring we were proud to add a program in collaboration with the Thomistic Institute in Washington, D.C. The “TI Ancient & Medieval Rome Program” is a one-semester study abroad program that will run in the Spring semester of each academic year, and is open to students currently enrolled in a university-level degree program. Why is this study abroad unique? The program offers both serious intellectual and academic excellence – students study under prominent scholars and with academic expectations commensurate with the best universities in the United States – as well as an opportunity to join a real, living, and intentional community of students and scholars in Rome.



The program includes an array of classes, including several electives. The offerings focus on Rome as the intersection of the great traditions of East and West, through the study of ancient and medieval history, philosophy, art, and religion. While examining these diverse elements in their primary sources, they will also be considered in the light of their reception in the thought of Thomas Aquinas, a common thread throughout the coursework and beyond the classroom.

As a complement to their studies, the program also includes exclusive pilgrimage visits organized by Dominicans of the Angelicum (including Mass). These experiences include the beautiful and historic religious sites of Rome – for example, St. Peter’s Basilica, and the monastic cell of St. Thomas Aquinas - and other important Dominican locations like Siena, Naples, and Roccasecca. Students also attended a Holy Week retreat and special Holy Week liturgies in Rome. The inaugural group of scholars included 10 students, each from a different university.

*The applications for Spring 2023 are already open.
Learn more at <https://thomisticinstitute.org/study-abroad>*

An Interview with TI Scholar, Daniel Morán from Mexico.

How did you find this study abroad?

Providentially, I met the Thomistic Institute during the Covid quarantine of spring 2020 by watching their YouTube video of the Problem of Evil. I was seeking Wisdom and a rational foundation for my Faith. God helped me to find the Dominicans to guide me in this journey, and I quickly became involved in their activities through the online courses of Aquinas 101, and then in the Study Abroad program!

What have you enjoyed most about the semester at the Angelicum?

First, the Angelicum provides a deep intellectual environment. It is important to live a coherent and integral Christian Life, but it is also crucial to meditate on the Faith and share the fruits of contemplation with others. I also appreciate the Christ centered friendships with believers (priests, religious, lay) from all over the world and with different charisms (a great example of what “Catholic” means!) Finally, I have to mention the trips. In the program we are doing a Thomistic route, visiting different cities and places where Saint Thomas lived... It is wonderful! For example, I had the blessing of celebrating my birthday in Fossanova, having Mass in the chapel where he died.

What attracted you to this program? Did it meet your expectations?

First, the opportunity to study with the Dominicans. I really love their sincere search for Wisdom. Being able to learn and become friends with them was my first motivation. Second, living in Rome for a semester, in the heart of the Church and a city with thousands of years of mysteries and great stories... My expectations have been superseded by far. The program is just a blessing and I am very grateful to God, my family, and the Thomistic Institute for this unique adventure. It definitely was a life changing experience.

Why would you recommend this program to another college student?

University is a time where important life questions appear. I think Rome can be a vocational school for life. If you have the honest intention of staying close to the Lord and to stay in a state of grace, you will see God’s hand in a new way in your life. He knows you better than you know yourself. This program is a perfect opportunity to take a semester of profound personal and intellectual dialogue with God, and to allow yourself to be amazed by our Creator.




Left: A Mass in the cell of St. Dominic in Santa Sabina with Fr. Dominic Legge, O.P., TI Director in Washington, D.C.

Above: Just after a Mass in the Papal Basilica of St. Paul outside the Walls.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Gabriel and Shena (Muldoon) Rossettie



Gabriel and Shena (Muldoon) Rossettie met as lay students at the Angelicum in 2001. Married since 2006, they have 6 children and live in Corning, NY, USA. Gabe is an attorney at Rossettie Rossettie & Martino LLP. Shena has a background in nonprofit executive leadership and now volunteers for our Office of Development and Mission Advancement. Gabe enrolled at the Angelicum as a guest student in 2001-02, during a hiatus in his undergraduate course of studies at the University of Toronto. Shena worked at a Catholic newsmagazine in Rome after graduating from the University of Dallas, and obtained an S.T.B at the Angelicum in 2003.

What was your experience like in and outside the classroom?

Gabe: As a lay student among religious and seminarians from across the world, I felt privileged to have a window into the intellectual formation of future church leaders. The coursework was rigorous and varied. I enjoyed the challenge of New Testament Greek with Fr. Marcato. A Thomistic ethics course taught by Fr. Giertych has stayed with me through my career. And I'm happy I didn't miss Fr. Ditton's course in Christian archaeology.

I wish everyone could live in Rome for a year. Walking out of class to where Julius Caesar was assassinated, or visiting Michelangelo's Moses down the street, infused every day with a profound sense of adventure and romance. Exploring the layered beauty of the city with fellow awestruck lay students at the Angelicum yielded me many friendships for life. One of those friends was Shena Muldoon and I convinced her to marry me a few years later.

Shena: I loved meeting Catholics from India, Africa and Asia, as well as encountering the Eastern rites of the Church. I do not know if there is a more beautiful liturgy than the Maronite Mass I attended with friends at the Lebanese monastery. A lovely Korean sister took me out for my first Korean meal and gave me a rosary I still use. Fr. Ragheed Ganni, an Iraqi Chaldean priest, befriended me and other American students even as the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2001. His martyrdom in Mosul, Iraq in 2007 gives me courage today.

I treasured the non-ideological approach to theology at the Angelicum. Whether the subject matter was canon law, church history, or trinitarian theology, the Dominican professors taught with clear-eyed realism, devotion to Jesus and the Church, and lively humor. This fostered a joyful environment for all of us students.

The Angelicum itself was a feast for the senses: the walk up the marble front steps into the serene courtyard, the sounds of conversation and espresso brewing at the café, the smell of citrus trees in the garden, the intimate adoration chapel. What a backdrop for prayer, study and friendship!

How has the Angelicum served your vocations?

Gabe: Well, I met my lovely wife there. And my law practice has been informed daily by my studies. When you know you're part of a spiritual and intellectual tradition thousands of years old and have the greatest treasures of Western civilization rattling around in your mind from an immersive experience like living in Rome, there's humility in that. And you won't be swept up by the latest, often poor, ideas that people peddle. My education at the Angelicum forms a backbone in my spiritual, moral and professional life.

Shena: I am doubly blessed to have met Gabe at the Angelicum and to share my love for it with him. We've tried to impart a Dominican-inspired attitude toward life to our children, and we've been fortunate to visit the Angelicum with them twice. Whatever their callings, we hope they always see themselves as "merry pilgrims" on an adventurous journey home.

The Angelicum fortified my faith by helping me see that the Church's theology and history is wider and deeper than today's ills. It has helped me approach debate and disagreements in a spirit of good will, whether in a board meeting or among my children.

I encourage alumni to join me in supporting the Angelicum, so that future students can receive the blessings we did!

Dear Alumni of the Angelicum,

We invite all Angelicum alumni to get connected with our Roman alma Mater. We just had a small alumni reunion in the Diocese of Rochester, New York celebrating the ordination to the priesthood of Ange alumnus, Aaron Kelly.

Contact alumni@pust.it to get connected!

WHERE ACADEMIA MEETS ADORATION UNIVERSITY WITH A SOUL

Excerpts from an article by Angelicum alumna, Joanne (Ford) Bergamin, '99 - originally from L'Osservatore Romano, 20 May 2009. Reprinted with permission.

When selecting a university in Rome to attend, it is no longer of primary importance to local and international students for classes to be offered in Italian and English. Especially at pontifical universities, students expect their place of learning to have a “soul” and foster a spirit of prayer. The Angelicum, as the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas is known, offers the opportunity to combine studies and prayer life; that is, a more holistic approach to education.

With the support of the faculty of Dominican friars, students at the Angelicum initiated a programme of Eucharistic Adoration on 5 March 2001. (...)

Approximately 100 people serve as Guardians each semester, including priests, religious brothers and sisters, diocesan seminarians and lay men and women from more than 70 countries. Their service is certainly helpful in strengthening their own spiritual lives, but it is also a spiritual work of mercy. If it were not for the “yes” of the Guardian to be there at that day and time, it would not be possible for students to greet the Lord for a moment between classes, or as others do, for a holy hour or more. The Guardians are the leaven of this programme, while the Dominican friars provide Exposition of the Sacrament and ensure that each day ends with Benediction. This is in addition to the two Masses held each day (English and Italian) during the week, when classes are offered, in the university’s Church

of Saints Sixtus and Dominic.

Doctoral student Laurie Olsen has been integral in organizing the Angelicum’s Eucharistic Adoration over its eight year life, recognizing the spiritual value of Adoration. Says Ms Olsen, “Eucharistic Adoration helps draw us deeper into the mystery of Christ and his Church. Each of the pontifical universities is a microcosm of the universal Church. That our programme of Eucharistic Adoration has been so popular for so many years among the young students at the Angelicum underscores its relevance to the Church today. In the face of so many challenges from a society that is growing aggressively more secular, the popularity of Adoration shows that the Church wants to know Christ in the Eucharist. It shows how genuine is man’s desire for the Lord”. Ms Olsen quotes St Augustine who writes in Confessions, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord. And our hearts are restless until they rest in you”. (...)

The day of the Eucharistic Procession, 13 May, marks the optional memorial of Our Lady of Fatima, the same day in 1917 when the Blessed Virgin Mary first appeared in a series of Apparitions to three shepherd children— Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco — in Fatima, Portugal. The Message of Fatima includes a call to conversion of heart, repentance from sin and a dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially through praying the Rosary. (...)

It also marks the anniversary of the Virgin Mary's intervention which according to Pope John Paul II saved his life when he was shot on 13 May 1981. John Paul II was committed to fostering devotion to Mary. Because the Holy Father was a graduate of the Angelicum, the faculty and students are especially attentive to this. In his Encyclical Letter *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* On the Eucharist in its relationship to the Church (53), Pope John Paul II speaks of Mary's relationship with the Eucharist: "In addition to her sharing in the Eucharistic banquet [of the first generation of Christians], an indirect picture of Mary's relationship with the Eucharist can be had, beginning with her interior disposition. Mary has been a 'woman of the Eucharist' her whole life. The Church, which looks to Mary as a model, is also called to imitate her in her relationship to this most holy mystery". Thus Mary is the Patroness of the Angelicum's Programme of Adoration.





Adoration on campus

Studying theology ‘on our knees’

Students at the Angelicum were asked to explain what it means to them to be able to spend time with the Lord in Adoration:

Fr. Wilfried Kouijzer, SMA: “To spend time with the Lord in Adoration is for me like climbing the rock on which my life is built. This rock, the Lord of the Adoration, always understands, and so revives me”.

Bro. Alan Benander, OP: “Having the Blessed Sacrament exposed for us to adore during our day at school is a great blessing for all of us. It serves as a great reminder to us of the ultimate reason why we are studying at the Angelicum — namely, to praise, love, and serve Our Lord, Jesus Christ in His Catholic Church. Eucharistic Adoration is a great way to draw closer to Our Incarnate Lord as it serves as a visible reminder to us of the fact that God became Man, and that He is really, truly, and substantially present in the Holy Eucharist (and that He daily renews His supreme sacrifice for us in the Mass). I am very grateful to all those at the Angelicum who have worked to give us the opportunity to adore our Lord in the Sacrament, as it has given me, and, I’m sure, many other students, many blessings. I hope and pray that this pious practice will continue at the Angelicum for many more years”.

Bro. Ryan Wolford, CRIC: “How blessed we are at the Angelicum to be able to come to Christ in the Eucharist every day. As we attempt to study theology ‘on our knees’, the Blessed Sacrament is a wonderful way for our hearts to constantly return to the center and goal of all our striving. Whether we make a holy hour, or just a short visit between classes, each encounter with Christ in His sacramental presence reminds us of God’s almighty power, of Christ’s unutterable love for us, and that we are asked to hold by faith what is entirely unavailable to our senses. It humbles and exalts us. Thank you to all who make Eucharistic Adoration possible at the Angelicum”.

Mary Ann (a lay student): “It has been very convenient to have Adoration on campus rather than go searching somewhere in the city. Studying in a pontifical university, one gets so busy that it’s important to have Adoration to keep us balanced, and make me remember why I am here”.

Mulumbet Assefa Kassa

Social Sciences, 3rd cycle

Faith and service have been two pillars for Mulumbet's life, even while growing up in her native Ethiopia. After serving in her home archdiocese of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) for almost 10 years, she was looking for a way to grow more, but also to put the many gifts she had received at the service of others. Though she searched in many places, nothing seemed to be the right fit. And then someone from the archdiocese recommended the Angelicum. "The community was very supportive. At the beginning studying here was a big challenge for me, but the Angelicum did not let me quit, even on the hardest days.

By the second semester, however, she felt at home and began getting involved in activities. One place where she would spend time daily was in the Adoration chapel, which was for her a moment of contemplation. What started out as a refuge while adjusting to a new environment became a commitment to serve as a guardian of the Blessed Sacrament. Students and faculty sign up to cover the different hours of Adoration throughout the week, to accompany our Eucharistic Lord. And this collaboration in prayer was also an opportunity to meet and grow in her relationships with fellow students. "When the pandemic began, many students returned to their homes during lockdown, and one of the students who helped organize the Adoration was unable to return in Fall 2020. I was not sure if I was capable of taking on the mission of organizing the Adoration with other responsibilities, but I knew that it was a moment when we really needed to pray. So I agreed to

do so with the help of another student." Adoration was moved from a small chapel near the choir into the church to give more space. And Adoration continued, as it has for 20 years under the care of the students.

Mulumbet was also actively involved in the student association of the university, and is working on her Doctorate. Her thesis, "Bringing Sustainable Development based on the food system and smallholding farming reality in Ethiopia" focuses on forming an economic system for the well-being of the human person. Though she had just planned on doing her License, she felt called to continue and hopes to

teach in the future, to share what she has received. "I have been inspired by the way my professors teach and help us to grow intellectually, for the good of the Church and of society. I want to teach in the way I learned and saw here at the Angelicum, not only transmitting information, but placing a seed for the betterment of the future." She emphasized that the Angelicum is a place where people can find both spiritual and intellectual fulfillment. With 2 Masses and 9 hours of Eucharistic Adoration daily, there is an ample opportunity for intellectual studies to be nourished by prayer and contemplation.



UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The annual Angelicum Donor Homecoming was 11-15 May. Events included the university's Eucharistic procession and Val McInnes Lecture with Fr. Anthony Akinwale, O.P. from the province of Nigeria. The lecture, "Sapientia et Scientia: Envisioning a Dominican University Today" is available at **soundcloud.com/pr-angelicum**. Consider joining us in May 2023!
- ANNOUNCING the Fr. Val McInnes chairholders: Fall 2022 is Fr. John Emery, O.P. (province of Argentina), Spring 2023 is Fr. Mariusz Tabaczek, O.P. (province of Poland).
- Generous donors have provided funding for seven annual "Duc in Altum" scholarships for young Dominican priests.
- The Angelicum announces 18 scholarships for a one-year diploma program for religious sisters, called the St. Catherine of Siena Scholarship Program.
- On the 102nd anniversary of the birth of Karol Wojtyła, the St. John Paul II Institute of Culture offered a workshop and LIVE performance of Karol Wojtyła's "Job". The course was taught by Prof. Jarosław Kilian, dean of the school of Theater at the National Academy of Dramatic Art in Warsaw. Prof. George Weigel (Ethics and Public Policy Centre, Washington D.C.) also presented a lecture: "Reconsidering Vatican Ostpolitik: The Statecraft of a Saint."
- The Angelicum organized the annual "Communitas" inter-faculty conference, with the theme *Biblical Law and Natural Law*. The keynote address was: "How Can Catholic Natural Theology Help Us in Engagement with Non-Christian Religions?" by Prof. Gavin D'Costa from the University of Bristol.
- Fr. Loïc-Marie Le Bot, O.P. (province of Toulouse), the dean of the faculty of Canon Law and vice-rector, was elected prior of the Convent of Sts. Dominic and Sixtus.
- On 14 May, Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P. received an honorary doctorate from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and was the commencement speaker.
- The popular bluegrass ensemble, the **Hillbilly Thomists** will be on a US tour this summer for 2 weeks in Washington DC, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Cincinnati, Nashville, and Cleveland (more info: hillbillythomists.com). Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P. is a co-founder of the group.
- The Mass for the close of the Academic Year was celebrated by His Eminence, George Cardinal Pell on 18 May.
- Angelicum students, faculty and friars participated in Italy's National March for Life on 21 May. More info: manifestazioneperlavita.it
- A new page for prospective lay students has been set up on the university's website: studyattheange.com



email: development@pust.it

Statement of Fr. Thomas Joseph White, OP, on the situation in Ukraine



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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 Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P. directly:
+1.202.642.3597 development@pust.it

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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,
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