

# THE ANGELICUM

The Pontifical University of  
St. Thomas Aquinas  
Fall 2020



# THE ANGELICUM EDITORIAL STAFF

## Publisher:

Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P.

## Co-Editors:

Mrs. Carmen Luisa Coya-van Duijn, O.P.  
Sr. Mary Angela Woelkers, SCTJM

## Photographers:

Mrs. Marta Neri  
Mr. Kaloyan Kanchev

## Graphic Design and Layout:

Mr. Kaloyan Kanchev

## Special Thanks to:

Fr. Michał Paluch, O.P., Rector Magnificus  
Sr. Helen Alford, O.P., Vice Rector  
Sr. Maria Silva, O.P., Director of Administration

International Dominican Foundation

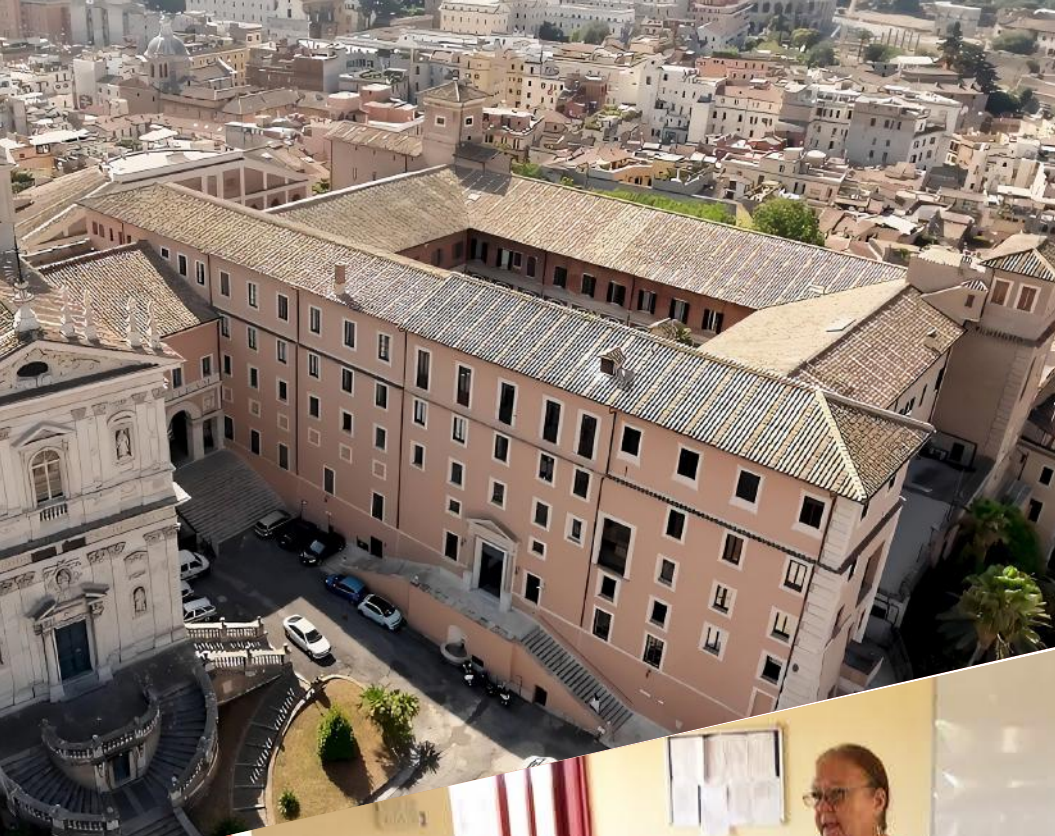
Fr. Allen Moran, O.P., President  
Mrs. Melanie Hoeman

Fr. Dominic Holtz, O.P.  
Ms. Kellyanne Carpentier, O.P.  
Mr. Daniel Whitehead



"I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven."

– Mt. 18:18



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

- 4 Letter from the Rector
- 5 Letter from the Director
- 6 Meet our faculty
- 7 From Rome to Nigeria - Mary Jo Gretsinger
- 9 Mission Ad Vitam: Fr. Will Conquer, M.E.P.
- 11 Fr. Loïc-Marie Le Bot, O.P. on Canon Law
- 13 Student Spotlight: Fr. Douglas Krebs
- 14 Student spotlight: Weronika Cichosz
- 15 Evangelical Endeavours of Angelicum Professors
- 16 Letter from John Carrere, friend of the Angelicum
- 18 How to support the Angelicum
- 19 Angelicum prayer intention for October
- 20 Honor roll



# Co-workers in God's service



Dear Friends,

**A**s I read in this current issue the quotations of our Canon Law students and alumni, I have to say, "I am so proud of our history." From an administrative point of view, I am tempted to see only what we "cannot do" due to lack of resources. However, reflecting on all that has gone before us with this issue, I am reminded of St. Paul's words: "So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, (...) for we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building." (1 Cor. 3:7-9)

As you can see, we are the beneficiaries of so much. Our students, faculty and alumni are our greatest resources for, as you can clearly see in this issue, they carry to the ends of the earth all that they have received and pass onto others the fruits of their study and contemplation (cf. Summa Theologiae, II-II Q. 188, A. 6).

Under the leadership of Fr. Loic Marie Le Bot, O.P., the Faculty of Canon Law is seeking new opportunities for growth in light of every diocese's need for the services of canon lawyers. We are proud to have an outstanding Faculty, and we hope you will be generous in helping us realize our plans and goals for further expansion in this important mission. (See page 13)

**Fr. Michał Paluch, O.P.**  
Rector Magnificus

**Very Rev. David Hudgins (JCL, '17)**  
*Diocese of Lansing, (Michigan, USA)*

As Judicial Vicar, every single day I see how canon law directly serves our bishops, priests, and all the faithful in living out their vocations. Studying canon law, "especially with St. Thomas as a teacher" (can. 252 §3), Angelicum students are always rooted in the most venerable intellectual tradition.

**Helena Lukianová (JCL, '18)**  
*Diocese of Bratislava (Slovakia)*

Studying at the Angelicum was very useful for my practice in the diocesan tribunal. The instruction at the Angelicum always had a professional approach, but was also very human. The professors were always ready to help the students to understand the important things and to prepare them in this way for the variety of duties that awaited them.

**Rev. Fr. Charles O. Otu, (JCD, '19)**  
*Diocese of Abakaliki (Nigeria)*

If the salvation of souls is the highest law (can. 1752 CIC), then one can validly argue that canon law is essential to the life of the Church. At the Angelicum, I learned that the letters and the spirit of the law must meet. This is nothing short of the pastoral conversion advocated by the Supreme Pontiff, Francis. As far as canon law is concerned, the Angelicum is the best!



# Law and Order in the midst of Chaos

Dear Friends,

**O**ur university is beginning a new year! It takes many hands, a lot of cooperation, and good humor, but we are doing it! This is why we are proud to welcome Sr. Maria Silva, O.P., of the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist (Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA) as the Angelicum's new Director of Administration. (We'll hear more about her in the next issue.)

This special issue is dedicated to presenting the Angelicum's venerable Faculty of Canon Law. Law and Order are always essential (a fact which is realized most acutely in chaotic times), not to control, but to facilitate and perfect our relationships with one another. Law teaches us, even makes us virtuous pursuers of truth and justice, so that we can live with that authentic freedom that unites us in friendship with God.

Canon lawyers are not only necessary to teach canon law, but are also an essential part of every seminarian's formation. Canon lawyers are also needed in every diocese, and serve the whole Church. Canonists serve lay people in two essential ways. First, they provide education on the canonical rights and responsibilities of lay people/clergy that can help them live their Christian lives better. Second, they provide counsel to lay people who find themselves trying to understand Church government. An example, of course, is "marriage annulment" - or more precisely, a declaration of matrimonial nullity. But issues can arise in almost any area of Church life, notably in regard to educational policies, the sacramental life, use of Church property, liturgical discipline, and so forth.

Angelicum alumna and law professor, Mary Jo Gretsinger is a wonderful example of how her Dominican education is shaping multiple generations to come - and from one country to another! Her former students testify to this, as do countless other lay, religious, and clergy alumni of our faculty of Canon Law. (Learn more about her on p. 8). This is why your generosity to the Angelicum is really an investment in building up the Faith.

We are also excited to hear from Mr. John F. Carrere, recipient of the 2018 Fr. McInnes Award during our Angelicum Donor Homecoming, on why he has chosen to generously support our pontifical university (Read his testimony on p. 18).

**If we are to help the world order itself towards authentic freedom, we must build a strong program of Canon Law for the formation of a new generation of priests. We lay out our hopes on p. 13.**

Also we still need help finishing our previous campaigns which you will find in detail by going to [ANGELICUM.it/GIVE](http://ANGELICUM.it/GIVE).

We are incredibly grateful to each of you for your prayers and support!

**Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P., Director**  
mobile: +1.202.642.3597 | [development@pust.it](mailto:development@pust.it)



*Fr. Piotr Skonieczny, O.P*

### *Fr. Piotr Skonieczny, O.P.*

*Returning professor for the faculty of Canon Law*

Fr. Skonieczny is a Dominican friar of the Province of Poland who serves as an extraordinary professor for the Faculty of Canon Law at the Pontifical John Paul II University in Krakow, and as an official of the Secretary of State in the Roman Curia in the Vatican. Skonieczny graduated in 1997 from the Faculty of Law of the Jagiellonian University of Krakow and worked for several years as a magistrate. In 2000, he joined the Order of Preachers, and obtained a Masters in Theology from the

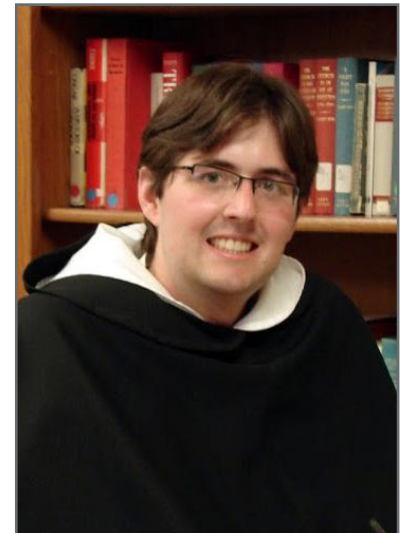
Pontifical Academy of Theology in Krakow, now the Pontifical John Paul II University. There he received the licentiate (JCL) in Canon Law, followed by doctoral studies with the Angelicum's Faculty of Canon Law, obtaining the JCD in 2009. He served as Vice Dean of the Angelicum's Faculty of Canon Law from 2013-15. He is the author of several books and articles in the field of canon law in Polish and Italian. Welcome back, Fr. Skonieczny!

### *Fr. James-Dominic Rooney, O.P.*

*New member of the faculty of Philosophy*

Fr. Rooney is a Dominican friar of the Province of St. Albert the Great (USA), which he entered in August 2009. His love of philosophy and theology comes from two sources. When he was young, he loved ancient stories and mythology. In time, this developed into a love of classics - Greek, Latin, and, eventually, those from various Asian countries (Korea, Japan, and China) - where he would immerse himself in the stories, worldview, and wisdom of great thinkers. His other early love was science, especially physics and biology. The scientific method was captivating, as a never-ending quest for the fundamental causes of things, the workings of nature, time, and space. In high school and university, he discovered that what he had been studying as a hobby

was its own unique discipline: philosophy, and particularly metaphysics. His fascination with philosophy and science carried over into Theology. A study of the highest cause, God, gives a unified perspective on all the sciences. He explains that, in the end, you come up against the very limits of human reason and language, and this naturally carries you over into contemplation; as we learn more about God, we cannot help but love Him. Rooney joined the Dominicans because he wanted to make that kind of theological study his way of life. He has published numerous works, primarily in the areas of metaphysics, Medieval philosophy and (neo)Confucian philosophy. A warm welcome to Fr. Rooney!



*Fr. James-Dominic Rooney O.P.*

# The Inside Scoop on Outside the Classroom

What do the teachers of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas do in their spare time? Have you ever wanted a glimpse at life outside the classroom and office? Here is a sneak peak at some of the extracurricular activities of our faculty and staff.

## *Fr. Wojciech Giertych, O.P.*

One of the Angelicum's best kept secrets is that one of her most beloved professors only teaches in his spare time. Full time, Fr. Giertych lives in the Apostolic Palace in Vatican City, where he serves as Papal Theologian for Pope Francis. Teaching Moral Theology at the Angelicum is what he does on the side. But don't tell that to any of his students! They know they are really his favorites.



Fr. Giertych

## *Prof. Massimo de Santis*

One of the professors of Sacred Scripture, Prof. de Santis, also teaches at "Ettore Majorana Scientific / Linguistic High School. Teaching by example and sharing the Gospel beyond the Angelicum, on Saturday nights, you will often find him with his students, serving at the local Caritas soup kitchen for the Diocese of Rome. Prof. de Santis helps organize the event and 120 students enthusiastically participate each year. While serving meals, the students share with those they encounter, thereby living out the Gospel of Christian charity.



Prof. de Santis

## *Fr. Paul Murray, O.P.*

Students describe attending class with Fr. Paul Murray as if they are "on retreat." He is a master preacher and spiritual guide. His reputation extends far beyond the classrooms of Rome. Last February, following their ad limina visit with Pope Francis, twelve Bishops from the United States, some of whom are Angelicum alumni, made a private retreat with Fr. Paul in the very house where St. Catherine of Siena grew up, now a retreat center and diocesan shrine.



Fr. Paul with US Bishops in Siena



*Mary Jo with Fr. H. Habila Daboh, rector of Good Shepherd Major Seminary*

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# From Rome to Nigeria:

# MARY JO GRETSINGER, '87 S.T.L., J.C.L.

Mary Jo's life is marked by a passion for truth and service to others. Her adventures span from Los Angeles to Seoul, the Angelicum in Rome, and even to the Missions of Nigeria. Born and raised in Southern California, Mary Jo earned a BA in Sociology. She served as a probation officer for Los Angeles County, and as a substance abuse counselor for the United States Army. Interested in further studies, Mary Jo followed the advice of Father Brian Mullady, O.P. (Professor Emeritus of the Angelicum), and arrived to Rome in February 1981. By 1987, she had earned three degrees: the Bachelor in Sacred Theology (STB), the License in Sacred Theology (STL), and the License in Canon Law (JCL) Summa cum Laude. While there, in May 1983, she made a private vow of virginity.

Upon her return to the United States, Mary Jo quickly put her talents and study at the service of the Church as a canon lawyer for the Diocese of San Diego. She served as a collegiate judge and defender of the bond on the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal until she retired in 2009. In 1997, Mary Jo met Bishop Martin Uzoukwu of the Diocese of Minna, Nigeria, who encouraged her to come visit his diocese in Africa. Mary Jo made her "first missionary journey" in 1998 and returned several times throughout the years. With the Bishop's encouragement, she planned to serve the people in the Minna Diocese after her retirement.



Mary Jo Gretzinger, holding her awarded "Papal Medal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice", along with her parish priest and permanent deacon from the Parish

Mary Jo disembarked to Kaduna, Nigeria, in January 2010, where she taught canon law at Good Shepherd Provincial Major Seminary, which serves the Province of Kaduna, (including the Archdiocese of Kaduna and six other Dioceses). Her first class of students began calling her Mama or Mama Jo, and she called them her spiritual sons. Additionally, Mary Jo served on the Kaduna Provincial Ecclesiastical Marriage Tribunal, and in her home parish. On November 22, 2010, she was Consecrated a Virgin for the Church in a life of perpetual virginity by Angelicum alumnus, Archbishop Matthew Man-Oso Ndagoso (class of '92).

Remarkably, by the grace of God, there are approximately two hundred and twenty-five young priests in northwestern Nigeria whom she had the privilege of teaching in the seminary. Now some of her priest-sons are being sent abroad for further studies, and

three are currently studying in Rome.

Father Richard Gokum, from the Diocese of Sokoto, is working on his doctorate at the Angelicum's John Paul II Center for Interreligious Dialogue. Father shared that one virtue he admired in Mary Jo was her humility. He explained: "She came with us sometimes to the refectory to eat with us, the students. For us this was quite striking." He also pointed out that she attended each of their ordinations, something especially important to them. With classes in multiple languages, it was a great benefit for those from the English-speaking countries of Africa. "The Angelicum is giving me the opportunity for deepening some of the theology I had studied in seminary, but I am gaining so much more. For me, it is a blessing to have come to Rome and to be here. I would recommend the Angelicum to everyone."

Father Raymond Ogboji, of the Diocese of Zaria and a former student of the Pontifical University Urbaniana in Rome, is now serving as a vice dean of the the Pontifical Urban College "de Propaganda Fide" - the residential college of the university that forms missionaries. He shared that Mary Jo earned the name "Mama" from the seminarians because of her patience as a teacher. "Not only did she choose to come to Africa when she could have retired in comfort, but she gave herself tirelessly to her students and she consistently showed great love and pride in each of us."

Father JohnPaul Nwafo, from the Diocese of Minna, is in his first year at the Biblicum in Rome. He remembers



Fr. Raymond Ogboji



Fr. JohnPaul Nwafo

warmly his classes with Mary Jo, "She never said 'no' when we asked her to meet with us for help." Fr. Nwafo shared that Mary Jo continues to be an important part of his life. "She calls, she speaks to me as a son, she encourages me in my priesthood...she checks-in with me, and that is why she is special."

After 9½ years in Nigeria, Mary Jo made the difficult decision to return to the States. Archbishop Ndagoso requested the Papal Medal *Pro Ecclesia*



Fr. Richard Gokum

.....  
*"For me, it is a blessing to have come to the Angelicum, and I would recommend it to anybody who wants to come and study in Rome."*

*et Pontifice* to be awarded to her on behalf of the Nigerian Bishops of the Province of Kaduna for her work in the Seminary and Tribunal; she received the award on February 4, 2020 in her home parish.

On behalf of the Angelicum: Congratulations "Mama Joe!" Thank you for your many years of selfless service to the Church and for helping to form a new generation of shepherds in Nigeria and beyond.

---

# FR. WILL CONQUER, M.E.P., S.T.L. MISSION AD VITAM IN CAMBODIA

Mission ad vitam. This phrase - mission for life - gives a succinct introduction to the vocation of Fr. Will Conquer, a member of the Paris Foreign Missions Society (Missions Etrangères de Paris) and a native of France. He discerned the call to be a missionary following his completion of law school, sensing the urgency while volunteering in Calcutta. On the day of his ordination to the diaconate, he received his assignment, hearing it for the first time (along with those in attendance) of the location where he was to be sent for the rest of his life: Cambodia. Even though the assignment and country were a surprise, he experienced a sense of joy by freely accepting where he was being sent - knowing it is a hallmark of an authentic missionary vocation - as Jesus sent the Apostles. The modern means of communication used for our interview with Father did not obscure his bold missionary zeal!

Preparations for this new mission led him to

pursue the Licentiate (S.T.L.) from the Angelicum's Thomistic Institute. Why the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas? "I was asked by my superiors to go deeper into the study of Catholic Theology. For me, deepening the Catholic faith couldn't be done any better than with Aquinas as a master. That's why I decided on the Angelicum, and it has been very helpful for my mission."

An Angelicum education extends beyond the classroom, given the variety of students (90+ nationalities) with the opportunity to become friends with students from multiple Asian cultures. This diversity also demonstrates the Catholic (universal) dimension of the Body of Christ across cultures and languages. Also apparent to Fr. Conquer was, "the powerful witness and experience of studying alongside students from places like Syria, Iraq, China, India, Nigeria and Armenia, who all know their own share of persecution and suffering. I realized



*Silver jubilee of Mother Marianita at the dispensary of the Missionaries of charity in Phnom Penh.*



*Fr. Will with a fellow missionary, Fr. Son, who was baptized as a refugee and returned to his country as a priest and a missionary*



*Fr. Will and the Most Venerable Monk Kou Sopheap, a renowned Buddhist leader from Cambodia*

there is no one telling the world about these churches," lamented Fr. Conquer.

From his research into Cambodia, Fr. Conquer shared they too had experienced a Christian genocide in the 1970's killing an estimated 1.5 - 2 million people. Under prime minister Pol Pot, commander of the Marxist Khmer Rouge government, if someone was wearing spectacles they were immediately identified as having the ability to read and became targets for assassination. Today Cambodia continues to suffer the repercussions of this history with a lingering influence of anti-intellectualism. According to Fr. Will, one of the greatest challenges to Cambodia's evangelization today is a basic lack of intellectual formation. "If you don't bring people to a true understanding of faith (*intellectus fidei*), once the charismatic missionary leaves, the faith is unable to stand up to inevitable challenges."

A significant part of the missionary's commitment is to be able to speak the native language in order to pass on the faith. Currently Fr. Will is in his 2nd of a 3 year plan to study the Cambodian language. These studies led him also to translating Wikipedia entries in the Cambodian language (Khmer) on St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Clare of Assisi, and the Catholic Church in Cambodia. "It's been a great place to have an intellectual conversation, to go beyond a simple encounter...to talk about the meaning of life and investigate the deeper truths into

which our faith draws us."

"Studying at the Angelicum made me confident that I am also responding under Divine Providence," Fr. Conquer said. "I am part of a long tradition of missionaries from my society," Fr. Conquer shared. "The first missionary bishop from my society in Cambodia, Msgr. Paul Tep Im, was martyred by the Khmer Rouge government in 1975. In some mysterious way, I am walking in his footsteps." An Angelicum alumnus, Bishop Tep Im did his doctorate in Theology in the early 1960's.

Fr. Will's words to current and prospective students: "Those who study at the Angelicum are the most privileged students, in my opinion... we need to share that blessing, and we need to share our experience with others... the experience of a Church which is still suffering around the world, which is already living in the hope of God's glory."

The young Fr. Will Conquer made the final request in our interview: "Most do not realize that the 20th century was a century of martyrs, and many challenges for the faith in Asia. Tell the world about us!"

Follow Fr. Will's FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/willuconquer>, or the site of the Paris Foreign Mission Society at <https://missionsetrangeres.com/>

# The Angelicum Faculty of Canon Law & Blessed Raymond of Penyafort



*Summa de casibus poenitentiae, A text by St Raymond of Penyafort on confession and penance credit: Fr. Albert Robertson, O.P.*

**“At the Angelicum, canonists emerge with an intellect formed to think and respond in accordance with sound legal principles, philosophically rooted premises about the human person and the nature and role of law, and an attitude of service to Holy Mother Church.”**

**T**he Dominicans have always had a great zeal for the study of Law right from the beginning. In fact, the Church’s official patron of canon lawyers is a Dominican. The 13th c. Spaniard, St. Raymond of Peñafort, undertook the herculean task of collecting and putting in order Papal legislation, which, when he started, was nothing more than a chaotic assortment of disorganized decrees. His accomplishment, the ‘Decretals,’ (PHOTO) formed part of the core of the Church’s body of law until 1917. In addition, he had great zeal for priestly formation, and so also wrote the *Summa de casibus poenitentiae* (*Summary Concerning Cases of Penance*) to aid confessors.

St. Raymond is not the only Dominican who made a mark on Canon Law. St. Thomas’s famous definition of law, set forth in the *Summa Theologiae*, remains foundational for the Church’s hierarchy all the way down to the last person in the pew. He defines common law as *ordinatio rationis*, “nothing else than an ordinance of reason for the common good,” and it is therefore **“the work of an intelligent legislator in view of a moral end, which is the good of all society.”** (cf. *Summa Theologiae* I II q 90 a.4)

This understanding provides the foundation for our study and the Church’s exercise of ecclesial law - it is the Dominican tradition and a perennial source for authentic renewal and reforms in the Church. Fr. Loïc-Marie Le Bot, the Angelicum’s new Dean of Canon Law, was appointed last year by the Successor of St. Dominic. He hails from the Province of Toulouse in France and is a proud Angelicum alumnus, class of ‘08. “I have found that teaching Canon Law is a beautiful way to be a preacher as I proclaim ‘Sacred Doctrine’ in the broad sense of the term, giving a practical perspective to the consequences of the Gospel in daily life.” **Indeed, the mission of the Church’s law is not just about processing paperwork for an annulment; rather, it is a discipline that furthers “the salvation of souls.” Canon law allows the faithful to know and understand those basic precepts free him or her to be truly human and cooperate with God’s grace.**

“This is where the Angelicum shines,” said recent alumnus, Fr. John Hammond, JCL, a priest of the Diocese of Nashville who serves as Judicial Vicar and Vicar General. **“Any canon law program can provide familiarity with the text and history of the canons; but**

**in the context of the rigorous education of the Angelicum, canonists emerge with an intellect formed to think and respond in accordance with sound legal principles, philosophically rooted premises about the human person and the nature and role of law, and an attitude of service to Holy Mother Church.”**

The faculty of canon law is actively renewing itself to find new dynamisms to serve the Church today. Our team of Angelicum professors has been enriched by the recent arrivals of new Dominican professors: Fr. Daniele Drago O.P. (Province of Saint Dominic - Italy), Fr. Piotr Skonieczny O.P. (Province of Poland), and Fr. Loïc-Marie Le Bot O.P. (former Provincial of the Province of Toulouse, France). “We also have significant contributions by our Dominican sisters with the presence of Sr. Delfina Moral O.P. (Congregation of the Religious Missionaries of St. Dominic, Spain). “We want to transmit the Church’s vision of canon law marked by our Dominican heritage,” Fr. Loïc-Marie said.

The ministry of the Angelicum extends far beyond the doors of the university, as in the case of Fr. Konstanc Adam, O.P. (Province of Slovakia) who serves as a judge in the Roman Rota, the highest ecclesial court in the Catholic Church. This Vatican office serves the Church throughout the world with special authority to administer justice in pursuit of the common good. Just a short walk from the Angelicum, this court provides unique opportunities for our seminarians, priests, and students of Canon Law. The Eternal City, in general, brings together a significant number of canonists that provides great resources for students of Canon Law. Fr. Loic-Marie shared, "For Canon Law,

certainly being in Rome is an advantage since the Roman Pontiff, who is the supreme legislator, resides here."

One of our new efforts is a Faculty-organized colloquium to be held here in Rome this April 2021 on "The Dominican Tradition of Law" with special Dominican speakers from all over the world. Among the speakers are: the Angelicum's Dean of Theology, Sr. Catherine Joseph Droste O.P. and Papal Theologian and Professor of Theology, Fr. Wojciech Giertych O.P., as well as others. Father Le Bot shared, "The conference will be very important to demonstrate the activity of Dominican canonists and theologians in the development of a Dominican reflection on the law of the Church."



**The mission of the Angelicum's Faculty of Canon Law is to form the next generation of canon lawyers to work with zeal for the salvation of souls by the Catholic Church throughout the world.** But this noble undertaking cannot be realized without your generosity. With your help, *we hope*:

- To establish three scholarships for three priests, we need an endowment of US \$1,000,000 (\$336,000 = one full-ride scholarship endowment)
- To establish an endowment for a new **St. Raymond of Penyafort Academic Chair of Canon Law** = \$1,683,000 (to provide a viable salary of ~ EUR 75,000 to a top professor of Canon Law).
- Recruiting students in order to help meet the tremendous need for well-trained canon lawyers in dioceses around the world.
- To work in collaboration with the Angelicum's new Ecumenical Institute to explore canonical and legal fields of juridical relationships with other Christian churches, especially the Orthodox.
- To develop special courses that would look at theological foundations of the canons specifically concerned with the Church's understanding of religious life.

.....  
*Law is 'nothing else than an ordinance of reason for the common good,' and it is therefore 'the work of an intelligent legislator in view of a moral end, which is the good of all society.'*

*(cf. Summa Theologiae I II q. 90 a.4)*

---

## Rev. Douglas Krebs, Diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota

### S.T.B. '16, J.C.L. cand., 2nd year of Canon Law

---

**W**hy would someone choose to study canon law? For Fr. Douglas Krebs, the answer is found in the journey of faith that passes through North Dakota, to the North American College in Rome, the voice of his Bishop, and through the doors of the Angelicum...twice.

Fr. Krebs grew up in Bismark, North Dakota, within a Catholic family. He attended Catholic school from kindergarten to high school, and was a normal youth, involved in sports, school and friends. During college, he discerned his priestly vocation, drawing from the witness of his coaches and chaplains, as well as a school pilgrimage to Rome; a deep joy was the confirmation of this call. After college seminary Father was sent to the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He studied at the Angelicum, and was ordained to the priesthood in 2016.

A few years later, in a meeting with the younger priests of the diocese, his bishop presented his desire to have some priests with further specialized studies, including another canon lawyer, to fulfill the needs of the diocese. Father was known to have a natural gift for studies and law, and his brother priests and bishop encouraged him to pursue this possibility. Father shared that, when considering a school for his Canon Law studies, he wanted to go back to Rome, to the heart of the Church. He immediately asked to return to his alma mater for further studies, remembering the strong formation, rooted in Thomism, and the welcoming community of professors and students.

One year into his studies, Father shared about his experience. He mentioned the gift (postponed due to COVID) to be able to visit the Secretary of State of the Vatican, where one of his professors serves, and to be able to take classes at the Penitentiary, a tribunal that concerns the application of mercy through penances. These opportunities, and the experience of his classmates who come from many countries, give an international insight to the application of the law in a particular diocese. However, the greatest benefits of his studies are found within the faculty of the Angelicum itself. Father spoke of the interest in the professors in preparing the students for the practical work of canon law within their respective

dioceses and religious institutes. Though their teaching is strong in its content, the professors do not stop with this foundation; the smaller class size is also a benefit. "I really like that the Angelicum is not just purely theoretical, only looking at Canon law as a pure science, but as something that needs to be practiced, as something that needs to be applied to people's everyday lives, because that is what we are going to be working for...this is going to affect particular people, not just science we are studying..." This spirit of the law, applied for the good of souls, has taken a firm root in Fr. Krebs, and he looks forward to continuing his studies this year at the Angelicum.



# Opening the Heart

Weronika Cichosz  
2nd cycle Philosophy  
Lay Student (Poland and Scotland)

**T**wice a week, the Office of Papal Charities brings food, clothing, and basic toiletries to the poor who live and sleep outside the Termini train station. Among the volunteers for this distribution is Angelicum student Weronika Cichosz, who often comes to lend a helping hand and a warm smile. Weronika sees her service as the fruit of her studies and the natural expression of what it means to be a young Catholic. She comments, "Our faith teaches that we are all brothers and sisters. If you come to see everyone as your family, you want to contribute to that family and look after it."



Weronika believes that her studies are complemented by acts of service. Her classes at the Angelicum expand her mind, and her work with the poor in Rome expands her heart. Weronika has especially come to understand the virtue of perseverance from the people she has encountered on the streets. She reflected, "People who have to live without a roof over their head face challenges unlike anyone else and yet they have to wake up and keep going...No matter how hopeless they may feel, they still come and seek help. Despite many reasons to do so, I have seen so many of them choose to keep going with hope." She sees her time with them as a space where she receives encouragement as much as a place where she gives it to others.

## “PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TO THE ANGELICUM TODAY”

*The Angelicum is very grateful for the friendship of Mr. John F. Carrere of New Orleans who helped us complete the fundraising for the Fr. Val McInnes Academic Chair. Plan to join us, post-pandemic, for our next Donor Homecoming in Rome.*

*-Fr. Benedict*



John Carrere and family with the 87th successor to St. Dominic, Fr. Bruno Cadoré, O.P. during the 2019 Donor Homecoming

Our good friend, Fr. Benedict Croell O.P., Office of Development and Mission Advancement, ends all his correspondence with the polite request above. While there are many excellent reasons to make a donation to the Angelicum, most of us arrive there through a personal connection to the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. My journey from New Orleans, Louisiana, was no different, but a journey which took many years to travel.

My family had the good fortune to become acquainted with Rev. Val McInnes, O.P., when he was assigned as the chaplain of the Catholic student center at Tulane University. Through his pastoral work, he came to befriend not only students, but residents who lived around the university. There were many Sundays when Fr. Val would join my family in the afternoon to share a meal. Over many years I was the recipient of Fr. Val's prayers and wisdom, and became aware of his ministries to many families, the local community,

and to his fellow Dominicans, particularly, through his nurturing of the International Dominican Foundation. Through my good friend and cousin, Dick Colton, who became an early and frequent supporter of Fr. Val's work, I was able to maintain a personal connection. In fact, Dick and Fr. Val evacuated together by car to Houston ahead of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated New Orleans; and then he spent a few months living in Dick's home until the Dominican residence was repaired.

After his death, I learned through The Angelicum magazine about an effort to raise funds for the first endowed teaching chair at the Angelicum to be named in honor of Fr. Val. With the support of my whole family, it became clear that this was an opportunity to give thanks through supporting the work of the foundation, and creating an important legacy to his life and work. By our offering to make available a matching gift, Fr. Croell and the university were able to complete the funding for the Fr. Val Ambrose McInnes Chair. It is hoped that additional chairs can be funded in the future.

.....  
*“My experience was brought to a perfect climax when my three siblings, spouses and I were able to go to Rome last year to participate in the first “Angelicum Donor Homecoming”*”

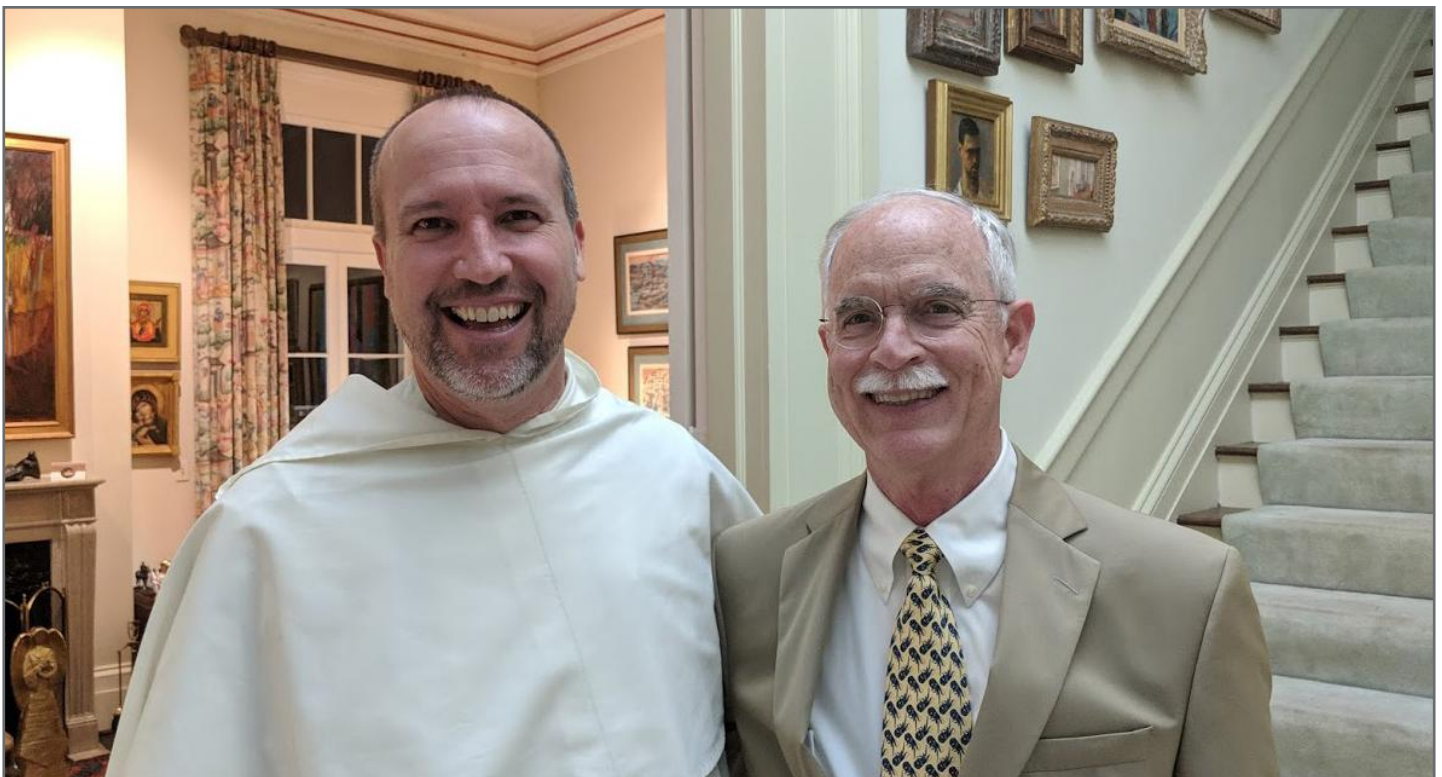
My experience was brought to a perfect climax when my three siblings, spouses and I were able to go to Rome last year to participate in the first “Angelicum Donor Homecoming”. Along with about a dozen other visitors from around the world, over a period of days we thoroughly enjoyed a number of special events, including personal visits with Fr. Michal Paluch, O.P., the Rector of the Angelicum, and Fr. Bruno Cadore, the Master of the Order, attendance at a class taught by Fr. Thomas Joseph White O.P. with Angelicum students, and dinner with numerous members of the Dominican community (not to mention, special entertainment by Fr. White on the banjo). There were also wonderful tours of the Vatican and other religious sites in Rome by tour guide par excellence and Angelicum alumna, Jill Alexy.

The Homecoming was highlighted by the presentation of Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P., the initial holder of the Chair, of the first Father Val McInnes Lecture, followed by a reception in the courtyard of the Angelicum with all the attendees.

Just when you figured the weekend couldn't get any better, we were able to “squeeze in” a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica with Pope Francis.

I started out by sharing that there are many excellent reasons to give to the Angelicum. While I was led to the university by my relationship with Fr. Val, by the time I departed I had a great appreciation of the important learning which permeates its classrooms and living spaces. Men and women of all ages enter from all over the world to pray and study together to build their foundation in the Faith, similar to its most popular alumnus, Pope John Paul II. Over just a few days during which I was introduced to the leaders, professors, staff, and students of the Angelicum, I was infected by their warmth, collegiality, and sense of purpose. I departed with the confidence that our Church will gain so much from their future labors throughout the world.

I pray that the Angelicum is able to continue its work far into the future. Its men and women deserve our support.



John Carrere and Fr. Benedict

# HOW TO SUPPORT THE ANGELICUM

**TO DONATE or MAKE A WIRE TRANSFER go online [www.ANGELICUM.it/GIVE](http://www.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 U.S.A.

In partnership with the International Dominican Foundation (EIN: 72-1505381) based in the United States, all USD gifts to the Angelicum are tax-deductible under the full extent of the law. You may receive additional tax benefits by making a gift of securities. Donations from any/all types of credit cards can be processed.

**01**

## Planned Giving

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 larger gifts in support of non-profits 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](mailto: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.

**02**

**03**

## 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 gifts.

PRAYER

# Angelicum prayer intention for October

*Unite with us in praying throughout the month of October for the following intention, inspired by a reflection on the luminous teaching of St. John Paul II, the Angelicum's most illustrious alumnus and our holy father, Pope Francis:*

Intention:

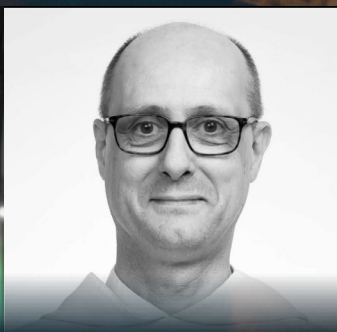
For the renewal of the missionary spirit in the hearts of all the faithful, that their witness of charity and faith may bring hope and healing to a humanity struggling with division and suffering.

Reflection from the Encyclical *Redemptoris Missio* (Pope John Paul II, 7 December 1990):

"People today put more trust in witnesses than in teachers (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*), in experience than in teaching, and in life and action, than in theories. The witness of a Christian life is the first and irreplaceable form of mission: Christ, whose mission we continue, is the "witness" par excellence (Rv 1:5; 3:14) and the model of all Christian witness. The Holy Spirit accompanies the Church along her way and associates her with the witness he gives to Christ (cf. Jn 15:26-27)." (RM, 42)

"The missionary is a person of charity. In order to proclaim to all his brothers and sisters that they are loved by God and are capable of loving, he must show love toward all, giving his life for his neighbor. The missionary is the "universal brother," bearing in himself the Church's spirit, her openness to and interest in all peoples and individuals, especially the least and poorest of his brethren. As such, he overcomes barriers and divisions of race, cast or ideology. He is a sign of God's love in the world - a love without exclusion or partiality. Finally, like Christ he must love the Church: "Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her" (Eph 5:25). This love, even to the point of giving one's life, is a focal point for him. Only profound love for the Church can sustain the missionary's zeal." (RM, 89)

**Special prayer request:** On the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Fr. Joseph D'Amecourt, O.P. (Province of Toulouse), professor of Philosophy for the Angelicum, was called to the Father's House. Please join us in prayer of thanksgiving for his life and for his eternal repose. We look forward to presenting a special memorial for this beloved member of the Angelicum family in the next edition.



THE THOMISTIC INSTITUTE PRESENTS

IS BELIEF IN GOD  
REASONABLE?  
AQUINAS' SUMMA  
CONTRA GENTILES IN  
CONTEMPORARY  
CONTEXT

DECEMBER 3, 2020  
ANGELICUM (AULA MINOR)

DECEMBER 3 | THURSDAY:

John Haldane  
Gaven Kerr  
Roger Pouivet  
Mats Wahlberg



INSTITUTUM  
THOMISTICUM



For more information: <https://angelicum.it/thomistic-institute/thomistic-events/>



Thank you,  
**Prof. Antonio Riccio**

for more than 20 year teaching in  
the Faculty of Social Sciences.

**CONGRATULATIONS,  
SR. HELEN ALFORD, O.P.,**



*on your appointment to the  
Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences*

In memoriam  
*Father Walter Senner, O.P.*

1948 - 2020



Director Emeritus of the  
Angelicum's Thomistic Institute

Join us for an upcoming conference:

# The Dominican Tradition of Law

Faculty of Canon Law, Angelicum

23 - 24 April 2021 | Rome

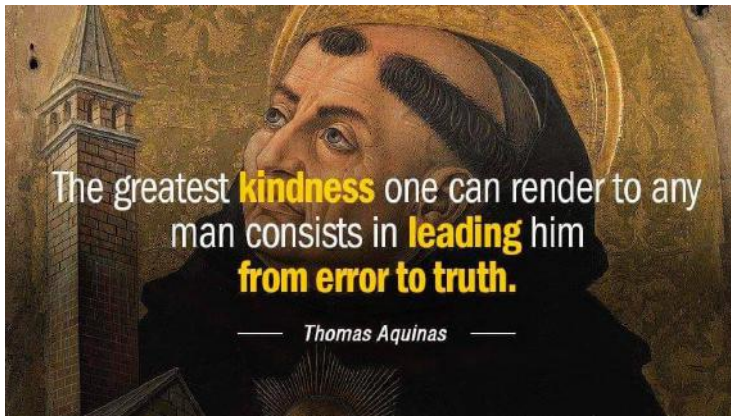
The conference will cover Canon Law in the Dominican tradition. It will investigate the theological and philosophical foundations of the law proper to the Order of Preachers including the Dominican Nuns (cloistered), and the Dominican Laity (Third Order).

Highlights include:

- Greeting by the Master of the Order and Grand Chancellor - Fr. Gerard Timoner OP
- The Significance of God's Justice as the Main Analogy in the Discussion of the Virtue of Justice - Sr. Catherine Joseph Droste, O.P., Dean of Theology Law in the Thomistic Tradition and Natural Law - Fr. Wojciech Giertych, O.P., Papal Theologian & Professor of Theology
- The Importance of Philosophy and Theology in the Dominican Constitutions Fr. Benoît-Dominique de La Soujeole, O.P., Fribourg
- The Evolution of Dominican Law within the Codifications of Canon Law - Fr. Philippe Toxé, O.P., Lyons
- The Canonical Bond between the Friars and the Nuns of the Order of Preachers - Fr. John Chrysostom Kozlowski, O.P., Washington, D.C.
- *"Quis tibi dedit hanc potestatem?"* Sources of Authority in the Law proper to the Order of Preachers - Fr. Benjamin Earl, O.P., Procurator General of the Order of Preachers, Rome
- A Thomistic Vision of Canon Law - Fr. Robert Ombres, O.P., Oxford University/Angelicum Professor of Canon Law

*"This is that enviable and blessed cross of Christ . . . the cross in which alone we must make our boast, as Paul, God's chosen instrument, has told us."*

- St. Raymond of Peñafort



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 6  
New Haven, KY

## CONTACTS FOR THE ANGELICUM

Largo Angelicum 1 | Rome, Italy 00184 | Tel (+39) 06.67.021 | Fax (+39) 06.67.02.270 | <https://angelicum.it>

RECTOR MAGNIFICUS  
Fr. Michał Paluch, O.P. [rettore@pust.it](mailto:rettore@pust.it)

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION  
Sr. Maria Silva, O.P. [maria.silva@pust.it](mailto:maria.silva@pust.it)

SECRETARY GENERAL  
Fr. Marcelo Solorzano, O.P. [segreteria@pust.it](mailto:segreteria@pust.it)

DEAN OF THEOLOGY  
Sr. Catherine Joseph Droste, O.P. [decteol@pust.it](mailto:decteol@pust.it)

DEAN OF PHILOSOPHY  
Fr. Serge-Thomas Bonino, O.P. [decanus.philosophiae@pust.it](mailto:decanus.philosophiae@pust.it)

DEAN OF CANON LAW  
Fr. Loïc-Marie Le Bot, O.P. [decdir@pust.it](mailto:decdir@pust.it)

DEAN OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Fr. Alejandro Crosthwaite, O.P. [decfass@pust.it](mailto:decfass@pust.it)

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT  
& MISSION ADVANCEMENT  
Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P. [benedict.croell.op@pust.it](mailto:benedict.croell.op@pust.it)  
+1.202.642.3597 | WhatsApp



.....  
TO SUPPORT THE PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF ST.  
THOMAS AQUINAS YOU MAY SEND YOUR (U.S.) TAX  
DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO:

The International Dominican Foundation  
1 Galleria Blvd. Suite 710-B  
Metairie, LA 70001

**Please make checks payable to:**  
“The International Dominican Foundation”

.....  
OR YOU CAN MAKE A SECURE DONATION AT  
[ANGELICUM.IT/GIVE](https://angelicum.it/give)