A Word of Gratitude to Our Readers
A Letter from Fr. Allen Moran, O.P., President of the International Dominican Foundation

Among the consequences of fallen human nature are our ability to remember wrongs done to us with great ease and our difficulty in remembering and expressing gratitude for the good deeds from which we have benefited. In leaving us his abiding presence in the Eucharist, Jesus reminds us of the virtue of gratitude for all good gifts come from him and through him. To give thanks to the Father for all that we have received through the Son is the wellspring of peace and joy. With these thoughts in mind, I wish to extend my own gratitude to all of you who have given such positive feedback to the Spring 2017 issue of the Angelicum News. Not only did a number of alumni and benefactors join our Friends of the Angelicum team and donate to support the university, but one very generous benefactor has made a matching gift pledge that if fulfilled would complete the fundraising for the endowed Fr. Val McInnes Chair at the Angelicum.

In addition to this exciting update, readers of this issue of the Angelicum News will be introduced to the new Rector Magnificus of the university, Fr. Michal Paluch, O.P. from Poland and catch up with long-time professor Fr. Robert Christian, O.P. and alumnus Fr. Brice Sibley of the Diocese of Lafayette. Readers will also be introduced to Sr. Catherine Joseph, O.P., who is currently teaching moral theology and serving as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Theology, and they will learn more about the good work that the William S. Simon Scholarships have been doing at the Angelicum for the past twenty years. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, our efforts in rebuilding the contact list for the alumni and friends of the Angelicum involved much time on our part but failed to produce a comprehensive list. If you know of anyone who would enjoy receiving this newsletter and participating in the great work that the Angelicum continues to do for the Universal Church, please contact us.

ANGELICUM ALUMNI & FRIENDS: Update your contact information online at https://internationaldominicanfoundation.org/contact-us or contact the International Dominican Foundation office at admin@intldom.org or 504-836-8180.
In the first creation account in the book of Genesis, it is the creative power of the Word of God, which brings everything into being and gives it its being and therefore goodness: And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good (Gen. 1:3-4a). Being made in the image of God, our words can have an analogously creative power even when we are unaware of it.

In the Spring 2017 issue of the Angelicum News, we included a story about the establishment of a fund for an endowed chair at the Angelicum in the name of Fr. Val McInnes, O.P.—the founder of the International Dominican Foundation and a beloved priest and friend of many, particularly in the New Orleans area. He was a convincing messenger of the Gospel and left a lasting impression on many. The John Francis Carrere Family of New Orleans upon seeing this article was moved to make a most generous offer. They have offered a matching gift of up to $100,000 towards the completion of the Fr. Val McInnes Chair. The matching gift will be in effect from now until November 30, 2017. The words and example of Fr. Val had so positively influenced them that when they read the words of this article they were moved to act, and we are very grateful!

This is a wonderful opportunity to assist in the teaching and formation ministry that the Angelicum provides. At present the endowment has a net worth of approximately $1.3 million; the chair will become active when we reach the $1.5 million goal. The existence of the chair will strengthen the Angelicum’s ability to attract and maintain high quality faculty to pass on the full theological vision of the Angelic Doctor, St. Thomas Aquinas, to priest, seminarians, religious, and laity from around the world to spread the faith in every corner of the globe and to respond theologically to the pressing issues of our day.

Angelicum Faculty: Where are they now? Fr. Robert Christian, O.P., A Life Enriched by the Angelicum
written by Fr. Robert Christian, O.P.

I spent thirty-three of the forty years between 1974 and 2014 at the Angelicum, first as a student for the S.T.L. and S.T.D. degrees, and later as a professor of sacraments and ecclesiology. I also served for twenty-five years as vice-dean of the Theology Faculty, with special concern for the English offerings and for the Anglophone institutions affiliated to the Theology Faculty.

I was called back to the Western Dominican Province in the USA to minister for a time as vicar provincial. Immediately afterwards, I was elected prior of the Dominican community at the Angelicum. For ten years I was spiritual director of the seminarians from the Maronite Order of Mary (Mariamit), and throughout all my years in Rome I was called on to perform some minor tasks at the Vatican.

Because this life was so rich, many found it implausible that I should leave the Angelicum except in a funeral casket. However, the Master of the Dominican Order allowed me to return to my Province while I still had the stamina to serve the Church in my own country directly. It was understood that two Vatican commitments—as a member of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) and as a consultor to the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity (PCPCU)—would continue.

Thus, in 2014, with the encouragement of my provincial superior, I accepted an invitation from Monsignor David Toups, Rector of St. Vincent de Paul Major Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida, and an alumnus of the Angelicum, to pass a sabbatical year there as scholar in residence. During that year I visited an orphanage in Haiti to participate in the baptism of sixty-four children whose documentation had been lost in that country’s tragic earthquake. I traveled to a Dominican study center in Cuba, and helped out in two parishes in the priest-short Bahamas. A generous welcome by Monsignor Toups also made it possible for the ARCIC subcommittee to which I belong to meet in Florida.

While I was in Florida, the Western Dominican Province chapter selected me as “Student Master.” As such, I am charged with overseeing the human, spiritual, pastoral and academic formation of the twenty-five friars who are studying for the priesthood, and in addition, I teach one course per year at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley.

Although my provincial wants a student master who is present to the students, I have been able to travel for ARCIC and PCPCU meetings, as well as to conferences, since returning home. In fact, I have been in fourteen countries in the past three years, and almost everywhere I have had the pleasure of encountering men and women I had known in Rome.

My years at the Angelicum gave me a truly universal vision of the Church, and I find that vision does not make the church on the local level seem provincial or narrow. Rather, each particular church is enriched by its communion with the universal Church and enriches her. For me, this is not theory alone, but experience.
The Angelicum Names a New Rector, Fr. Michal Paluch, O.P.

Fr. Michal Paluch, O.P., a member of the Dominican Province of Poland, has been confirmed as Rector of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (The Angelicum). Fr. Michal was born in 1967 at Jarocin, Poland. He graduated from the State High School for Music in Poznań in 1986 and then studied at Music Academy in Katowice from 1986 to 1987. In 1987, he entered the Novitiate at Poznań. Following his first religious profession of vows, he studied at the Dominican College of Philosophy and Theology in Krakow where he earned a Master’s degree in Theology. Fr. Michal was ordained to the priesthood in 1995. From 1995 to 1996, he did pastoral work at Prudniku. From 1996 to 2001, he completed his Doctoral studies and defended his thesis in Dogmatic Theology at Fribourg, Switzerland under the supervision of Fr. J-P Torrell, O.P.

Since 2001, he has been teaching at the College of Philosophy and Theology of his Province in Krakow. From 2002 to 2010, he was the Director of the Thomistic Institute in Warsaw. He was the Rector of the College of Philosophy and Theology in Krakow from 2010 to 2013.

Fr. Michal has been a member of the Commission on the Intellectual Life of the Order and he was also a visiting scholar at the Institute for the Church Life at the Notre Dame University, USA (2013-2014). Since 2014 he has been teaching at the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Warsaw. Fr. Michal will assume his new role as Rector at the Angelicum University in the fall of 2017.

William E. Simon Scholarship Recipients from the Angelicum University

Through the generosity of others, The International Dominican Foundation stewards the funds designated for priests, religious and laymen studying at the Angelicum. For twenty years, the William E. Simon Scholarships have assisted hundreds of students in lessening the financial burden of tuition while pursuing their degrees at the university. Below are updates from two grateful alumnae of the Angelicum.

Dr. Denise Clare Oliver S.T.B.; M.A.; S.T.L.; S.T.D. was a Simon Scholarship recipient and completed her studies in Philosophy and Theology at the Angelicum, where she received a Masters of Arts in Theology with a specialization in Thomistic studies, and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology with a specialization in Spiritua: Theology.

She earned her Doctorate in Sacred Theology in 2013, her dissertation is entitled The Gift of Wisdom According to St. Thomas Aquinas Shown in the Life of St. Therese of Lisieux: God’s Little Martyr of Love. She currently serves as a Senior Faculty/Administrator at the School of the Annunciation in Devon, England.

Dr. Christina Pal, B.S., S.T.B., M.A., S.T.L., S.T.D. was a Simon Scholarship recipient where she earned an S.T.B, an M.A. in Theology with a specialization in Thomistic Studies, and an S.T.L. with a specialization in Dogma and a Doctorate in Sacred Theology. Her doctoral dissertation is entitled The Instrument of Divinely Revealed Truth: A Thomistic Exposition and Application of the Metaphysics of Instrumental Causality for Understanding the Canonical Scriptures as the Separated Instrument of Christ. Christina has worked as an adjunct professor of Theology for the Distance Learning Program of the Augustine Institute online, and for the Rome Program of Christendom College on site in Rome, Italy. Christina works at the School of Annunciation in Devon, England as a tutor for students working on the Diploma Program as well as the B.A. in the New Evangelization.
My name is Fr. Bryce Sibley and I am a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette currently serving as pastor and chaplain at Our Lady of Wisdom Church and Catholic Student Center at the University of Louisiana - Lafayette. Because of the encouragement of my then pastor (the now Bishop Glen Provost of the Diocese of Lake Charles, an Angelicum alumnus) I “chose the better part” (Luke 10:42) and attended the Angelicum from 1996-1999 and received my STB. I fondly remember the way the morning sun would light the cortile, visiting with others over the often less-than-stellar cappuccino at the bar during breaks, and especially sitting attentively in Fr. Gierch’s Introduction to Moral Theology class that changed my life and the lives of so many other students and seminarians.

I was ordained to the priesthood on July 15, 2000 and I completed my STL at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family at the Lateran in 2001. Since then I have had several pastoral assignments in the diocese and for the past seven years I have had the privilege of being a University chaplain for the Ragin’ Cajun Catholics.

I’m blessed to be working with one of the largest and most dynamic Catholic campus ministries in the nation. Hundreds of students come to the Student Center each week, they exhibit a great love for the Eucharist and Holy Mass, and we’ve seen numerous vocations to the priesthood and religious life (right now we have eight young men sponsored by our parish in the seminary, four of them will be ordained to the priesthood in June of 2018).

My time at the Angelicum and the focus on the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas have helped me to inculcate in the students a love for the truth and a passion for theology. They have many questions regarding faith and it has been one of the greatest joys of my priesthood to help them in their search for answers.

I’m grateful for all that I received from my time at the Ange and I hope one day to see one of our students study there. Please keep our ministry in your prayers and follow the Ragin’ Cajun Catholics on Facebook and Instagram.
Brian Gillen Reflects on Impact of Receiving a William E. Simon Scholarship  
Written by Brian Gillen who earned his S.T.D. from the Angelicum in 2013.

I recall the first day of my doctoral seminar and the professor stating that over ninety percent of the people in attendance that day would not complete a doctorate. Some for good reasons too. He likened a doctoral dissertation to a marathon. People, he explained, over the years, would have many reasons to drop out. Life events would inevitably set them in different directions. My reason for not crossing the finish line, I knew, would be financial. To successfully engage as a doctoral student requires money, it is a simple fact. I tried everything from teaching English to tour guiding but jobs were practically nonexistent.

Being a recipient of the William E. Simon scholarship was an enormous financial relief that encouraged my commitment and determination to complete my studies. Taking some of the pressure from rent, tuition and other expenses allowed for a refocusing of my energies that acted, as what I can only describe, as a life preserver.

After defending my doctorate dissertation, summa cum laude, I taught at Iona College and Seton Hall University. Also, a leading publisher in England has since published my thesis and I am now proud to call myself a published author. A Theology of Wonder: G.K. Chesterton’s Response to Nihilism, is a refutation of moral relativism, and a presentation of some of G.K.’s most impressive reflections on the wonder of existence.

I am reminded of a wonderful statement made once by G.K. Chesterton. It is a statement of vision. He wrote: “At the back of our brains there is a forgotten blaze or burst of astonishment at our own existence. The object of the artistic and spiritual life is to dig for that submerged sunrise of wonder.” These words articulate, in a way I could never hope to express myself, my own passionate ambition and aim as a teacher. I am forever grateful to the William E. Simon scholarship. It is wonderfully refreshing to know that there are people in this world who actually care and are willing to support the endeavor I undertook.
The Angelicum motto, caritas veritatis (love of truth), summarizes my experiences at the Angelicum, especially when the phrase is understood in the original Thomistic context. Thomas Aquinas borrowed the words from Augustine and employed them when discussing whether the active or contemplative life is more excellent (Summa Theologicae II-II q182 a1 ad3).

As one might expect, contemplation wins the day, yet not to the exclusion of active charity, for both Augustine and Thomas agree that while “caritas veritatis seeks holy leisure,” the just man does not neglect honest toil when charity demands it.

Many years ago, while a student at the Angelicum, I had the opportunity to partake in the holy leisure required for theological study. Lest current students rebuke me, I am not negating the challenges of academic study. But most students realize that their time in Rome is a gift, one which often coincides with the sacrifice of others: bishops and religious superiors have assignments waiting to be filled; fellow priests and religious take on obligations left behind; families of lay students may offer financial assistance; and for married students, spouses and children re-locate, all to enable men and women both young and old to study theology in the Eternal City.

Such sacrifices are not in vain. As Pope John Paul II often stated, studying in Rome extends beyond book learning. Rome offers a transformational ecclesial experience as well. Thus, after completing their studies each student takes back to family, friends, parish and diocese theological knowledge which is hopefully accompanied by a spiritual transformation.

Some of us need further transforming, and a second or third experience of Rome and the Angelicum, hence my current position as professor and vice-dean of theology. From this vantage point I am daily impressed by the witness of students from around the world who, after completing various levels of study, do not neglect honest toil and responding to the demands of charity return to serve their local Church in a myriad of ways.

The stories are as diverse as the nations and the individual students, but there are also similarities since at the Angelicum each student, in some way, experiences caritas veritatis, whether through interactions with classmates, professors, or staff – or perhaps an encounter with St. Thomas himself. Why not? After all, as Pope Pius XI noted in words inscribed on the majestic statue of Thomas at the University’s entrance: “Here Saint Thomas Aquinas the Angelic Doctor dwell as in his own house.”
Friends of the Angelicum

All are invited to join in support of the Angelicum University as a “friend” allowing you to receive benefits like the printed newsletter, electronic invitations to special lectures given at the Angelicum and an open invitation for an arranged guided tour of the University if you are visiting Rome. With your support and participation, we hope to enhance these benefits as we grow.

Support and Reconnect with the Angelicum by:

- Joining the “Friends of the Angelicum” with a donation of $50.00 or more.
- Ensuring your contact information is up to date.
- Spreading the word with fellow alumni or old and new friends of the Angelicum.

Angelicum University Councilors
Among the Dominican Order’s most generous benefactors, the following serve as leading benefactors and advocates of the Angelicum. With sincere appreciation for the generous commitment to Catholic education, the University recognizes these founding members of the Angelicum University Councilors:

St. Pius V Council ($50,000 and above)
Sue Ellen and Joseph Gianfrocaro for the Donum Dei Foundation
William E. Simon and Family

Blessed Hyacinth Cormier Council ($100,000 to $249,999)
Richard C. Colton, Jr.
Rosalie and Martin Edwards
Kitty Gaisman
Patricia and Robert Garvey
Alice and Peter Krause
Laurie and James Manhardt

Honor Roll
The Angelicum family expresses its sincere thanks to those who contributed generously to the University from Jan. 2014 through Sept. 2017:

- Indicates donors who have given in the 2017 calendar year.
- Indicates donors who have given to support the Fr. Val McKenzie Chair in the 2017 calendar year.

St. Thomas Aquinas ($50,000 to $99,999)
St. John Paul II ($25,000 to $49,999)
The Koch Foundation

St. John XXIII ($10,000 to $24,999)
His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl
The McCadden-McQuirk Foundation
The Russell Berrie Foundation

St. Pius V ($5,000 to $9,999)
Mr. and Mrs. Levere C. Montgomery, Jr.

Bl. Benedict XIII ($5,000 to $9,999)
Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation
Rev. Joseph Fox, OP
Sheldon Lykes
Mr. Frederick B. Negem, Jr.
Mr. Thomas C. Tougas
Most Rev. Allen H. Vigneron

Rector’s Circle ($500 to $999)
Rev. Michael Bielecki, OSA
Rev. Bill Byrne
Rev. Alan M. Guanella
Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Renee Kraemer
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy O’Donnell, STD
Yeran Rop
Linda Taggart
Rev. Marcel L. Taillon

The Dominican Nuns Monastery of Our Lady of Grace
Santisima Dominicans

Friends of the Angelicum (up to $499)
Francisco E. Aguilar
David C. Budinger
Dr. and Mrs. James E. Brown Jr.
Mrs. Julia Woodward Burka
Nicholas P. Cafardi, JD, JCD
Mr. Patrick S.J. Carmack
Catholic Diocese of Las Vegas
Sarah C. Condrus
Rev. Jason Crossen
Mr. Anthony Cuccia, O.P.
Rev. Kyle Digman
Christa Dohmen
Rev. Aidan N. Donahue
Mr. and Mrs. Glen Ernst
Mary and Michael J. Farley
Kati Fehrer
Deacon and Mrs. John F. Flanagan
Mark Hopkins
Ms. Carol L. Houghton
Rev. Donato Infrante
Mr. Braden Kluesner
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Patricia Maguire
Dr. Dee J. McGonigle
Monastery of the Infant Jesus
Mrs. Elizabeth Landis
Mr. and Mrs. Brian C. Laragh
Ms. Elizabeth Levine
Stephen O. Morrell
Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel and Shena Rossette
Rev. Edward F. Schaeffer
Sisters of St. Dominic, Racine, WI
Samuel Spiering
Bruce Trigga
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Voelker
Daniel Zaleski
PRAYER BEFORE STUDY OR CLASS
Grant me, O merciful God, that what is pleasing to Thee, I may ardently desire, prudently examine, truthfully acknowledge, and perfectly accomplish for the praise and glory of Thy name.
Amen.
- St. Thomas Aquinas

CONTACTS FOR THE ANGELICUM
Largo Angelicum 1 | Rome, Italy 00184 | Tel (+39) 06.67.021 | Fax (+39) 06.67.02.270 | www.pust.it

Rector Magnificus
Fr. Michal Paluch, O.P.
decdir@pust.it

Dean of Theology
Fr. Stipe Juric, O.P.

Dean of Canon Law
Fr. Michael Carragher, O.P.
decdir@pust.it

Dean of Social Sciences
Fr. Alejandro Crosthwaite, O.P.
agepr@pust.it

Dean of Philosophy
Prof. P. Serge-Thomas Bonino, O.P.
decanus.philosophiae@pust.it

Secretary General
Fr. Glenn Morris, O.P.
segreteria@pust.it

To support the Angelicum University, 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.”