

The ANGELICVM

NEWSLETTER OF THE PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS



Returning to the Angelicum



Fr. Corwin Low, O.P.
*Director of Development &
Mission Advancement*

Dear friends,
When I first walked through the Angelicum's doors in 2000, I was a layman encountering Dominican intellectual life for the first time. Though I was neither Catholic nor an academic, I was struck by professors who combined a deep knowledge of St. Thomas Aquinas with a clear desire to share the truth of the Faith. Eleven years later I returned as a Dominican friar and a student of theology. The experience was excellent, although it was obvious that the historic campus needed some significant renewal. I never imagined that I would one day return again—this time to serve its mission as Director of Mission Advancement and Development.

Now, one year into that mission, those earlier visits have become a helpful measure of how far the University has come. I have learned that the Angelicum's greatest treasure is not its remarkable campus, but its people: students from around the world, dedicated professors, Dominican friars, alumni, and friends who believe that Catholic intellectual life has something essential to offer our age.

I have also learned that mission advancement begins with listening. You do not simply want to hear about an institution in Rome; you want to meet its students, understand their vocations, and see how their formation will serve the Church for generations.

No place expresses this life more clearly than the central cloister. Before the renovations, it was already the heart of the University—a place of conversation, friendship, study, and quiet reflection around the fountain (that was rarely on because it leaked terribly). During construction, scaffolding and protective walls transformed that familiar space. Movement became narrower, and the daily inconvenience reminded us how much the cloister shapes our common life.

Now the cloister has emerged renewed. Its restored arches, fountain, colors, and garden reveal something that had been present all along. This is not merely a beautiful backdrop or a museum piece. It is a living space where an ancient tradition encounters new questions, new students, and new possibilities. I am delighted to share a glimpse of this transformation with you. Our historic renovations preserve the University's Roman heritage while preparing it to serve a modern, international academic community.

That same spirit of renewal can now be seen online. Our new website opens the Angelicum's doors more widely, introducing you to our academic programs, professors, students, events, and mission. I warmly invite you to visit angelicum.it and discover the Angelicum anew.

As I look toward the horizons ahead, I remain grateful to have returned—and grateful that you are accompanying us.

In Christ
Fr. Corwin Low, O.P.

◀ *The Angelicum community gathered in the central cloister on the day it was officially opened in late April, enjoying the restored space at the visible heart of the university campus. Photos: Peter Feng (1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12) and Don Elvir, Can. Reg. (2, 4, 9)*



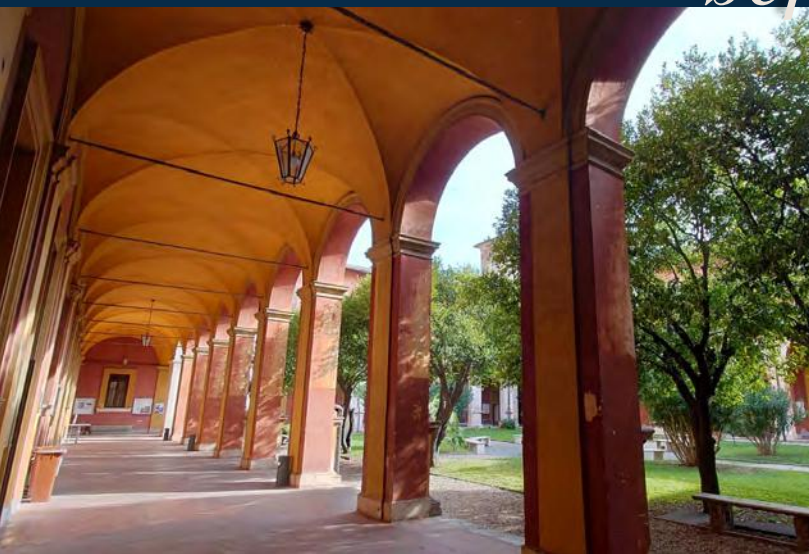
A RENEWED CLOISTER

The Angelicum cloister is the visible center of the university, a place to gather as a community. We asked our lead project manager, Cristina Puglisi of the ICR - ICC Firm, to explain the work completed this April and what they discovered along the way.

This spring we had the visible conclusion of the work in the cloister. The project involved a historical restoration to recover the original colors and design, as well as modern upgrades to ensure that the space was best adapted for the current and future needs of the university. We restored the upper walls, pillars, portico, walkway, central garden and fountain, returning them to their original appearance when the building was a convent for the Dominican nuns. We also made improvements which are less visible, like replacing or renewing the electrical, mechanical and sewage systems. We reinforced and connected the pilasters to meet the new anti-seismic regulations. However, there was a lot of preparation before we started any of this. We did an initial needs assessment for all the areas of the university in 2022 and prepared schematic designs for each of the projects on campus. The light cloister walkways that we enjoy today are a fruit of many hours of dedicated work by a large team, both from the university and various specialists and contractors.

In the garden, we needed to excavate one meter and a half (nearly 5 feet) to put waterproofing, which involved a whole system for rain water collection and drainage and also to renew the foundation of the fountain. This important step impacts the basement level, which includes the refectory and community areas of the convent for the friars, and also the library. We brought in a geologist to help us understand why these spaces are so humid. They discovered that some 16 meters (52 feet) underneath the university there is a layer of clay that prevents rainwater from draining further. The walls were absorbing this moisture, trapped in the lower levels of soil beneath them. The situation was exacerbated by outdated drainage from the roof of the building. We followed our geologist's recommendation for a long term solution and essentially turned the central garden into a swimming pool, with waterproofing all around to catch all the rainwater and drain it outside the building walls. This will relieve the humidity in the basement and return several spaces to the Angelicum that were basically unusable because they were so humid.

before



CLOISTER RENOVATION

We have many stories of what we discovered during the restoration, but the fresco of St. Dominic is a very special one. On the wall next to the main door, near the ceiling, there was a canvas of S. Domenico that was nailed in place. Artistically, it was a rather simple painting, probably done by one of the friars of the Angelicum in the 1900s. We removed it to protect it during the work, and underneath there was a thin layer of plaster that was painted a slightly different shade than the surrounding wall. The image was located in a portal frame. Before the restorations, it was gray and peeling, since it had been painted over many times, but when we got close to it we realized that it was a high-quality stucco. This made us think that there had to be something in the area that this stucco surrounded like a frame, and we decided to take a look. We used a scalpel to test a corner, and realized that there was a fresco layer underneath. When we tested an area near the center, we uncovered an eye, looking back at us; we found an original image of St. Dominic, from the 1600s. How could such an image get covered over? We are not sure of the full history of this image, but we can look at the history we do know. The convent was requisitioned by the State of Italy in the late 1800s and turned into offices. It is possible that they covered over the original fresco in those years. The building came back to the Dominicans in 1928, and the friars, naturally, wanted to put an image of St. Dominic in this space. They probably did not know what was underneath. The restored image is a treasure for our academic community, it reminds us of the intercession of this saintly founder and encourages us in the renewal of the spirit of St. Dominic and the vision of university education that follows in his footsteps.



In the city of Rome, which has so many layers of history, any architectural or construction projects that require excavations also require the oversight of an approved archeologist. And the cloister did hold some archeological surprises for us. We found a series of medieval walls in one area of the cloister. Among them, we also found the dumpster that the nuns would use. In those times, before there was garbage collection, people would dig a hole in the ground and deposit things in one area. We found broken pottery from the 1500s and 1600s, and also a few statutes and needles. We did not think that we would find that many things, because previous testing had not shown that these walls were present in the garden.



The garden is an important part of the cloister renewal. It currently includes several orange trees and also rose bushes around the central walkway. We are committed to caring for the garden using biological, chemical-free methods. Our project agronomist suggested that we release Lady Bugs (*Adalia bipunctata*) and Green Lacewings (*Chrysoperla carnea*) as a natural defense against other insects that harm the plants. The soil that we brought to fill in under the lawn areas includes worms and mushrooms, natural elements to promote healthy grass and tree growth. The benches that are placed around the fountain are a durable teak wood, designed to weather the sun and the elements. The central cloister was returned to the university community at the end of April, but our work is not finished. We have been discussing the important steps in the garden, like which plants to bring into the garden, and also preparing to return some of the archeological items that were originally in the cloister.

Angelicum renovations are not over with the cloister...

The university is undertaking key renovations in several other areas of the campus as it continues the second stage of major renovations. Fully-funded projects slated for the next few years include the library, which is now underway, and the Convitto residence, which will begin this Fall.



Learn more about other renovation projects that still need to be completed.

renewal.angelicum.it/renovations/

CLOISTER RENOVATION



RENEWING CLASSICAL BEAUTY



ANGELICUM



”

"The task of study will obviously be helped if the environment is conducive to study. At the heart of the place we have a wonderful cloister, and a fountain at the center of it. Also this university is open to the sky, which I think is one of the characteristics of Dominican theology and spirituality, a certain spirit of openness to the mystery of God and to the search for meaning in life in general. A great openness."

Fr. Paul Murray, O.P.
Professor Emeritus



Photo of the Angelicum cloister from the early 1900s.

Congratulations to our bishop alumni on their episcopal appointments this year!

Please join us in prayer for all our Bishop and priest alumni as they serve the universal Church spread throughout the world.



Archbishop James Checchio, JCD '98
*assumes governance as archbishop of the
Diocese of New Orleans, U.S.A.*

Bishop Louie Patalinghug Galbines, STD '01
transferred to the Diocese of Bacolod, Philippines

His Eminence Konrad Krajewski, STD '95
appointed archbishop of the Archdiocese of Łódź, Poland

Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, STB '03
transferred to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, U.S.A.

Bishop Daniel J. Miehm, JCL '96
transferred to the Diocese of London, Canada

Coadjutor Bishop Joseph Maluki Mwongela, STD '08
transferred to the Diocese of Machakos, Kenya

Bishop Patrick Ngwenya, STB '07
ordained bishop of the Diocese of Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe

Archbishop Luís Gonzaga Silva Pepeu,
O.F.M. Cap., JCD, '01
*appointed the first bishop of the
Diocese of Baturité, Brazil*

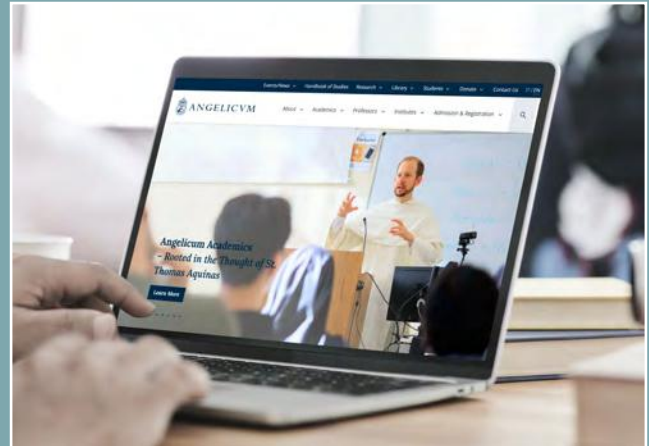
Bishop Gary R. Studniewski, STL '95
*ordained auxiliary bishop of the
Metropolitan Archdiocese of Washington, U.S.A.*

The New Angelicum Website Is Now Live!

The Angelicum is pleased to announce the launch of its new official website at www.angelicum.it. This represents an important step in strengthening the Angelicum's presence and mission in the digital sphere. Designed to reflect more faithfully the life, identity, and international character of our University, the site offers improved navigation, updated content, greater accessibility, and a renewed visual design.

The new platform highlights the rich academic, spiritual, and communal life of the Angelicum while providing easier access to information regarding admissions, academic programs, news, events, and institutional initiatives.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to this project through their hard work, creativity, financial support and dedication over many months.



Visit our website
www.angelicum.it



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 2, 2027

3RD ANNUAL AQUINAS LECTURE

Union League Club, New York City



April 6, 2027

AMERICA WEEK UNIVERSITY DINNER

Angelicum campus, Rome



Contact us at bconnolly@pust.it to get on the advance reservation list or for more information about these events.

Join the Renewal

The Renewal at the Heart of the Church Capital Campaign in Support of the Angelicum

The *Renewal at the Heart of the Church* capital campaign came into being to strengthen the Angelicum for generations to come.

This Fall, we ask you to prayerfully consider a generous commitment to this campaign.

To learn more about the *Renewal at the Heart of the Church* campaign, check out our capital campaign website:

renewal.angelicum.it

To download a copy of our campaign case statement and learn about our main campaign priorities, visit

renewal.angelicum.it/resources

Whatever campaign goal moves you, your partnership will help ensure that the Angelicum serves the Church with distinction for generations.

If you have questions about the *Renewal at the Heart of the Church* campaign, or wish to make a campaign pledge, please write to:

- **Eduardo Andino**, Chief Advancement Officer,
at advancement@pust.it or

- **Fr. Corwin Low**, Director of Development,
at development@pust.it.

A hard copy of our campaign case statement is available upon request. Please write to Eduardo Andino (advancement@pust.it) for more details.

During the past several years, the Angelicum has been blessed to undergo a renewal, as generous friends have invested in the life of the university:

RENOVATION

We have been able to restore our beautiful campus, including our 16th-century cloister, and provide adequate library, housing, and classroom facilities for our faculty and students.

ACADEMIC OFFERING

We have invested in academic chairs, bringing the world's top professors to give our students a faithful and rigorous formation.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship funds have allowed us to make an Angelicum formation possible for many students that otherwise would not have been able to study with us.

CORE PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS

New campus institutes give students a chance to hone specialties in ecumenical dialogue, faith and science, and the arts and humanities, among other areas.

HOW TO DONATE

To learn more or make a wire transfer online, visit:

ANGELICUM.IT/GIVE

Donations made by US citizens via the Angelicum's 501(c)3 charitable arm are tax deductible:

*International Dominican Foundation1
Galleria Blvd., Suite 710-B
Metairie, Louisiana 70001 USA*

"The Angelicum supports world-class scholarship, with students from 99 countries. Help us strengthen this crucial educational mission for the Church. Please contact us for more information about giving options."

Eduardo Andino, Chief Advancement Officer



Imagine the joy of knowing that your gift helped form the next St. John Paul II or Pope Leo XIV. That is the legacy that you are building, starting today.



Become a member of the Torch-Bearers Circle

Monthly Giving

Become a member of the Torch-Bearers Circle by pledging a recurring monthly gift to the mission of the Angelicum. A pledged monthly gift allows us to plan strategically with confidence as we seek to support the friars, faculty, and, most importantly, the students of the Angelicum.

To express our gratitude and draw you more deeply into this mission, we'll send you a package when you join. Here's what to expect:

- Torch-Bearers' Circle sticker
- Angelicum emblem sticker
- A Dominican Rosary, handmade in Rome
- Branded Rosary case



Visit angelicum.it/give to begin your monthly gift and become a member of the Torch-Bearers Circle Today!

Legacy Giving

We are eager to announce our new work with My Catholic Will, a partner providing guided support to those still in need of a will. We will soon be sharing a free opportunity for friends of the Angelicum, like yourself, to get excellent support on drafting your legacy. For more information, please contact Bryce Connolly at bconnolly@pust.it.

Be part of our renewal. Visit renewal.angelicum.it to learn more and contribute.



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

Cardinal Pietro Parolin celebrated the Mass for the close of the academic year. Learn more about university at renewal.angelicum.it/why-the-angelicum

CONTACTS FOR THE ANGELICUM

LARGO ANGELICUM 1 | ROME, ITALY 00184 | TEL. (+39) 06.67.021 | [ANGELICUM.IT](https://angelicum.it)

CONNECT WITH US:     

RECTOR MAGNIFICUS

Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P. rettore@pust.it

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Sr. Maria Silva, O.P. amministrazione@pust.it

DEAN OF THEOLOGY

Fr. Dominik Jurczak, O.P. decteol@pust.it

DEAN OF PHILOSOPHY

Fr. Dominic Holtz, O.P. decanus.philosophiae@pust.it

DEAN OF CANON LAW AND VICE RECTOR

Fr. Loïc-Marie Le Bot, O.P. decdir@pust.it

DEAN OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Sr. Helen Alford, O.P. decfass@pust.it

DIRECTOR OF THE HIGHER INSTITUTE OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCES - MATER ECCLESIAE

Fr. Daniele Aucone, O.P. preside@pust.it

CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER

Eduardo Andino advancement@pust.it

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND MISSION ADVANCEMENT

Fr. Corwin Low, O.P. development@pust.it

PR OFFICE

angepr@pust.it



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)