

EXPERIENCE, FAITH AND PROFESSIONALISM FOR THE EVANGELIZERS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW

#

ADRA

2022


Magazine

ATENEO PONTIFICIO REGINA APOSTOLORUM



VERITATEM FACIENTES IN CARITATE





### #APRA Magazine

Periodic Magazine of the Pontifical Athenaeum  
Regina Apostolorum year 2021-22

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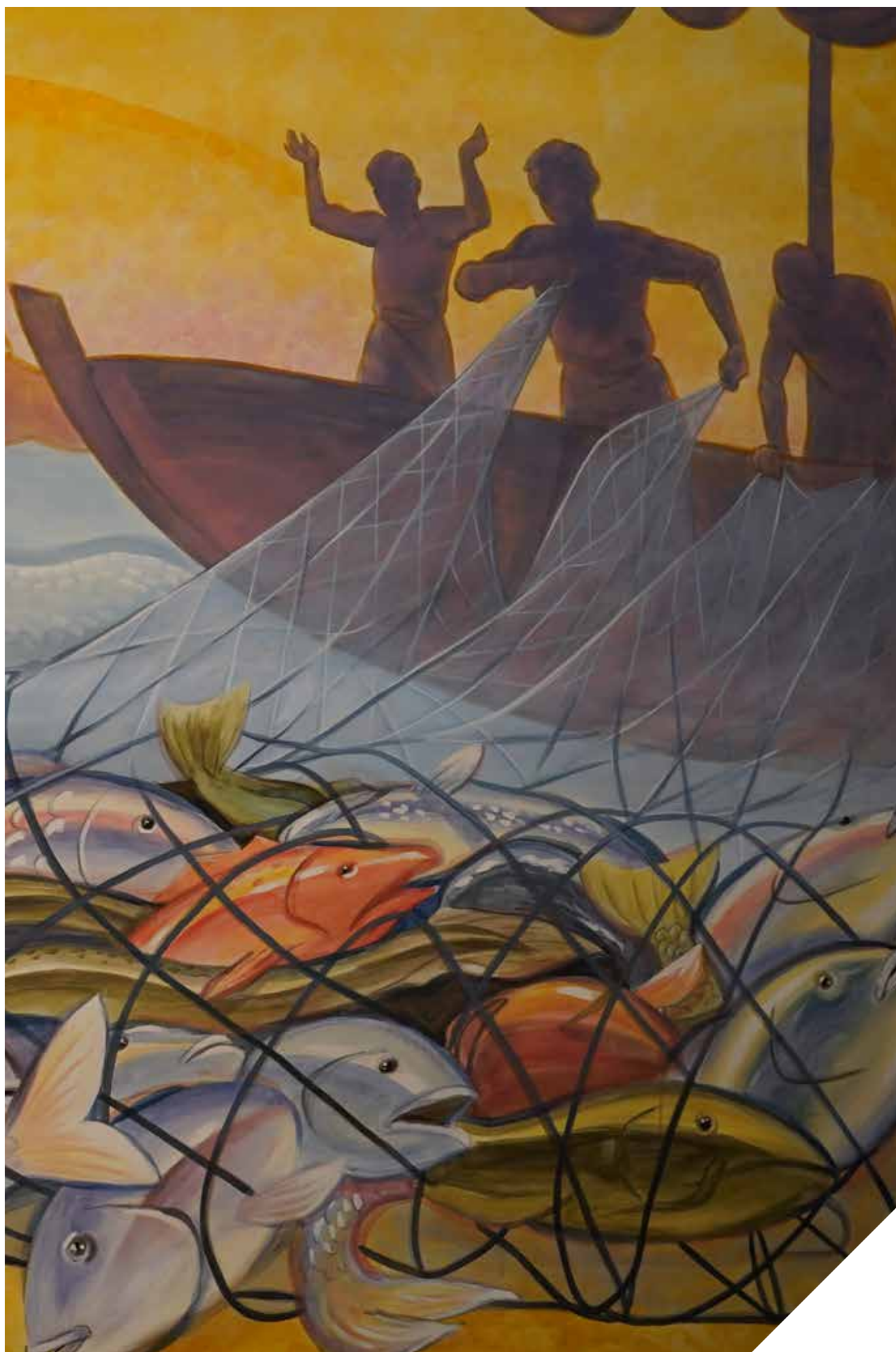
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# APRAFOCUS









# The integral path of Excellence

by Prof. Fr. José Enrique Oyarzún, L.C. - Magnificent Rector

Since its foundation, the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum has sought to respond to the various institutional tasks, all aimed at the search for the integral good of the person both in its individual and social dimensions.



**P**ursuing the good in an academic institution like ours means walking towards a goal, continuously seeking truth, harmonizing faith and science, and promoting true wisdom.

The goal is the perfection revealed by Christ, the perfect man, able to integrate all existential dimensions and lead to true freedom. In this light, we read some of the core values of our educational and cultural proposal, such as integral formation, the search for wisdom, and continuous improvement.

"The search for truth culminates in the search for the ultimate and universal meaning of knowledge and life" (cf. *Idarius*, no. 7). Thus, the unity of knowledge is more than just interdisciplinarity: it is about grasping the common fabric of knowledge and its orientation to the integral **development** of the person; we should never forget that the need expressed by Benedict XVI to "*broaden the horizons of reason*" means valuing all dimensions of life and reality.

As an academic community dedicated to professional

development, the Athenaeum cultivates human virtue, promotes **Excellence, Integral Good of the Person**, and serves as the physical manifestation of a true "*laboratory of mankind*" (cited by Benedict XVI, at the III World Congress of Pastoral Care for International Students - 2011).

However, it is fair to ask how to accomplish this task. It is possible if each faculty, course, student, and teacher share their experiences, aware that they are thereby contributing to the Good and mutual growth.

As Rector of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, it is an honor to ensure that the entire **Academic Community** lives its current study and research, anchoring it to the **values** of the **Christian tradition** and hopes for a future ever more human and oriented to evangelization.

To complete the path of excellence, we should continue to work together, animated by the awareness that "*... excellence is not an act but a habit.*"

(cf. Aristotele, *Etica Nicomachea*, II, 1, 1103).

# Commitment, Numbers, and Results

**A**mong the various objectives in the Strategic Plan of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum 2019-2024, some objectives are chosen each year as priorities for the current academic year. The priority strategic objectives chosen for 2021-2022 were: attention to human talent, growth, government, technology, and digital transformation. Throughout the year, the progress and advancement of the priority goals were reviewed. The first meeting took place on February 17th and 18th, 2022, and the second on June 16th and 17th, 2022.

Some projects and actions undertaken throughout the year in line with these selected priority objectives are: formation sessions for directors and leaders; the creation of an Integration Committee for employees; coordination meetings between department heads and the Board of Directors and Institute Directors; the academic projection of the professors and future professors of the Athenaeum; the formation of the Committee for strategic alignment and synergy at the Athenaeum; collaboration with other RIU Universities (Red Internacional de Universidades Anáhuac); development of the Distance Learning Department with the aim of offering online courses in different languages; the tutoring program of the Faculty of Philosophy; the revision of the General Regulations; the implementation of Zoho as an institutional working platform; the planning of a market research and analysis of the situation of the students in each Faculty and Institute; mapping of the internal processes of the

Athenaeum and the project of a single secretariat as a result of this analysis.

For the academic year 2022-2023, the following strategic objectives have been chosen: attention to human talent, growth, technology, and digital transformation and research. We want to promote the formation and integration of new and future professors in the activities and programs of the Athenaeum next year. In terms of digital transformation, it is hoped to conclude the implementation of Zoho's new technology platform for various institutional services. For the time being, this implementation has begun with this year's admissions process. It is hoped to carry out several promotion strategies to stimulate the entry of new students. Finally, there will be a particular focus on stimulating research among professors within the RIU.

The Athenaeum is preparing to celebrate its 30th anniversary this year. This also presents itself as a crucial point and as an opportunity to continue to grow in the mission received by the Church for its evangelization. For 30 years, priests, religious, and lay people have been formed at the Athenaeum to serve the universal Church. The various activities offered during this period hope to provide an opportunity to express gratitude to God for the gift received and inspire the community to continue with joy and responsibility with this mission. We entrust ourselves to Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles, to continue forming passionate apostles to carry Christ's message to the entire world.



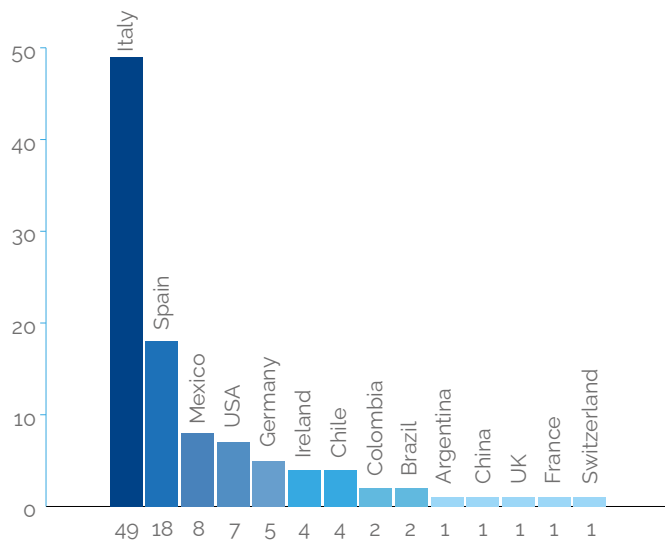


# APRA in numbers

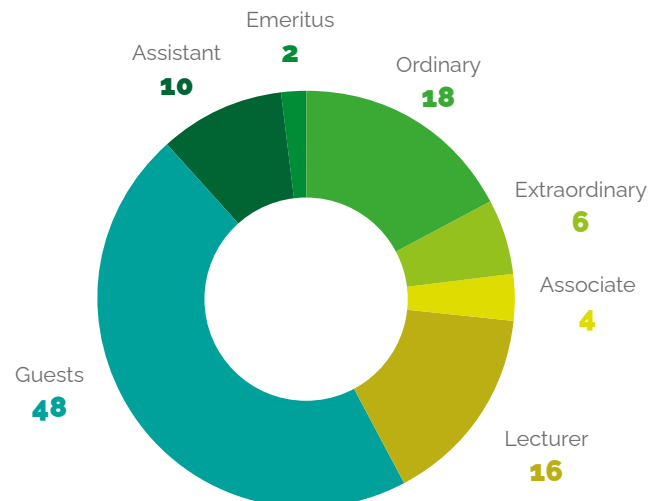
## A.Y. 2021-2022

### 104 professors from 14 countries

Professors by nationality

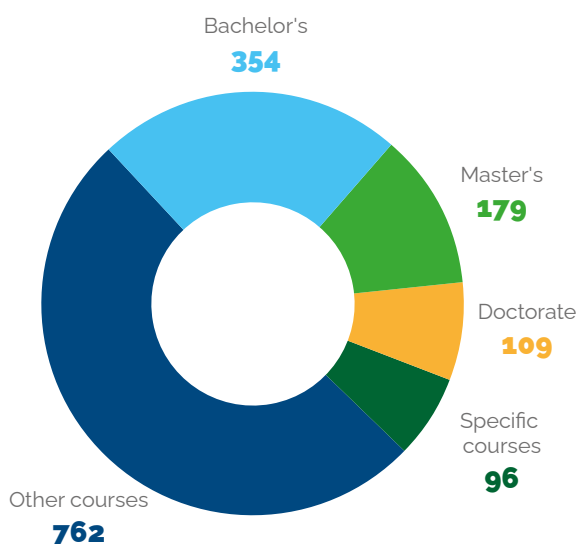


Professors by category

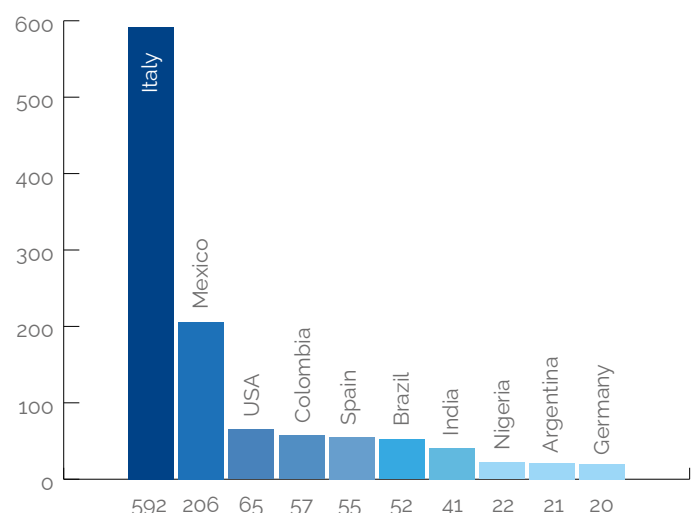


### 1500 students

Students by Academic Degrees



Students by nationality (first 10)



## Editorial

# In search of academic excellence

by Prof. Fr. David Koonce, L.C. - Academic Vice-Rector



«**Excellent!**» What does it mean? It can be an exclamation expressing happiness and wonder. As an adjective, it is an almost arrogant word, meaning being "superior to others or other things of the same kind, in merit, quality, goodness ... therefore, ... of great merit, of much worth, very good <sup>[1]</sup>."

Indeed, as an academic community, we want to offer a 360-degree university experience in which everyone, from the youngest student to the most meritorious professor, can say: studying at Regina Apostolorum is an experience of great merit, much worth, very good, and in the end - excellent! Now, it would be extraordinary if we were all excellent at everything. Is it possible for all students, professors, and services to be excellent? If there is such a university, I want to visit it because, undoubtedly, it is in some earthly paradise! We will probably never achieve perfection in everything, but we want to strive for it.

In the academic field, the excellence we want to achieve corresponds to a vision proper to our institutional Mission: to form people who exercise leadership in society and the Church and to create currents of thought that respond to the existential questions of our time. The excellence we seek is not any erudition on marginal issues, of interest only to a few experts, but something that produces value for the mission of evangelization in the twenty-first century.

Our primary goal in both **teaching** and **research** is to **provide rich and fulfilling academic experiences** for the members of our academic community. From this perspective, I would like to mention some initiatives in progress or planned for this year that will contribute to academic excellence.

First of all, in **collaboration** with the **Francisco de Vitoria**

**University**, we have started the 2nd edition, in Spanish, of the Diploma de Experto en Docencia Universitaria for the continuous **updating** of **our professors**.

Then, we are launching a **program** to engage and pay attention to **doctoral students in the faculties**, which will begin on October 11th, to improve academic production in the Third Doctoral Cycle.

Considering that research constitutes an integral part of academic formation at any level, we intend to provide more services so that our **students**, from the first years of their formation, can acquire **skills** according to their **self-formation** and their possibility of **contributing to evangelization**. We have changed the **plagiarism checking system**, hoping that the new system, **Turnitin**, with its integration with Moodle and Teams, will be even more used as a pedagogical and formation tool. In addition, we are currently finalizing a service contract with **Citavi software**, a very **powerful program for managing research projects**. My hope is that by putting this tool in everyone's hands, at least some will be able to embark on a **personal journey of growth** that will bear abundant fruit throughout their lives.

Will we be an excellent academic institution as a result of these initiatives? I recall Socrates' famous response when asked if he was wise; he declared himself to be a philosopher, a friend of wisdom. More importantly, we want to be a **community** that is **seeking excellence** and encounters something of "great merit, much worth, very good" during that pursuit—an **encounter that foretastes excellence**. We do not want to self-proclaim our excellence, but rather to be a community that is doing so.

[1] excellent in Dictionary - Treccani



# #WebinarAPRA

by Maria Selva Silvestri - Department of Institutional Development

To fulfill the mission of evangelizing the culture, one must immerse oneself in and thoroughly understand the reality in which one lives. For this reason, the Church and our Athenaeum cannot disregard the times and society to broaden and strengthen the Christian community. It is necessary to immerse oneself in current events and place oneself in an attitude of listening, openness, and understanding of others and the major issues that invade the community. The #WebinarAPRAs were created with this purpose in mind. This format combines technology and dialogue to allow for an in-depth discussion on a range of topics that are both of key relevance and urgency in today's society. The #WebinarAPRAs are online meetings to share, discuss and debate topics of broad interest where academic and non-academic experts can offer answers, add value and open new horizons. Through open and constructive discussion, debate, questions and answers it is then possible to understand different points of view and go deep into the topic at hand. The first meeting was held on June 9th. As the title

*'Mujeres e Iglesia: formación para la sinodalidad' (Women and the Church: forming for synodality)*

suggests, the Webinar focused on the important role of Women in the Church, an issue on which even Pope Francis repeatedly sensitizes the Church, promoting dialogue between women and men.

The second #WebinarAPRA, in the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court's 24/06 decision - Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health Organization ruled that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion and overturned the historic rulings 1973 Roe vs Wade and 1992 Planned Parenthood vs Casey - with the title *"Bioethics death and immortality, in the face of today's society"* addresses the sensitive and not always properly argued issue of the dignity of the person in extremely fragile conditions.

The next event, scheduled for October 6th, will address the theme of the family *"La familia: crisis y valores."* A list of online meetings is accessible to those interested to get to the heart of the issues surrounding our society, to understand and seek a synthesis that unites and does not divide.



## BIOETHICS, DEATH AND IMMORTALITY

June 27<sup>th</sup> | 17:00 - 18:00 (Rome)



online

2022



#webinar  
APRA



## WOMEN AND CHURCH: FORMATION FOR SYNODALITY

June 9<sup>th</sup> | 17:00 - 18:00  
Rome time



online

2022



#webinar  
APRA

# Gigantium humeris insidentes

*(Bernard of Chartres)*

by Mauro Bombardieri - Institutional Development Department



**A**ll progress in science is built based on the previous tradition.

The real revolution of this third millennium is that at all levels no nonprofit institution can think of surviving by operating in closed, standardized ways and without activating an openness within and outside itself that is the fundamental key to establishing trusting relationships with people.

**Education 2.0 is at the heart of the new educational and collaborative models.** Bringing out, disseminating, and developing one's Know-How is the central goal of every organization.

The economic and social crisis caused by the pandemic was added to the above scenario; after an initial period of confusion, large organizations equipped themselves to turn crisis management into opportunity.

The adoption of digital and external solutions by Pontifical Universities is unprecedented. In this context, the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum provides an ebook series as a tool for sharing an institution's mission, culture, and values, as well as enhancing dialogue and interaction with its audience.

The Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, with the creation of the ebook series, intends to enhance the ethics and quality of its work; use digital tools to evangelize culture; strengthen the concept of innovation included in its strategic plan while maintaining its tradition.

Pope Ratzinger, in 2010, during World Communications Day stated, "The more intense relationships modern technologies create, the more the digital world expands its boundaries, the more the priest will be called to deal with it pastorally." Pope Francis in 2014, also during World Communications Day stated, "How does 'proximity' manifest itself in the use of the media and in the new environment created by digital technologies?" I find an answer in the parable of the Good Samaritan,

which is also a parable of the communicator. He who communicates, in fact, makes himself closer. Moreover, the Good Samaritan not only makes himself closer, but he takes care of the man he sees half dead on the side of the road. Jesus changes the perspective: it is not about recognizing the other person as similar to me, but about my ability to make myself similar to the other person. Communicating, therefore, means becoming aware of being human, children of God. I like to define this power of communication as "proximity." In this world, **media** can help us **feel closer to each other**. In particular, the internet can offer greater possibilities for encounter and solidarity among all, and this is a good thing; it is a gift from God."

The main advantages of the ebook:

E-readers make it easy for people to carry many books while traveling "light" because they can store many books at once. Depending on the model and memory, an e-reader can store a variety of ebooks; however, most current devices on the market can store at least 1,000; purchase and download ebooks, making them instantly available; Set the characteristics of the text (font, size, space between lines, etc.). Read even in the dark or in dim light (in the increasingly popular models, equipped with adjustable front light). Look up a definition or translate a foreign word on the device (most have integrated one or more dictionaries).

According to the Italian Publishers Association's (Associazione Italiana Editori) annual report, the market for ebooks in Italy has expanded by around 27 percent since 2000. The temporary closure of bookstores due to the pandemic encouraged this growth, as did that of online book purchases, and it is believed that this situation may have changed the habits of some readers, bringing them closer to a format previously less considered.

The APRA supports digitization, allowing their ebooks to be distributed globally.



Conference Chair Arosio

# Divine omnipotence in medieval thought

by Prof. Don Alain Contat

Every year, around April 10th, the anniversary of Professor Marco Arosio's death in 2009, the Chair, dedicated to him, organized a conference on the 6th and 7th of April 2022: *Divine omnipotence in medieval thought*.

This issue is of threefold interest. First, it obviously has theological value because medieval thinkers, Christian but also Jewish and Muslim, reflected on the articulation of omnipotence with God's wisdom and love. Second, the exploration of omnipotence necessarily presupposes a certain kind of ontology, so that it cannot fail to have philosophical depth. Third, and finally, the argument also has an epistemological scope, both ascending and descending: how can we know that "God can do everything"? Moreover, what are the limits, particularly in the face of the natural sciences, of this power?

The conference brought together researchers from several fields to discuss these issues. Professors Hanoch

Ben-Pazi (Tel Aviv), Mustafa Abu Sway (Jerusalem), and Rupert Mayer O.P. (Gaming, Austria) offered perspectives of Jewish thought heir to Maimonides, Islam, and Meister Eckhart. Professors Alessandro Ghisalberti and Davide Riserbato, both from the Catholic University of Milan, from Italy to explain the teaching of St. Bonaventure, and the latter on John Duns Scotus. We welcomed Fr. Serge-Thomas Bonino O.P. from Rome, who gave a great magisterial lecture on the current status of the issue, as well as Professors Juan Antonio Gaytán Luna O.S.A., Francesco De Feo O.S.B., and Graziano Perillo, who explained the ideas of St. Augustine, St. Pier Damiani, St. Anselm of Aosta, and St. Albert the Great. Professors Carmelo Pandolfi, Rafael Pascual L.C., and Fr. Alain Contat represented the Regina Apostolorum Athenaeum. They discussed the perspectives of Pseudo Dionysius, St. Thomas Aquinas, and several 14<sup>th</sup> century *Nominales*.

## Women Enhancing Work Change

Study, analysis, and perspectives to make women's work a real factor of social development

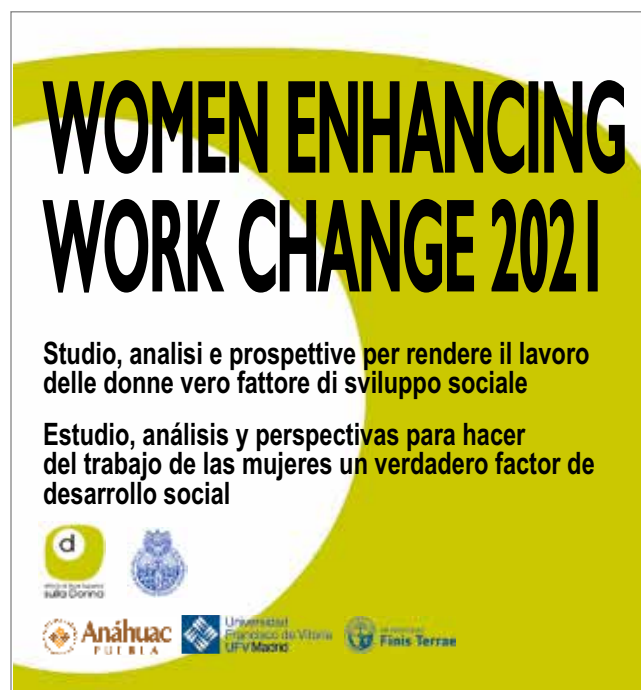
*"We cannot get out of a crisis the same. Either we come out better, or we come out worse; that is our option."*

(Pope Francis, 26-8-2020)

Simple, effective words require us to reflect broadly and face this pandemic crisis, especially concerning women, with a different look, momentum, and perspective.

On October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the "Women Enhancing Work Change 2021" project, promoted by the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum's Institute of Higher Studies on Women with financial support from a Mexican family, explored the pandemic as an opportunity to try to **reduce the gender gap** concretely and radically. It was a research work based on an interdisciplinary and proactive perspective that involved researchers from Italy, Spain, Mexico, and Chile, and experts from different fields. Each study group investigated three major topic areas in their respective countries: labor-social, economic-financial, and new and digital transformation.

FrancoAngeli published the results of his research in an Open Access volume, which is available online, and presented them to the academic community during this two-day event in October.



# Interdisciplinary Research Group in Neurobioethics (GdN)

Faculty of Bioethics and UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights

Since 2009 the Interdisciplinary Research Group in Neurobioethics (GdN), coordinated by Prof. Fr. Alberto Carrara, L.C., was born in the wake of the neologism coined by James Giordano. A reality made up of professionals and scholars from different fields who, through a pluri, inter and trans-disciplinary approach, address both the ethical issues of Neuroscience and the Neuroscience of ethics.

During 2021-2022, it has devoted its reflection, research, publication, and formation to the **critical in-depth study** of the **emerging scenarios** related to progressive **human-technology** hybridization: from developments in electroencephalography to magnetic resonance imaging, from brain-computer-robot interfaces to "mind reading" and so-called "cybernetic telepathy." These demands of robotics, the development of artificial intelligence, of the many applications of human enhancement, challenge today's man and woman who are called upon to know in order to make conscious decisions about the **direction** of **neuro-technological progress**.

Furthermore, the GoN organized a March conference



as part of World Brain Week sponsored by the DANA Foundation on the technological, neurological, neurosurgical, psychiatric, psychological, philosophical, ethical, bioethical, legal, and theological aspects related to the progressive hybridization of technology to the human body through more or less invasive neural interface systems. The main purpose is to become aware of the anthropological, ethical, legal, health, and social consequences and repercussions of such uses and interventions for human life.

## L.E.N.T. Ethical Laboratory New Technologies

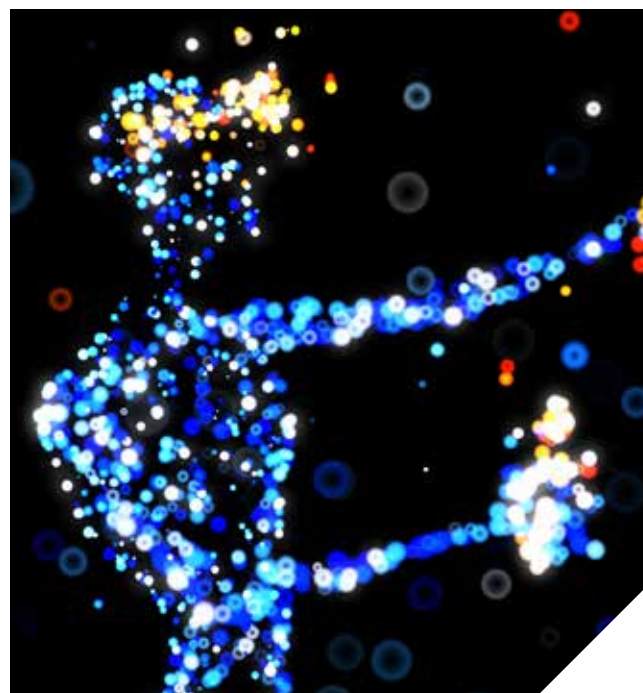
by Roberto Serafini - Institutional Development Department

The Ethical Laboratory on New Technologies (L.E.N.T.) was born within the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in January 2022. Its mission is to conduct projects of informative and formative nature.

The L.E.N.T.'s general focus is on the ethical use of Blockchain, NFTs, and cryptocurrencies, with the creation of an ethical culture with a Christian spirit regarding its use as a tool to engage the academic and Catholic world on a current and global issue, in synergy with the innovative evangelization of culture, to "invest in formation rather than information," as its goal (citing Pope Francis).

In particular, the L.E.N.T. has started to outline an initial methodological project for rating the activities of the major cryptocurrency exchanges in accordance with a "Rating" method, which establishes guidelines by outlining benchmark KPIs and defining various weights in the overall computation of the rating.

The top 10 Exchange companies, ranked by exchange capitalization, were the subject of the L.E.N.T.'s first panel, focusing on a hypothetical study exchange to be examined in "demo" mode.





## Prize

# Marco Arosio

The **Marco Arosio Chair in Advanced Medieval Studies** was established in 2010 at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome to honor the scholar Marco Arosio († 2009). The **Marco Arosio Prize**, now in its eleventh edition, was established in 2011 as one of the numerous initiatives supported by the Chair. It annually honors a monograph, either unpublished or published recently, based on the requirements outlined in the Call for Papers and the Regulations regarding the subject, the scope of the work, the author's age, and the Prizes' ordinary or special edition.

The Prize is **international**, and the languages accepted are French, English, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and German. The contents of the works in competition study **philosophical and theological instances related to the medieval period** in a historical key. Special editions were celebrated for the anniversaries of St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio and Dante Alighieri and the tenth anniversary of the death of Marco Arosio.

The award ceremony is held each year in April as part of a conference at the Athenaeum in Rome, allowing all participants to meet and compare notes. **The winner receives a cash prize, and the text, if unpublished, is published by the Chair** alongside other works deemed worthy of publication by the Prize Jury.

In recent years, the Prize has succeeded in establishing itself among the events of scientific debate while also conferring great visibility and **academic prestige** to the Athenaeum, thanks to the now numerous publications resulting from the various editions of the Prize, in collaboration with the IF Press publisher. Because of these opportunities, some young scholars have taken a significant step forward in their **professional development**. Dr. Nicolò Galasso won the current edition of the Prize with his monograph *Formal Distinction and Modal Distinction. John Duns Scotus' concept of the individual and the unity of the different*.



## Analysis

# Ethics in the world of Blockchain

The event *Ethics in the World of Blockchain* took place on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, following up on the previous event *Blockchain, NFT, and Cryptocurrencies. Will we know how to use them ethically?* #Weareready. The event featured **analysis and experts in the field**, moderated by journalist Alessandro Galimberti of Il Sole 24Ore.

The discussion was held in a mixed mode to ensure better involvement and fruition at this post-pandemic settlement moment. The event included the activities of the **Ethics and New Technologies Laboratory (L.E.N.T.)** according to the following guiding principles:

**a. Review the entire lifecycle of a project based on blockchain technologies**, undertaking ethical choices in the various steps so as to provide a benchmark for consideration by all relevant stakeholders in the field, whether public or private.

**b. Practical implementation in 3 STEPS such as:**

- 1. IDEATION:** sharing of possible implementation solutions.
- 2. DESIGN:** details of activities and definitions of development stages.
- 3. REALIZATION:** operational development and implementation in phases 2 and 3.

The L.E.N.T. intends to define a methodological outline for the classification of activities according to a 'Rating' concept, finding guidelines from which to start (both quantitative and qualitative), detailing in them reference KPIs, and defining weights for the incidence of each of these in the total computation of the overall rating, focusing on their ethical use.

We will begin with the following guidelines:

- Compliance with anti-money laundering regulations.
- Ethical purpose of the initiative (e.g., Charity, energy efficiency, protection of artistic heritage).
- Environmental impact of the technologies used.
- Transparency of information.



## Press conference

# Joint Diploma Women and Church

One of the Athenaeum's responsibilities is to investigate current events and issues of public concern, which require constant reflection and dialogue to be understood.

In consonance with Pope Francis, it is not the first time that our Athenaeum has devoted special attention to the vital role that women play within the Church. The Joint Diploma Women and Church intends to open ways of serious and serene dialogue on this topic and given its importance, to develop it in common with the relevant partners. The Joint Diploma in "Women and Church: Women and Men in a Synodal Community" is, in fact, a shared initiative between the **Institute for Advanced Studies on Women of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, the Pontifical Urbaniana University, the Pontifical Salesian University, the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Pontifical Faculty of Education Auxilium and the Claretian Institute of Theology of Consecrated Life.** It is also sponsored by CRUIPRO and the Academy of Catholic Leaders of Latin America.

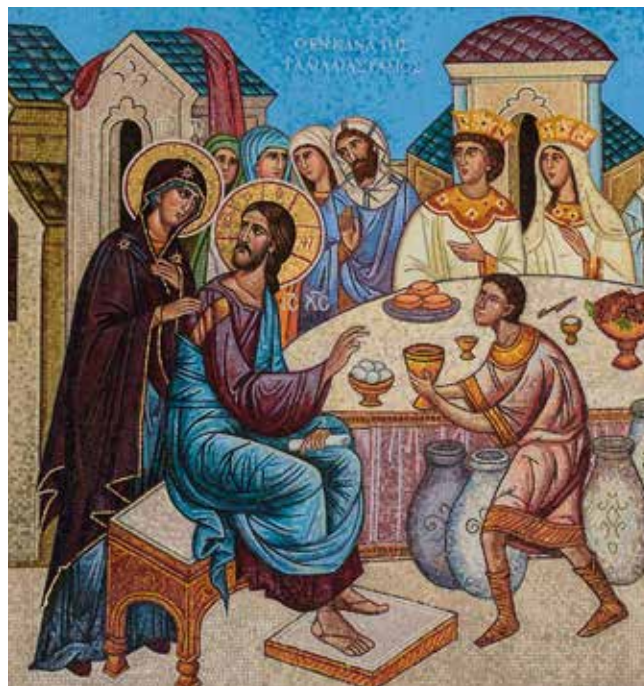
This partnership gave rise to the Joint Diploma Scientific Committee of Excellence, which includes some of the leading experts in the field: Marta Rodriguez, Coordinator of the Joint Diploma (APRA); Lorella Congiunti, Pontifical Urbaniana University; Anita Cadavid, Institute for Advanced Studies on Women (APRA); Catherine Droste, Pontifical Thomas Aquinas University; Mario Llanos, Pontifical Salesian University (UPS); Grazia Loparco, Pontifical Auxilium Faculty of Education; Gianrico Ruzza, Bishop of Civitavecchia; Nicola Spezzati, Pontifical Lateran University, Claretianum Institute of Theology of Consecrated Life.

The course deepens the specific contribution of women in the life and mission of the Church, in order to initiate processes of **mutual collaboration between women and men in ecclesial spaces.** This reflection is linked to the question of the lay faithful, raised above all by the Second Vatican Council and not yet fully lived. Aside from numerous examples of fruitful collaboration between men and women in the life and mission of the Church, there are cultural and other barriers that obstruct their reciprocity and effective cooperation. Furthermore, the Church is convinced of the need for women's input wherever decisions are made. The journey must begin with a renewed understanding of the dignity of the baptismal priesthood, avoiding the clericalization of the laity in general and women in particular.

Moreover, the Church needs to discover her feminine and maternal face to live her vocation fully. The horizon in which this reflection takes place is that of a Church that must make a **journey of conversion to synodality.** The question that forms the background of the Joint Diploma is: *"what is the role of women in this context?"*

The 36 hours of online formation aimed to provide the foundations, principles, and criteria that should inspire the promotion of women's contributions to the Church and the cooperation of men and women in ecclesial spaces. The general program structure follows a tripartite path: **listening, discerning, and acting.** In fact, the student listens as a missionary disciple to understand the current challenges in different contexts, crossing the lights and shadows of the situation of women within the

Church and of the collaboration between clerics and laity, enlightened by the gaze of faith and taking into account the fruitful examples of collaboration between men and women and the difficult recognition of women in different geographical contexts. He will have to discern to understand the causes of these challenges (cultural, historical, and anthropological factors), the foundations, and the criteria to refer to in order to guide thought



and action; it will have to act to outline paths to follow, necessary instruments to walk towards the conversion and renewal of the Church, starting from the perspectives opened by the Second Vatican Council.

Several Workshops were held following the completion of the various modules that deepened **anthropological, social, historical, ecclesiological aspects,** and looked carefully at what the figure of Mary says about the identity and mission of women in the Church. These **workshops** were a place to discover and develop aspects of oneself, foster one's perception of one's masculinity or femininity, interpret the information received, and personalize a new way of relating and cooperating as a woman or man to-within Christ in the Church (acting).

The entire Joint Diploma Women and Church aimed to offer its contribution to understanding the relationship between men and women and to deepen their covenant in the ecclesial sphere from the novelties found within the Gospel. It sought to assimilate the foundations and guiding criteria of the **promotion** of women's contribution within the Church, to understand some expressions of **women's subjectivity** in the life and mission of the Church in different contexts, and to grasp **historical dynamism** as a prerequisite for overcoming anachronistic patterns. Through the understanding of the Catholic tradition in a hermeneutic of continuity in different epochs and cultures, new and attractive perspectives of women's mission within the Church were sought to be grasped from a renewed understanding of the baptismal vocation.



## Conference

# Spirituality and Culture of Italo-Greek Monasticism



On June 10<sup>th</sup>, the Faculty of Philosophy organized an on-campus and online conference entitled *Spirituality and Culture of Italo-Greek Monasticism* during which the book *The Last Romite* was presented. The conference opened with an introduction by the Magnificent Rector of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum followed by the Lectio Magistralis of Father Archimandrite Alessio Mandanikiotis of the Hermitage of Candelora in S. Lucia del Mela, Messina, who was honored with the great and angelic Robe. The meeting created a **space for dialogue between history, culture, politics, and religion woven into the organic exposition of Fr. Alessio Mandanikiotis.**

Spirituality is not something only about religion, but in the person, it is embodied in the multiple activities of the believer who lives in a history and breathes a culture. Archimandrite Alexis emphasized how all this is experienced in the Christian East through the spiritual heritage he inherited.

## Module for Journalists

# Information, Covid, War, and Bioethics?



Within the 20<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Summer Refresher Course in Bioethics entitled "*Bioethics, Death and Immortality*," the first Module dedicated to Journalists was held in collaboration with the European University of Rome (UER), with AMCI (Association of Italian Catholic Doctors) and Sibce (Italian Society for Bioethics and Ethics Committees) and in Media Partnership with Avvenire. The activity occurred on the two mornings of July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The idea was born from the need to fill a "knowledge gap" often present in **dealing with ethical and bioethical issues in the world of information.** Lack of knowledge and comprehension of specific topics fosters cognitive chaos,

frequently leading to inaccurate and biased information, fake news, etc. Therefore, it is necessary to clarify matters in ethical, neuroethical, and bioethical issues.

The Module's goal was to inform communicators about bioethical concerns. Journalists and bioethicists actively participated in round tables and group projects during their organized sessions.

## Reception of Andrea Bianco's sculpture

# Ecce Homo, according to the Shroud

On Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, on the occasion of the XV Anniversary of the inauguration of the Permanent Exhibition "Who is the Man of the Shroud?", the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum welcomed the sculpture modeled on the Shroud Face, created by Andrea Bianco, a blind artist.

The Event began at 4:00 p.m. with a greeting by the Rector, Fr. José Enrique Oyarzún L.C., and speeches by Dr. Giuseppe De Micheli, former Secretary General of the Opera di Santa Croce - Florence, the Director of Othonia, Fr. Rafael Pascual L.C., Prof. Emanuela Marinelli and the author of the work himself, Andrea Bianco. The words of the artist from Bolzano bear witness to the laborious creative process and are a window into the spiritual dimension of the experience of carving the face of Christ from the Shroud.

*"There were numerous dramatic details to be done on that Face. Beginning with a swollen eye like a boxer's and continuing with the stroke of the stick along the cheek, and then that strip of torn beard and the trickle of blood on the forehead. But the most atrocious thing for me was the crown of thorns. We are used to seeing images of Jesus with a crown of branches of thorns, but here it was an actual helmet covering the entire head. It cost me a lot of work, but it must surely have cost Jesus unimaginable suffering. At this point, I fully realized that the purpose was not to create a beautiful work, but rather a sculpture that would represent, as much as possible, the unspeakable pain of our God for the salvation of sinners."*

Andrea Bianco.





# Doctoral theses

The Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum was born with the desire to serve the Church and Society through the academic formation of many Pastoral Agents, Religious, Priests, and Laity, who every day commit themselves to the evangelization of Culture. We seek to offer a formation of Excellence that is measured not only by academic results or enrollment numbers but with a complete community experience centered on the person, the student, accompanied with care and dedication throughout his or her academic progress.

If we use the analogy of the plant, we might think of each of our students as ripe fruit coming from the common Church tree that, among its many branches, also includes our Athenaeum. All the fruits of this branch are equally dear to us. However, we feel proud to point out those

fruits that have reached academic maturity with the doctorate degree.

The Third Cycle is both the conclusion of a path and the beginning of a service: it is a conclusion because it crowns an academic effort of at least eight years in which the student has tried to get the most out of himself and the services offered by the Athenaeum; it is a new beginning because it marks the first step toward the academic formation of other students thus contributing to making the tree even richer and lusher.

The doctorate can also be seen as a demonstration of the strength of an organization when it successfully provides a service at the highest academic level.

With this premise, we take this opportunity to congratulate our students who published their thesis last year (October 2021- September 2022).

## Doctors of Philosophy

- **Carrara Alberto** with the dissertation *L'emergentismo compositivo o nidificato di Walter Glannon quale paradigma antropologico nella riflessione neuroetica contemporanea*.

## Doctors of Theology

- **Chacko Kaliyanyil Anoop** with the dissertation *Praise and Thanksgiving in the Three Anaphoras of the Syro-Malabar Qurbānā - A Comparative Study*.
- **Medina Vargas Armando Ahmed** with the dissertation *La relación del Don recíproco*.
- **Sameer Vikram Advani** with the dissertation *From Religious Pluralism to a Unity in Diversity. An exploration and analysis of Joseph Ratzinger's theology of religions*.

## Doctors of Bioethics

- **Dabou Mathias** with the dissertation *Sexualité et grossesse précoce en milieu scolaire fondamental chez les bwa du Mali*.
- **Guevara Gutiérrez Leonardo** with the dissertation *Donación y trasplante de riñón en Nicaragua, un acto de amor al servicio de la vida*.
- **Baggot Michael James** with the dissertation *Transhumanism, Thomism and True Perfection: A Thomistic Evaluation of the Admirable Aspirations and Lamentable Limitations of the Technocentric, Postmodern, Secular, Liberal Worldview of the Oxford Transhumanists*.
- **Losito Massimo** with the dissertation *L'ecologia umana al centro dell'ecologia nel magistero di Papa Benedetto XVI*.
- **Kubick Andrew S.** with the dissertation *A Catholic Bioethical Analysis of Uterus Transplantation*.
- **Sarah Irene Denny** with the dissertation *The Role of Freedom and Health in Women's Reproductive Healthcare and Birth Control Use. Integrating the thoughts of Margaret Sanger and John Paul II in Sex Education for American Adolescent Women*.



## APRACOMMUNITY







# Discernment and conformity

by Alberto Mestre, L.C.

A crucial moment of conformity and discernment is to know what the Will of God is. [...] Can the human being know anything about the Divine Will? [...] Is it possible to know even some minimal aspects of it? [...] Are we at the mercy of chance, fate, and *fatum* as with the Greeks? [...] God has revealed himself, even in a personal Revelation: the Christ. It is another matter to know what this Will consists of [...] and how binding it is, that is, [...] how obliging it is. [...] In a privileged way, we will accompany St. Thomas Aquinas in his investigation, treasuring all the baggage of Patristics, always founded in Sacred Scripture. [...] The topic does not end with this author. In the 14th century, a different way of seeing the Will of God appeared, mainly with William of Ockham, who took theological reflection in another direction.

**Alberto Mestre, L.C.**, Doctor of Theology, graduated in philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University, in Bioethics (APRA) and in "Philosophy and Educational Sciences" at the University of Barcelona, is a permanent professor of Moral Theology at APRA; professor of fundamental moral theology ISSR. He has published: *La conformidad de la voluntad humana con la voluntad de Dios desde la perspectiva moral en Santo Tomás de Aquino*, Rome (2012); and articles on the subject, etc.



Can the human being know something of the Divine Will?

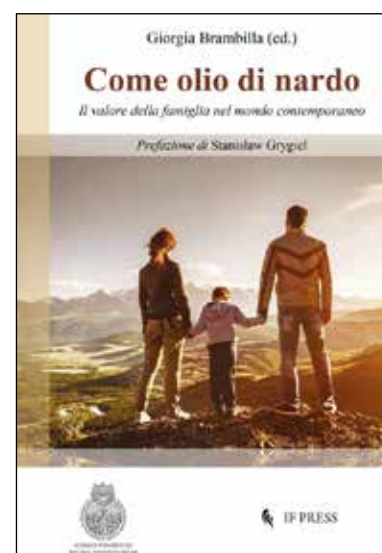
# Like nard oil

by Giorgia Brambilla, foreword by Stanisław Grygiel

## The value of the family in the contemporary world

The family is in danger of experiencing the 'liquidity' of this time by being swept away by the waves of the available and the manipulable in post-modern society. Affectivity is weak and at the mercy of emotionalism. Relationships are mutable because they are committed to the culture of the provisional. Identities are fluid, disembodied, and even digitized. However, despite relativist predictions and the continuous "obituaries" that certain ideologies continually dedicate to it, the solidity of the nature of the family continues to impose itself in the culture of all times. A family-friendly culture is, in reality, the best safeguard against any subjectivist or collectivist tendencies. Because in it, the value of the individual is always at the center, and the common good is attained without undermining the individual good, which, on the contrary, is free to grow in all its truth and beauty. In the year dedicated to the "Famiglia Amoris Laetitia", convened by Pope Francis on March 19, 2021, some professors of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, together with various experts on the subject, have decided to work on the elaboration of this multidisciplinary text, to help spread the "good fragrance" of the family, the cradle of human life, source of the good of the person, a beacon for society.

**Giorgia Brambilla**, married and mother of three children, is a permanent Professor in Bioethics and Moral Theology at the Pontifical Athenaeum "Regina Apostolorum" (APRA), where she is coordinator of the Master's Degree in Religious Sciences with a pedagogical-didactic focus. She is an adjunct professor at the Pontifical Lateran University, a former Visiting Professor at the "Sapienza" University, and a Subject Matter Expert at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata." She obtained his Doctorate in Bioethics and Licentiate in Theology with a specialization in Sexual and Family Morality. She is a member of the Clinical Ethics Committee of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital in Rome; She is also an ordinary member of the Italian Theological Association for the Study of Morality (ATISM) and the Italian Society for Bioethics and Ethics Committees (SIBCE). Among her most important research works: the handbook *Sexuality, Gender and Education* (Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane, 2015), published in three languages; the text *Bioethics from a Woman's Perspective* (Editori Riuniti University Press, 2015), winner of the literary prize "Le parole di Lavinia"; the monograph *Golden Eggs. Eugenics, the Big Business of Reproductive Health and the New Women's Bioslavery* (Editori Riuniti University Press, 2016) and the handbook *Rediscovering Bioethics. Understanding, Learning, and Teaching* (Rubbettino, 2020).





# Neurobioethics and sexual difference

Vv.Aa. curated by Giorgia Salatiello and Alberto Carrara

This book was born as the first contribution of the subgroup of *Neurobioethics and sexual differentiation* of the Group of Neurobioethics (GdN) of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum. The Neurobioethics Group has a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach. The different subgroups aim to investigate the main contemporary issues that attract the attention of neuroethicists and a wider audience of scholars and researchers. The subgroup of Neurobioethics and sexual difference develops its work starting from the conviction that both Neurobioethics and sexual difference are two themes from which it is not possible today to ignore for a thorough and non-reductive knowledge of the human being. Neuroscience, which, in its ethical implications, constitutes the object of investigation of Neurobioethics, cannot give us the last and complete answer to the anthropological and ethical problems raised by the difference between women and men. However, in today's context, their contribution cannot be underestimated or neglected in the context of a vision that wants to be integral and exhaustive. The subgroup is made up of scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds. It is precisely their diversity that constitutes the premise for a fruitful comparison and mutual enrichment, capable of leading to nonreductive outcomes, beyond any partiality of views. Among the questions that sexual difference raises for Neurobioethics, the one concerning the relationships between human sexuality and the brain is crucial: we wonder, that is, if there are structural and/or functional differences between the female and male brains, investigating the respective weight of natural data and socio-cultural stimuli. The volume collects contributions from almost all members of the subgroup.



## In the Library and Bookstore

The publications of our teachers and students this year have been enriched by numerous other titles available in the library and bookstores.

### Redditio Symboli series

Fr. David S. Koonce, L.C., *Padre, Onnipotente, Creatore. La teologia della creazione tra Dio e il mondo*; APRA editions - IF Press.

### Religious Science Notebook Series

Angela Tagliafico, *Farsi prossimo La compassione quale esperienza corporea e spirituale*; APRA editions - IF Press;

Laura Salvo, *Tenerezza di Dio. Crescere nella maturità affettiva e nell'intelligenza emotiva*; APRA editions - IF Press;

Maria José Chavez - Verónica Fernández, *Liberi per amare*; APRA editions - IF Press.

### Studies and Research Series

Nicola Della Nebbia, *Valutazione delle implicazioni antropologico-teologiche dell'ascesi cristiana in una prospettiva della teologia mistica tomista*; IF Press editions

### Philosophy Doctoral Thesis Series

Angiulli Stefano, *Dostoevskij pensatore. Una interpretazione orientale e due occidentali*; APRA editions;  
Carrara Alberto, L.C., *L'emergentismo compositivo o nidificato di Walter Glannon quale paradigma antropologico nella riflessione neuroetica contemporanea*; APRA editions.

### Theology Doctoral Thesis Series

Torres López Juan Antonio, *La visión personalista de la gracia en Juan Alfaro*; APRA editions;

Chacko Kaliyaniyil Anoop, *Praise and Thanksgiving in the Three Anaphoras of the Syro-Malabar Qurbānā - A Comparative Study*; APRA editions;

Sameer Vikram Advani, L.C., *From Religious Pluralism to a Unity in Diversity. An exploration and analysis of Joseph Ratzinger's theology of religions*; APRA editions.

### Bioethics Doctoral Thesis Series

Tommaso Mastrodonardo, *L'eubiosia versus l'eutanasia. Per un accompagnamento biofilo della persona (Estratto)*; APRA editions;

Shajan Varghese, *Medical Tourism and Global Governance: A Bioethical Study (Estratto)*; APRA editions;

Michael Baggot, L.C., *Transhumanism, Thomism, and True Perfection: A Thomistic Evaluation of the Admirable Aspirations and Lamentable Limitations of the Technocentric, Postmodern, Secular, Liberal Worldview of the Oxford Transhumanists*; APRA editions;

Massimo Losito, *L'ecologia umana al centro dell'ecologia nel magistero di papa Benedetto XVI*; APRA editions;

Denny I. Sarah, *The Role of Freedom and Health in Women's Reproductive Healthcare and Birth Control Use. Integrating the Thoughts of Margaret Sanger and John Paul II in Sex Education for American Adolescent Women*; APRA editions.

# Theology and synodality

by Fr. José Enrique Oyarzún, L.C.

FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO | JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

Since October 2021, the Church has embarked on a journey dedicated to synodality. Since it is a process that embraces the whole Church, theologians are also called to participate in and live this "ecclesial dimension." The theologian must participate actively, putting his knowledge and specific skills at the service of the People of God. This derives from the nature and mission of theology, which is born and develops in the community of believers.

One of the first essential services is clarifying, substantiating, and explaining the term synodality since some still consider it ambiguous and confusing. The International Theological Commission took an important step in this direction in the 2018 document in which it explains the distinction between synod and synodality, offering — for the latter term — "careful theological fine-tuning." It is a necessary effort to avoid misunderstandings and abuses that make synodality a passing "fashion," trivializing it. In this sense, in recent months, it is common to find the word "synodality" everywhere, forgetting that its often excessive and inappropriate use can provoke a reaction of rejection or even denial.

As the Theological Commission itself recognized, synodality is a noun coined in recent decades, used in various contexts, as a "new language" or, even better, an innovative language, especially if understood as a "constitutive dimension" of the Church (cf. n. 4).



Pope Francis felt the need to clarify and address it - regardless of what he had written in his speech to the Pre-Synod on October 9th - saying: "I confirm that the synod is not a parliament, that the synod is not an investigation of opinions." Clarifying and rigorously justifying the terms will help to argue the possible discussions and misunderstandings objectively and channel the richness that may arise from the different reflections and proposals. The needs go beyond "terminological" meaning and clarification. For example, the theological understanding of participation and the relationship between synodality and authority need to be improved. It is especially important to deepen the relationship between theology and the *sensus fidei fidelium*.

“

*Truth is *lógos* that creates *dia-logos**

”

They will direct their own way of doing theology by understanding themselves as part of a people with a common origin and goal. In this context, one concrete suggestion is to implement two of Pope Francis's criteria for renewing ecclesiastical studies, as outlined in the constitution *Veritatis Gaudium*: dialogue at all levels and networking.

Dialogue, set in the search for truth, is a necessary condition for living synodality. In the words of Benedict XVI, "truth is *lógos* that creates *dialogos* and, therefore, communication and communion" (*Caritas in Veritate*, 4). For the same reason, when doing theology, the theologian should seek dialogue at all levels. Specialization is a necessary starting point, but it risks becoming sterile if it is not open to dialogue with other specializations, schools, disciplines, and other cultures. Developing this professional competence will allow him to be a "promoter of synodality," dialoguing with various people, including all members of the Church.

Therefore, building a collaborative network is an application of moving forward as a team and completing a shared objective. By applying specific abilities, theological faculties may support the Church's evangelization mission and have a stronger influence by working together. Numerous ecclesiastical and Catholic organizations worldwide work together and always seek new approaches "to bring the Gospel proposition to the variety of cultural situations and to whom it is targeted" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 133).



# "Artificial intelligence" *versus* human intelligence?

by Fr. Alberto Carrara, L.C.

FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO | DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

## Studying AI means deepening what our intelligence is and why it can never be simulated

Fr. Alberto Carrara is Director of the Research Group in Neurobioethics of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome, Doctor in Medical Biotechnology and Philosophy, Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

Sophia is perhaps the most well-known artificial intelligence platform in the world. Its advanced Machine Learning system, "embedded" and supported by a humanoid robot with the apparent features of actress Audrey Hepburn can interact cognitively and even emotionally with us. Over the years, there have been numerous television interviews, and conferences at the United Nations and Saudi Arabia's parliament have even conferred honorary citizenship.

In the legal and ethical sphere, personal status could be attributed to a non-human entity if it demonstrates the capacities we have commonly or juridically chosen a human person to possess and manifest. Among all these abilities, there is one that has "motivated" since 1956 the American computer scientist John McCarthy to define the mathematizations of human manual and cognitive operations with the term "artificial intelligence." Together with Allen Newell and Herbert Simon, McCarthy contributed over the years to mathematize (that is, to produce what we now call algorithms) different aspects of complex human intelligence: from solving mathematical and geometric problems to decoding and reproducing some traits of human language.

Howard Gardner, an evolutionary psychologist, made substantial contributions to the theme of multiple intelligence. Furthermore, neuroscientific advancements incorporate the interdependent role of other organ systems and apparatuses to the coordinating centrality of our nervous system (the so-called Embodied Neurology). These contributions have resulted in the advancement of artificial intelligence rather than focusing on the prospect of constructing robotic organisms endowed with an intellect comparable to humans. They contribute to a more in-depth understanding of the condition of the human intellect, its peculiarities, and, as a result, the gap between what we are as a biological species and what we produce as artifacts.

The problem of imitation or reproduction of human thought has characterized the history of humanity: we have always tried to make up for our bodily deficiencies through the construction of artifacts. With the advent of the experimental method of the seventeenth century, the technique has become technology. From classical antiquity to the Middle Ages, from modernity to post-modernity, there have been different ways of solving the

problem of imitation. Certainly, Aristotelian logic did not foresee the idea of reproducing certain human cognitive activities, but it did consider cognition as a set of formal procedures. This realization was critical in the Middle Ages, allowing logicians such as Ramon Llull (1232-1316), Pierre de la Ramée (1515-1572), and others to view human thought and human cognitive intelligence, as a series of logical procedures of deduction and induction that could be formalized and thus reproduced even from what was not human. From these medieval developments on the logical quality of human intelligence derived the idea of being able to mechanize the human mind, certainly under this specific aspect, that of a formal logical order.

The idea that human intelligence is the result of elementary calculations capable of generating even very complex processes has been diluted and dampened little by little over time so that today's objective of AI is more limited, humble, and therefore real: the construction of machines capable of carrying out calculations useful for performing specific tasks such as, for example, visual recognition of objects; auditory recognition of sounds; the recognition of texts; the management and control of very complex processes, such as those of aircraft, spaceships, or space probes; the performance of activities such as those of robots, drones or similar equipment.

The famous thesis on intentionality by American philosopher John Rogers Searle (1932-) was anticipated by as much as fifteen years by the Italian philosopher of science Evandro Agazzi (1934-), who made an in-depth analysis and critique of the various approaches to this issue, particularly computationalism and functionalism, outlining his own articulate realist conception. Because computers and advanced humanoid robots like Sophia lack intentionality, it is not possible to claim that they have thoughts or feelings similar to those of humans.

Certainly, the evolution of digital and artificial intelligence is patent and is a good thing if placed at the service of the integral development of all mankind and all human beings. Certainly, complex machines are being built today that can perform very similar to human reasoning or purposive behavior in many areas of production, ideation, and the realization of goods and services. However, this similarity is confined to the ability to perform certain operations, while the difference that remains, and will remain, is the ability to give meaning to these operations and their results and to intentionally set goals for themselves. This is what makes our intelligence radically different from artificial intelligence.

1. Read more about "Sophia": <https://www.hansonrobotics.com/sophia/>

2. Read, for example, the two essays "Some observations on the problem of artificial intelligence" (1967) and "Operationality and intentionality: the missing link of artificial intelligence" (1981).

# The Pontifical Faculty, where you can learn the culture of care

by Melissa Maioni

BY ALETEIA | JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



Thousands of people from all over Italy gathered in Rome on May 21, 2022, for the National Manifestation "Let's Choose Life." This historical event, which is part of today's chronicle, should convey to us a certainty, not just an abstract idea, that life is not an outdated and "out of fashion" challenge, but a very current trend that is gradually spreading in those who have eyes and ears capable of being reached.

The protection of life is a contemporary challenge for everyone: on the social and political, scientific, and historical levels. Who among us believes that life is a precious good for everyone, not just the parents who will welcome it? Who among us is willing to bet on business models that meet the needs of large families by making their children the pride of the company? Who among us believes that our country's future and history are in the hands of mothers and fathers who, with great effort, contradict the politically correct, well-thought-out thinking offered by the media? What scientist or physician

would dare to make his or her profession a witness of service to the family itself?

Not many perhaps, but evidently some do. This is not only a hope but a certainty.

In the current European political scenario, we hear many talking about peace. However, it is always appropriate to keep in mind the words of the Holy Father: *"The culture of care, as a common, supportive and participatory commitment to protect and promote the dignity and good of all, as a willingness to take an interest, to pay attention, to compassion, reconciliation, and healing, to mutual respect and mutual acceptance, constitutes a privileged way for building peace."*

Furthermore, where does the "culture of care" come from? The Holy Father continues: *"Education for care is born in the family, the natural and fundamental nucleus of society, where one learns to live in relationship and mutual respect. However, the family needs to be placed in a position to be able to fulfill this vital and indispensable task."*

It is, therefore, important to create a **cultural view that protects the family and human life** from conception to natural death. **Universities carry out the care of culture:** they are the bodies that have the task of developing truthful thought, capable of interpreting human anthropology to the various historical periods. Even the **culture of care** is their business, and they must become aware of this role and responsibility in this sociocultural landscape.

This is the intent with which we carry out our faculty of bioethics and the dedicated academic programs at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum. Everyone can find in our educational offer a path compatible with their needs and expectations. We offer a **license in bioethics corresponding to the master's degree**, i.e., a two-year course that is held in ordinary or intensive mode, which can then continue with the doctoral path. For many years the **specialization course in bioethics** has been active, which **can also be done remotely**. Together with the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights, we offer **the Specialization Course in Neurobioethics, the Master in Global Bioethics in English, and the Mastery in Bioethics in Spanish**. In September 2022, there will also be the first edition of the **master's degree in Social Doctrine of the Church applied to the themes of life** in collaboration with the Finis Terrae University of Santiago de Chile, the Francisco de Vitoria University, and the Society of Apostolic Life Consecrated Laity of Regnum Christi. From July 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be the **Summer Course**, and this year focused on the **theme "Bioethics, death, and immortality."**

As Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, we feel this Mission very strongly, and we put ourselves at the service of all those who want to prepare themselves to respond to the call of the Holy Father and to be counted among those who form the people of life.



# The identikit of the post-modern teacher, do you know what it is?

by Laura Salvo

BY ALETEIA | JUNE 30, 2022

*"Teaching should be such that what is offered is perceived as a valuable gift and not as a hard duty"*

ALBERT EINSTEIN

The teacher is the one who imprints "knowledge" in the mind of the student, who leaves a mark, who shapes and conforms the person to a model and a way of life that prioritizes learning and knowledge, as well as the beauty of transmitting it. To become a teacher and guide, the teacher must be a passionate connoisseur of his or her teaching discipline, animated by the Grace that engages him or her in the creative dynamism of love and leads him or her to always seek truth and good for self and humanity. The Institute of Religious Studies (ISSR) of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, recognized since 1999, pursues the Mission:

To form Apostles in the service of the Church to bear witness to the mystery of Christ. To create currents of Christian thought in full communion with the Magisterium of the Church. To do this, the Institute constantly works on the motivation of the teaching staff, allowing the teacher to feel part of a community that welcomes, forms, and supports him in his mission.

The teacher is more than just someone who imparts ideas or knowledge; he or she is also someone who is close to his or her students, empathetic, especially in the language used to facilitate the teacher-learner exchange, promoting a circular dynamism that feeds the thirst for knowledge.

**Debate and exchange** in an **open** and spontaneous environment allow the **student** to investigate within himself and show all his doubts and perplexities that grip him today in order to perform well in his profession tomorrow. From this brief overview, it is clear that today, with all of the solicitations coming from the virtual world, the teacher is asked much more than the teacher of thirty years ago, a role filled with authority and professionalism even then. Today's teachers frequently observe that being in school every day is like constantly being in the trenches: today's students are difficult, families are not cooperative, and parents are not always present with their children. In addition to being very knowledgeable and up-to-date in his or her discipline, the teacher must be an expert in humanity with an exceptional ability to listen! What does it mean to be an expert on humanity? The phrase that Pope Francis used on May 18th, 2019, "The good shepherd has the smell of the sheep," comes to mind. Addressing priests, he said that today the Church needs to be Church, and for this to happen, it is necessary that each member feels united and responsible for the other, as everyone, clergy, and laity, we are part of the Body of Christ, each with his vocations.

These words can certainly be declined when applied to today's society, which is closed, individualistic, and only concerned with its own good. What effect does all of this

have on one's well-being or malaise? When we consider that depression has been the world's leading cause of death since 2020, the answer is obvious. However, Covid taught us that man becomes lazy when he loses his training: post-Covid fatigue is emerging in resuming in-person activities, classes, work, and conferences while perceiving the need to be with others as a demand and requirement.

Relationships are an opportunity, but they are also a challenge because they demand leaving one's comfort zone to be challenged by the needs of the other and to find a middle ground between one's own needs and those of others. Relationships are difficult because, in addition to time, energy, and communicative clarity, they require the development of many parallel skills such as assertiveness, empathy, knowing how to "listen," particularly to the other person's needs objectively, clarify differences if they arise, and look for aspects of convergence by seeking different solutions to the same problem. Relationships are carried forward with constructive engagement and a win-win exchange through evaluation and negotiation.

These interpersonal skills, which are even more important for professors today, require working consciously on oneself to learn how to communicate thoughts clearly, neatly, and briefly while avoiding ambiguous expressions and controlling emotional reactions of irritation and tension that can lead to defense and conflict in the relationship.

These are the fundamental assumptions that every teacher should develop because his life is filled with relationships: with students, colleagues, families, and authorities. But the learner still wishes for something more in order to be led: to be seen as a person, through an attentive, authentic, and clear gaze that speaks directly to his heart and tells him that his life "matters to us."

Today's children frequently grow up alone or with nannies; they frequently do not have grandparents because their parents moved to cities other than their hometowns; and, as a result, the teacher, when authoritative, prepared, and genuinely interested in their person, becomes the privileged interlocutor to open their hearts and give voice to all the fears that inhabit them.

Students look for role models, "masters" who can direct them on their way; they often do not know their talents, and live passively and without true passions, partly because having received everything from their parents right away has dulled their desires: they live without a plan, and all this demotivates them and "turns them off."

It is, therefore, critical to **work on the humanity and empathic and listening skills of the teaching staff**, so that they can be more than just "witnesses of knowledge," but a sprout of hope that provides stability and perspective in this disoriented and confused society, which has prioritized economy and success over meaningful relationships, because today's children grow up citizens of the world... but alone and rootless!

# The voice of the students



## Véronique Chevrier

### Baccalaureate Theology

*It has been a rewarding experience to study theology. As the only female student, I've learned a lot from my fellow seminarians and expanded my understanding and appreciation of my common priesthood, which I want to live better and more consciously. I thank the professors for all their unseen work in the service of our in-depth understanding of the faith. I'd also like to thank everyone who helped and enabled me to complete these studies.*

## Alán and Aarón Ríos Galindo, L.C.

### Baccalaureate Theology

*We've been studying at the Athenaeum for several years and consider it our second home, having earned both our baccalaureate and our philosophy license here. We were formed here to face our apostolic commitment, which will be our true school of life. We have gained experiences and friendships here, as well as much support from professors, whom we will always remember for their time, commitment, and formation; they will always be present in our lives and prayers. We leave the Athenaeum proud of the many high-quality formation opportunities we received, and we are confident that they will bear fruit with the many people we will meet in the future.*



## Vicente Toledo, LC

### Baccalaureate Philosophy

*Philosophy has been a time of great blessings and graces, both academic and human, in which I have grown thanks to the formators, professors, and people who have accompanied me on this journey. All of us will now begin a new mission, an apostolate, to further God's Kingdom by putting into practice what we have learned here.*

## Allister Lee

### Licentiate in Bioethics

*I am from Hong Kong and came to attend the Licentiate in Bioethics after earning a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Edinburgh. I chose this discipline because I am very interested in the philosophical and ethical questions that bioethics addresses, particularly, in human advances. The Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum seemed the ideal place for me to meet new people and attend the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights in which I do my internship centered on the politics of climate change and ethical modification.*





# Professional and human growth

by Sara Lovecchio - Human Resources Department



The focus of the Human Resources Department's activities in APRA - in line with the 2019-2024 strategic plan - is to develop a Professional and Human Growth Program for Administrative and Service Personnel to ensure a high level of **competence, commitment, and belonging** in line with the **Athenaeum's Mission of evangelization of culture**.

In light of this, we aim to complete most of the Department's initiatives related to **staff engagement and development**. One of the many initiatives we have designed and developed for 2022 is an **"Integration Commission"** made up of some of our employees, HR, and our Chaplain. This commission is focused on creating **social and recreational projects and initiatives** for employees so that our workplace is a place rich in both personal and professional **relationships**.

It is easy to recognize the importance and potential of relationships with the people we work with, and we take the opportunity to bring out these potentials and riches. We believe this is vital because so many of our interactions are taking place online and because we live in a fast-paced world where efficiency is highly valued. Technology can help with general life organization (both professionally and personally), but in our opinion, it should never take the place of real human relationships. We must, therefore, try to find moments to ensure that our relationships and interactions do not lose human depth.

This is the spirit of this project, baptized as **"Salt of the Earth."** This name wants to express an invitation to everyone to be "salt" in every environment in which it is located, particularly in the context of work. This means having the ability to "melt": eliminating the harsh and indifferent approach and isolation, contributing instead to giving a good flavor to what surrounds us with goodness, tenderness, acceptance, forgiveness, and courtesy.



Among the previously organized initiatives, we recall the **Audience with the Pope** and the **"Employee Day."** Moments in which, thanks to the active participation of our community, we were able to enhance individual personalities when dealing with others. However, our work does not stop here... we are already working on new proposals for the coming months in order to feel closer as colleagues and individuals, strengthening our human and cultural alliance daily.

## Joint Diploma

# Leadership: service through virtues



**Leadership** is both **opportunity** and **mission**. A special formation for tomorrow's leaders based on virtues is also essential in our Athenaeum's view of evangelizing culture. As a result, we host at our campus the **"Joint Diploma in Leadership: Service Through Virtues"** program from October to July. The Course, organized by the Athenaeum in collaboration with the Instituto Razon Abierta and the Vatican Foundation Joseph Ratzinger Benedict XVI, is aimed specifically at Priests, Religious, and Laity involved in ecclesial, academic, and educational levels who are interested in **leadership as service to society**. The underlying consideration is ethical: true leadership must necessarily be accompanied by the

adequate spiritual and human formation in order to bring a greater contribution to the whole community and to be able to be a point of reference for others. Thanks to the encouragement of the Congregation for Catholic Education, it has been possible to create an important collaboration between several Pontifical Universities, such as the Pontifical Lateran University, the Pontifical Salesian University, the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas and the Pontifical Athenaeum Sant'Anselmo. This collaboration among the various pontifical universities, led by Regina Apostolorum, emphasizes the importance of ecclesiastical realities addressing this type of formation as well.

The Course is organized around both practical and theoretical activities, with the goal of providing students *with hands-on experience* through **concrete and interdisciplinary activities**. Each student is also assigned a personal tutor who will actively guide him or her along the way. The anthropological foundations of virtuous leadership; the service of leadership in the contemporary world; the joy of justice in interpersonal relationships; the integrity of the emotionally intelligent leader; teamwork through total commitment to shared goals; and empowering virtuous team members to flourish are all addressed.

The Course is offered onsite and online, in Italian and English, to allow as many users as possible to benefit from the service, and several scholarships are available.

## Solidarity with Ukraine

# APRA and UER launch Tour4Peace Campaign

The educational community has shown tremendous solidarity in the face of the Ukrainian tragedy, which has also affected thousands of young people, many of whom have been forced to leave their country and, as a result, their studies. Therefore, the Pontifical Athenaeum (APRA), in collaboration with the European University of Rome (UER), has decided to act, like other educational institutions, by making **Scholarships** available to support the continuation of studies of **Ukrainian students**.

Moved by the **spirit of solidarity and service** and in continuity with the words of Pope Francis: **"Peace is possible, peace is a duty, peace is the primary responsibility of all!"** This year, the 'Tour2France' sporting event held in July, became an opportunity to support the 'Tour4Peace' Campaign dedicated to scholarships for students in Ukraine most in need, according to the terms governed by the 'Good Samaritan Scholarship' Call.





## Christianity & Culture 2022

# A life-changing experience

by Fr. Sameer Advani, L.C.

The Fourth Edition of the Christianity and Culture in Rome Course was held at our Athenaeum from July 18<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Course, intended primarily for the directors and professors of our international network of universities, aims to help them **reflect** on and identify more deeply with their **mission as members of a Catholic university in responding to contemporary evangelization challenges**.

To achieve these three objectives, the Course develops and addresses three aspects:

- First, a systematic study - historical, philosophical, and theological - of the concept and significance of what we call "culture"; of the various elements of the Catholic Weltanschauung, particularly its vision of the human person, the physical world, and God; and an analysis of our society's current situation from this worldview.
- Second, cultural visits to Rome and its surroundings to trace the main stages of the historical development of Christian culture. In particular: visits to imperial Rome (the Forums and the Colosseum), the catacombs of St. Sebastian, the church of St. Clement, the monastery of Subiaco, Assisi, the four major basilicas of Rome, and the cathedral of Orvieto with its Eucharistic miracle. These cultural-historical visits serve to concretize and enrich theoretical perspectives regarding the content and structure of the Catholic worldview.
- Third, various religious activities-daily Mass, the opportunity for confession, and a day of pilgrimage to encourage ongoing personal conversion through sacramental encounter and prayer with Christ.

This edition was attended by **29 Anáhuac University Network participants**, including faculty and administrative directors from Anáhuac universities in Mexico City, Puebla, Querétaro, Mérida, Oaxaca, and Córdoba. Members of the Anáhuac Network's central services (SERUA) and two UPAEP directors also attended. The course director, Fr. Sameer Advani, LC, was assisted by Brothers Andrew Torrey and Javier Villar, as well as the various professors who shared their subjects in the classes.

For Father Sameer, the course was a concrete experience of the kind of service the Athenaeum can offer to the universal Church and the Regnum Christi family. "During these two weeks, the presence and action of the Holy Spirit have been very palpable among us," he says. "Each of us has his journey: his story, his struggles, his fears, his talents, and his successes. I am convinced that it is, above all, the

*Lord who calls each one of us to meet him here in Rome, to renew our faith, to experience the riches of his love. The Mission of evangelizing today's culture is, above all and in the first place, the fruit of this personal and transformative encounter. To see this process take place in the heart of each participant - through the lessons, visits, and religious activities of the course - was a spiritual and apostolic renewal for me."*

However, the spirit, nature, and fruits of the Christianity and Culture in Rome program are most evident in the words of some Course participants. So, we conclude this brief reflection with these **testimonies**:

- "It has marked my life and provoked an ongoing inner dialogue about the kind of person, the kind of Christian leader I want to be."
- "The course is pedagogically extraordinary, and the educational narrative is faithful to the pedagogical purpose. The accompaniment with historical visits makes everything a meaningful experience, and the daily Holy Mass made everything a spiritual retreat."
- "This course has opened a thousand new doors that I want to explore. I had not dared to 'preach or share the Christian worldview' because my mind did not feel confident. Now my heart is crying to my mind, "Go ahead, we can, we must!"
- "What I am experiencing today in Rome is not a course; it is an experience of life and transformation."
- "There are not enough words to do justice to what I experienced there. It was a life experience that undoubtedly contributed to my knowledge of the history and vision of Christianity, but above all, it strengthened my faith. Today I feel very strengthened to know how to act as a Catholic in the face of the challenges we have in our society."



## RIU Meeting - Mexico 2022

# Regnum Christi University United to Promote Person-Centered Integral Formation

From July 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the General Assembly of the International Network of Regnum Christi Universities (RIU) was held at Anáhuac Mayab University; an organization formed by 15 of the most prestigious universities in the world: Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum

and European University of Rome (Italy), the Anáhuac Universities and the Pontifical John Paul II Technological Institute for Marriage and Family (Mexico), Francisco de Vitoria University (Spain), Finis Terrae University (Chile) and Divine Mercy University (United States).



More than 30 leaders from various institutions attended the meeting with the goal of weaving a fruitful collaboration aimed at education as the backbone of integral formation, promotion, and development of every student in today's society. Our Magnificent Rector Fr. José Enrique Oyarzún, L.C. attended the meeting as RIU advisor, along with President Prof. José Mata Temoltzín and Vice President Dr. Christian Nazer. Other authorities invited to the event were Fr. John Connor, L.C., Director General of the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ; Nancy Nohrden, Director General of the Consecrated Laity of Regnum Christi; and Félix Gómez Rueda, Director General of the Consecrated Laity of Regnum Christi. Their presence was crucial in bringing the strategic plan and efforts together in support of **integral formation and person-centered education**. Local authorities were also present to cement partnerships in tourism, technology, and education.

# Didactic transformation, a response to the change of the era

by Laura Dalfollo - Distance and online formation department

The Athenaeum's commitment to the dissemination of Christian culture through research and in-depth study of Revelation in dialogue with the contemporary world requires a continuous revision of its methods and tools in order to always be able to respond to contemporary questions.

The Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum (APRA) has always been aware of the opportunities that technological progress can provide for the educational mission. In fact, already in the late 1990s, some courses were transmitted in synchronic mode thanks to the satellite network, anticipating what we experience today as Distance Education.

Great progress has been made in terms of tools over the last three decades. However, there is no shortage of insights into the teaching methodology that comes with technological innovation.

Pope Francis reminds us in his Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* that *"Today we are not only living in an era of change but a real change of era, marked by an overall anthropological and socio-environmental crisis, in which we find more and more symptoms of a breaking point every day, due to the great speed of change and degradation [...] This massive and unpostponable task calls for, on the cultural level of academic education and scientific inquiry, the generous and convergent commitment to a radical paradigm shift or, rather, to a courageous cultural revolution. In this commitment, the World Network of Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties is called to bring the decisive contribution of the leaven, salt, and light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the living Tradition of the Church, always open to new scenarios and new proposals"* (VG,3).

The search for new educational transformation strategies requires bringing changes that know how to graft into the educational paradigm present in the Athenaeum today to improve it, grasping the urgency of the times we live in. In order to this end, it is deemed necessary to have a development project in this area that allows for the coordination of academic offerings of distance education.

Coordination demands a **broad vision** capable of supporting the various Faculties and Institutes in their delivery of **Online Courses** while ensuring that each retains its distinct identity. The commitment is in guiding the search for the most appropriate teaching method, investing in the best technologies, and focusing on the ongoing formation of teaching and non-teaching staff in order to provide an educational proposal that is up to date and meets the needs of modern society while remaining true to the Athenaeum's mission and values.

2021\22 stood out as a year of reflection for constructing an APRA Didactic Model. Collaborations with Anahuac and Francisco de Vitoria Universities (Madrid) have been strengthened, with whom we now share the LMS Canvas Platform and various educational projects.

The year 2022/23 will be a turning point in the department's growth. Its realization will require a coordinated effort of Faculties and Institutes to improve the academic offer capable of reaching more and more people eager for quality education. In this process of renewal, the words of *Evangelii Gaudium* quoted in *Veritatis Gaudium* indicate the way, according to which today, *"an evangelization is needed that illuminates new ways of relating to God, with others, and with the environment, and that gives rise to fundamental values. It is necessary to arrive where new narratives and paradigms are formed"* (VG, 3b).





# Regnum Christi Encounter and Spirituality

A new look for the APRA-UER Chapel



The Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum underwent extensive renovations and structural changes during the biennium 2021-2022. All classrooms have been fully equipped with multimedia devices for distance learning classes, and some have been enlarged to better serve students. Among these innovations is the construction of the new chaplaincy, which serves as a place of spiritual formation as well as a meeting point and a place of peace for students, and has been equipped with larger, more welcoming, and functional spaces.

The focal point of the relocation was the project of the **new chapel dedicated to the Queen of the Apostles**, architecturally designed by Fr. Javier Mostaza, L.C., and embellished with elaborate wood inserts, Carrara marble walls, and onyx.

As the spiritual lung of the evangelization activity that the chaplains of APRA and UER carry out in synergy, the chapel has been enriched by a parietal artistic intervention created by the artists Erika Venditti and Diego Zanforlin. This project's second phase had been latent for some time, but it found its space thanks to the new location and the desire to make it even closer to university students.

The decoration began with the creation of a seat for the relics of Saints Thomas Aquinas and Philip Neri, which were donated by the Diocese of Rome. Erika Venditti, an expert in ancient iconographic art, set the two sacred fragments in respective panels decorated with gold leaf.

**The relics represent two pillars of university ministry: intellectual formation and heart formation.**

This was the starting point for the bolder **wall decoration** proposal advocated by UER chaplain Fr. Nicola Tovagliari, L.C., who involved the entire pastoral team in order for the project to be an icon of **Regnum Christi spirituality**. The general layout of the wall decorations was created by artist and collaborator Diego Zanforlin, who was inspired by some **Parables of the Kingdom** from Matthew's Gospel (Ch. 13).

*The parables follow one another from the entrance and along the interior walls in a homogeneous weave that accompanies the encounter with Christ present in the Eucharist. The last panel depicts the Sermon on the Mount as the culmination of the proclamation of the Kingdom. Mary stands among the disciples as she fulfills 'in fieri' her role as Queen of the Apostles, inviting us to listen to Jesus and, as at Cana, to do what He will tell us (Diego Zanforlin).* The artists Diego and Erika carried out their work with dedication and care, aware of the spiritual value of what they were doing.

*For me, this experience can be summed up in three words: honor, respect, and transmission. It is an honor to have taken part in such an enriching activity. Respect in two directions: respect for the people who enter this place of prayer and respect for the place itself, which is inhabited by the presence of God. Transmission of a message; a desire to deliver something that speaks to each of them, particularly young people. This is how I lived and continue to live this experience (Erika Venditti).*

# Collaborations and Agreements with Ecclesiastical and Civil Universities

The Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum has renewed or entered into the following agreements in 2021-2022 to enhance the quality of academic offerings and provide new educational opportunities for our students.

## Collaborations and renewed agreements

*International Network of Universities of the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi* (13 universities): research, development, and student exchange programs of the Network. In particular, collaboration in the design and elaboration of the *Cursos de formación integral e Ser universitario, Persona humana*;

*European University Association (EUA)*: participation through the *Conference of Rectors of Universities and Pontifical Roman Institutions (CRUIPRO)*; together with the *European University of Rome (UER)*: collaboration with UNESCO by hosting the *UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights*;

*Pontifical College Maria Mater Ecclesiae (PCIMME)*: an agreement that provides for the reduction of academic contributions for priests, seminarians, deacons, and religious presented by the Rector of the College.

*Caritas Institute Higher Education Hong Kong*: on-site formation courses held by university professors;

*European University of Rome (UER)*: collaboration and the release of the joint title of the I level Master in Philosophical Counseling and Existential Anthropology.

*National Autonomous Union of Teachers of Religion (SNADIR)*: distance attendance and discounts to religion teachers interested in the Diploma of Advanced Formation in Science and Faith of our Institute of Science and Faith.

## New Collaborations and Agreements

*European University of Rome (UER)*: collaboration and release of the double degree in the *Diploma of Higher Education in Science and Faith*.

*Pontifical Urbaniana University, Pontifical Salesian University, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences Auxilium, Institute of Theology of Consecrated Life Claretianum*: participation in the *Joint Diploma Women and Church* together with our *Institute for Higher Studies on Women (ISSD)*.

*Finis Terrae University of Santiago de Chile (FOT)* and *Society of Apostolic Life for Consecrated Laity of Regnum Christi*: inter-university agreement for the formation course of the social doctrine of the Church that issues the civil title of Chilean academic degree of *Magister en Doctrina Social de la Iglesia. Reflexión y vida*.

*Women Enhancing Work Change 2021*: Agreement for the development of international research carried out by the *Institute of Higher Studies on Women* with the contribution of Italian and foreign researchers and experts. *Franco Angeli* published the research (see article in the "research" section).

*Society of Apostolic Life – Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi*; "*Famiglia Dono Grande*": organization: planning the formation course "Marriage, a gift for the mission of priests."

*UNESCO*: agreement to jointly host APRAUER, the *UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights*.

# New Appointments and Acknowledgments

Serving the Academic Community has been the work of so many figures who have contributed to the growth of our educational offerings. In this brief space, we would like to communicate not only the replacement and new appointments to the faculty and institutional positions, but we would like to express our gratitude for the human contributions of each and wish the newly elected great fruit.

**On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, the Grand Chancellor appointed Fr. José Fernández San Román, LC, Prefect of the Pius XII Library, for a three-year term.

**On February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**, the Grand Chancellor appointed Prof. Giorgia Brambilla as an Extraordinary Professor of the Faculty of Theology.

**On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, the Grand Chancellor appointed Fr. José E. Oyarzún, LC, Rector of the Athenaeum, for a second three-year term.

**On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**, the Grand Chancellor appointed Prof. Angela Tagliafico as an Extraordinary Professor of the Faculty of Theology.

**On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**, the Grand Chancellor appointed Fr. Edward McNamara, LC, Director of the Sacerdos Institute, for a second three-year term.

**On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**, the Grand Chancellor appointed Fr. Aarón Robles, LC, Secretary General of the Athenaeum, for a three-year term.

**On May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, the Grand Chancellor appointed Dr. Anita Cadavid as Director of the Institute for Higher Studies on Women for a second three-year term.

**On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, the Grand Chancellor appointed Fr. David Koonce, LC, Academic Vice-Rector, for a second three-year term.

**On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, the Grand Chancellor appointed Fr. Michael Ryan, LC, Chaplain of the Athenaeum, for a second three-year term.

**On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**, the Grand Chancellor appointed Fr. José Fernández San Román, L.C., Dean of the Faculty of Theology, for a three-year term.

## Scholarships

# Concrete support for students



Scholarships are instruments at the service of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum's mission and are always awarded with this in mind, giving them their deepest meaning.

Every year, over 1,000 students arrive at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum: talented young men and women eager to expand their knowledge, strengthen their spiritual lives, and prepare to be leaders in today's society. In response to requests for help in order to study at our Pontifical Athenaeum, there are calls

for applications on our website to obtain access to the following **Scholarships**:

- **Pontifical Scholarships**, to support formation by both lay people and clerics engaged in the evangelization of culture according to criteria of academic excellence.
- the **Good Samaritan Scholarships**, intended for students who, due to financial difficulties, could not afford to continue their formation at our Pontifical Athenaeum.
- the **Sacred Heart Scholarships**, intended for the religious of the Legionaries of Christ who are in formation before priestly ordination.

## International Program *In Altum*

# Washington 2022

During the summer of 2022, Br. Darius Lawrence LC and Br. Nils Schäfer LC, both students of the Athenaeum's Faculty of Philosophy, had the opportunity to participate in the International **In Altum** Program in Washington, D.C. For one week each year, this **conference** invites and brings together **Catholic students and young professionals from around the world** with the goal of exchanging ideas on **current issues** to share **with experts** and **network with influential institutions**.

**In Altum's mission** is to bring together university students and young professionals to discuss how the values of the Catholic intellectual tradition and its social teaching can be applied in civil society and contribute to public debate through a multidisciplinary approach. The Program aims to create an **international community of leaders** who pursue **truth** and **wisdom** together by presenting **Catholic Church teachings** in **complex social relationships** and across **public and private spheres of society**.

Aside from the various lectures on free speech, human rights, religion, and politics, there were numerous

opportunities to get to know one another and explore Washington, D.C. together.

*"I take away the friendships made with the other participants, useful for my journey..." reports Br. Nils. " ... It was impressive to discover how each*

*individual takes great social responsibility in their country and embraces faith in their professional career."* In line with the motto of the **Duc In Altum Program**, special emphasis was also placed **on the intellectual depth** of the meeting to prepare the Mission of **reinfusing the Western world** with the **values of the Gospel**.

Br. Darius and Br. Nils are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this program, which was made possible by a generous **scholarship** from the Athenaeum.





## Teacher's Card

# Opportunities to access our specialized courses

Under Law 107/2016 ("Good School"), tenured teachers in educational institutions of all levels have a **€500 bonus** available to spend on formation and professional development.

Among the various options is to take advantage of the university's educational offerings in order to qualify and improve one's skills.

As a physical entity, the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum accepts the Teacher's Card for payment of:

- Academic Degrees
- Other Degrees (Master's Degrees)
- Formation courses (Diplomas and Courses)
- Single courses

The recently launched experience is already bearing fruit, with **30 faculty members** participating in our academic degree courses and other humanistic formation courses. It's been a good start, considering the numbers are still approximate due to some ongoing disbursements.

We hope that the ability to use the teacher's bonus will be another **service** that promotes the **continuing and professional formation** of the Italian professorate.



## ALUMNI

## Newsletter AlumniAPRA



# Alumni APRA

*Per diffondere il valore di un'esperienza e di una cultura cattolica condivisa, per rafforzare il legame e lo scambio di esperienze!*

During 2022, the *Fundraising and Alumni Office* developed the process of communication to the Alumni of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum.

We have sent the **AlumniAPRA Newsletter** bimonthly to more than 5,500 Alumni of degree or specialized courses, thanks to the implementation of the new CRM (but if you are an Alumnus and do not yet receive our Newsletter, write to us at [alumni@upra.org](mailto:alumni@upra.org) n.d.r.).

In recent months, we have created the 'AlumniAPRA' Group on Facebook as a 'Closed Group' dedicated to former students, reaching today over 800 likers, and now we also have our Instagram page (If you are a degree student, please send us your request).

We will also be able to keep alive our community of #AlumniAPRA who have attended and experienced the Athenaeum over the years by sharing these activities, spreading the value of a shared Catholic experience and culture, and strengthening the bond and exchange of experiences.













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VERITATEM FACIENTES IN CARITATE