

EXPERIENCE, FAITH AND PROFESSIONALISM FOR NEW EVANGELIZERS

#APRA 2023

Magazine

ATENEO PONTIFICIO REGINA APOSTOLORUM



VERITATEM FACIENTES IN CARITATE



#APRA The Magazine
Periodical informational magazine of the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical Atheneum year 2022-23

Direction
Maria Selva Silvestri

Editorial board
Ufficio Comunicazione Istituzionale

Articles
Father José Enrique Oyarzún, LC;
Mauro Bombardieri; Diego Zanforlin; Allister Lee;
Father Daniel Ochoa, LC;
Br. Sebastián Sánchez, LC; Rebecca Sarti;
Laura Valentini; María Selva Silvestri;
Roberto Serafini; Renee Pomarico;
Eugenia Álvarez; Don Joseph Baselais.

We thank all authors and collaborators for the drafting of this edition.

1 APRAFOCUS

Editorial *Integrating Technology for Integral Development*
Fr. José Enrique Oyarzún, L.C. - Rector 7

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Three-year Development Plan	8
APRA in numbers	9

GROWTH AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

<i>Philosophy license 30% online</i> Mauro Bombardieri	10
<i>Innovation for Evangelizing culture</i> Diego Zanforlin	11

RESEARCH

Bioethics, Multiculturalism and Religion <i>International Workshops</i> Allister Lee	12
Progress in technologies of genome editing	13
Man-woman alliance: limit, meeting and resource Institute for Higher Studies on Women	14
APRA and Research: a dimension of its own	14

EVENTS

UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights <i>Culture narrates migrations</i>	15
VIII National Congress of Medical Ethics and Deontology <i>Scientific and humane medical care</i>	16
Bioethics and Society <i>Una Vita per la Vita Award and tribute to Carlo Casini</i>	17
"Be Choral!" Pope Francis at CRUIPRO	18
Convegno Internazionale Cattedra Arosio <i>The Ipsum Esse in Thomas Aquinas</i>	18
Cultural Symposium - APRA with Acton <i>War and peace</i>	19
Doctoral theses for A.a. 2022-2023	19

2 APRACOMMUNITY

THE "VOICE" OF OUR COMMUNITY

Publications

Study Seminar Proceedings <i>Not leaving anyone behind</i>	22
Arosio Chair	22
Other publications	23
In the Library and in the Bookshop	23

Articles and Testimonials

<i>A conversation about art, inclusion, faith and bioethics</i>	24
<i>Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Global New Technologies Politics</i>	25
<i>Allister Lee at the Hong Kong University</i>	26
The voice of students	27
<i>Salt of the Earth - #APRAcommunity</i> Laura Valentini	28
Theology of Saints The farewell ceremony of Prof. P. François-Marie Léthel, OCD	29

#LETSCONNECT NETWORK

2022 CRUIPRO report Press conference	30
UCID and APRA network	31
RIU meeting Collaboration and Strategic Lines	31
<i>Our network is a human, spiritual and professional heritage</i> Maria Selva Silvestri	32

NEWS

Affiliations to the Faculties of Philosophy and Theology	33
Student Coordination is born	33
Fall Conference of the Notre Dame University	34
VI Meeting of Law Students of Arequipa <i>"Right to development: challenges and achievements"</i>	34
New opportunities for our students	35
P. Florián Roderó, LC PAMI Member	35
Nominations and Credits	36
APRA 30 th Anniversary - Start of business	36

APRA Solidarity

<i>A cycling pilgrimage...</i>	37
<i>A Christmas with new guests</i> Roberto Serafini	37

ALUMNI

Testimonials	38
--------------	----





Pedagogical and Didactical Innovation at the University:

Integrating Technology for Integral Development

by Prof. F. José Enrique Oyarzún, LC - Rector Magnificus



Furthermore, we offer the **Office365** package, which features a wide range of tools such as Teams, as well as many useful applications for teamwork and education. For instance, Teams allows students to collaborate on group projects, participate in discussions and share resources in a simple and intuitive way. This tool facilitates collaborative learning, by encouraging students into working together, in order to achieve common goals.

Concerning theology studies, we are providers of the license for **Verbum**, a complete virtual library promoting study and research in this specific field. Verbum offers quick access to a wide range of resources, such as sacred texts, commentaries, dictionaries and more, allowing students to deepen their knowledge thoroughly and effectively.

In order to ensure effective management of courses and promote remote learning, the University also uses **Canvas**, an educational learning platform and course management system (CMS). Canvas allows teachers to create **interactive content**, assign homework and evaluate students, all from a single **user-friendly and accessible virtual environment**. This platform integrates technology into the teaching and learning process, providing an extensive range of tools which allow for **customization** of learning and **monitoring** of the constant progress of **students**.

Apart from the digital tools, the Strategic Plan also includes a commitment for guaranteeing **avant-garde infrastructure** for supporting use of technology. All classrooms are equipped specifically for the use of technology during face-to-face lessons and for improving student experience in the attendance of remote lessons. This includes projectors, interactive screens, microphones and cameras for enabling effective communication and active participation of students, regardless of their geographical location.

However, it is important to note that integration of technology into our academic community is not intended to replace the central role of the student. On the contrary, all these tools and resources are designed for supporting the learning process by offering **opportunities for interaction, collaboration and customization** of the learning experience. APRA is committed to providing an **inclusive and engaging educational environment**, one in which technology plays a complementary role, facilitating the achievement of training objectives.

In conclusion, we acknowledge the importance of integrating technology into the educational process, for promoting the **integral development** of students. It is our intent to accomplish all this in compliance with **student centrality**, guaranteeing an **educational experience** of the **highest quality**, needed for preparing all students to the challenges of the modern world.

In the digital age we live in, technological development has taken on a role of primary importance in all our lives. It has become key, almost necessary, for educational institutions to adapt to this new landscape and adequately integrate technology into their educational process, in order to promote the integral development of all students.

Our University is actively engaging in this direction, with an offer of technological tools and resources aimed at supporting the formation and service to our students and teaching staff.

We acknowledge that the use of technology in education can bring many benefits, although it is crucial to do so in a conscious and purposeful way. It is not just about adopting technological tools for their novelty value, rather about using them in a strategic and integrated way for improving student learning and experience.

One of the main tools offered is the **Zoho platform**; the platform is designed for more efficient and user-oriented management, process simplification and for providing **better tools** for **organization, planning and communication**, thus optimizing the time dedicated to studies.

Three-Year Development Plan

Objectives, Results, Strategies and New Proposals for a More Sustainable Future

Institutional Development Department

"We can only do so little by ourselves; together we can do so much" (Helen Keller).

This is one of the most inspiring and motivational sentences for describing the beginning of drafting for our University's three-year Development Plan. A choral effort, which involved plenty of professional figures from the Academic Community with the aim of enhancing what is already present and finished, but most importantly of renewing, enhancing and distinguishing what still needs to be done. The "Development Plan" Document was designed as a map of APRA's potential growth, in which all Initiatives, Projects and future Activities are summarized in a consistent and shared way, according to principles of co-responsibility. The Plan's **purpose** was to outline the **strategy** and the **actions** to be followed in the coming years, consistently with its Mission, Vision, values and the Magisterium of the Church. The Plan addresses several crucial points; these are key elements for the growth of an institution, such as:

- definition of growth objectives;
- measurement of results and achievement of set objectives;
- proposals for new products to be launched;
- formalization of planning;
- presentation of the economic-financial plan.

Through this Plan, we have attempted to provide a **direction** to be followed for the future, with economic-financial

projections which take into account internal variables (services and organizational structure) and external variables (the reference sector and the macroeconomic trend of the market).

The periodic analysis of results will then also make it possible to identify the critical factors and the actions to be modified over time. Also definitely useful and fundamental is the **analysis work**, an in-depth study already started with Strategic Planning

- which has defined the Guidelines for its activities until 2024 - this is intended as lever for giving continuity to this work by meticulously elaborating all the elements useful for composing this three-year Development Plan.

We started precisely from activities which the University has been most committed to over recent years, such as: **academic quality, university education and experience, management and institutional development.**

During all the meetings aimed at drafting the Plan, plenty of comparisons, analyzes and debates - which lasted hours, months - took place among participants, allowing for even deeper knowledge of the reality in which we work every day, as well as for professional and personal growth. Presented to the Board of Directors and the Academic Council, the Plan represents a **moment of significant novelty** and a growth perspective for the University.

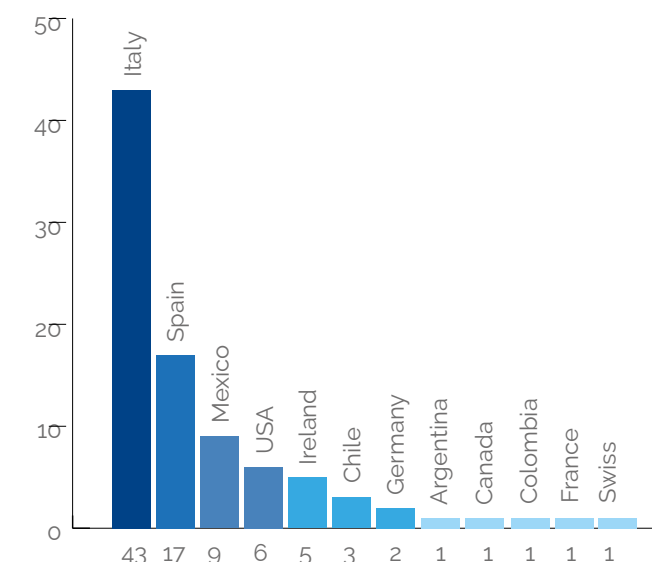


APRA in numbers

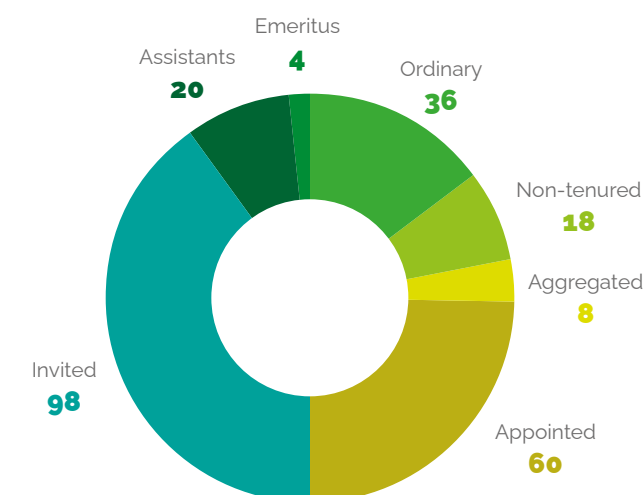
A.A. 2022-2023

122 teachers from 12 countries

Teachers by nationality

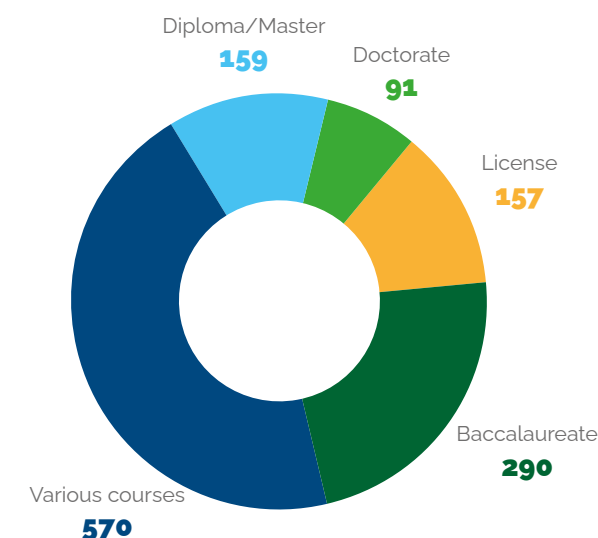


Teachers by category

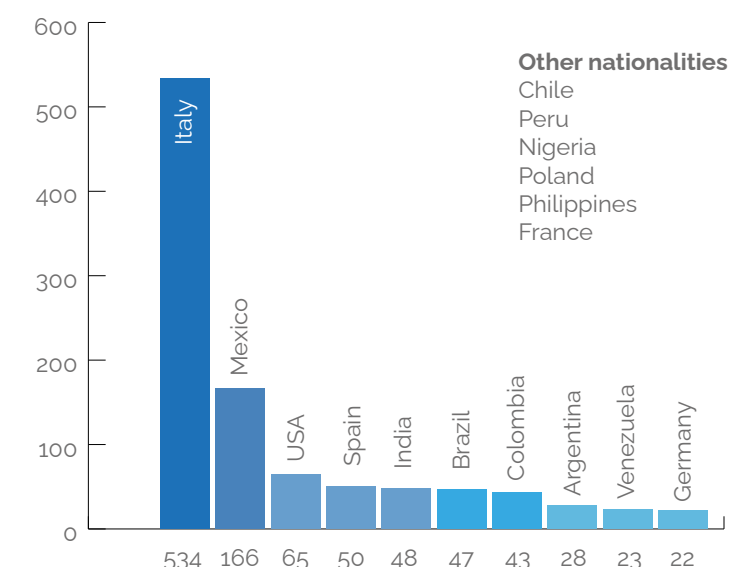


1267 students

Students by training cycle



Students by nationality (top 10)



Per caritatis ardorem datur cognitio veritatis

Philosophy Licence at 30% online

A concrete response to innovation and current needs
by Mauro Bombardieri - Institutional Development Department

Digital transformation is a broad and complex phenomenon, capable of forcing organizations to manage change, efficiently governing the opportunities arising from new technologies and the new trends which are redefining civil society, markets and the interdependence between physical and virtual environments. This change requires the development of new key skills for guaranteeing an adequate level of competitiveness and quality in the provision of training services. Equally, it is also crucial to define that the "online" cannot replace the "offline", and both must be integrated through the creation of new work processes and innovative organizational mechanisms capable of broadening the audience to which the training is targeted. Also for universities, digital innovation represents an extraordinary opportunity for change and acceleration towards progress. The main skills needed for managing the online training experience as a concrete response to innovation and current needs are:

- identifying the right technologies supported by the most fitting tools for allowing students to use a new method of thinking and reasoning;
- developing the ability to work in a team even remotely;
- developing the ability to teach both in a virtual and in-person environment, connecting through social collaboration platforms;
- interpreting digital transformation in a flexible way, as an opportunity for integration between traditional models and the need for innovation which is now widespread in

modern society, starting from the assumption that any innovation is a social process. In this context, the Faculty of Philosophy of the University, with the approval of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, provides for **new modes** of studying the ecclesiastical license. **Face-to-face teaching activities** will be concentrated in specific periods, and **30% of the courses will be available with different options**:

1. First year in person and second year remotely;
2. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in person; Monday and Friday online, for the entire Cycle.

The Faculty of Philosophy has accepted the crucial challenge of digital transformation, with the aim of responding to the three main issues that new markets present to ecclesiastical universities, such as: the speed of response to change, the ability to intercept the new needs of students and organizational agility aimed at making the innovation strategy coherent with the organizational processes needed for governing change without it governing us. The main benefits of integrating in-person and online training are represented by:

- involvement of a larger number of students;
- cost reduction and time saving;
- adoption of new tools in training and communication processes.

In the near future, almost all training processes will be performed online, using **new platforms**, artificial intelligence tools **integrated** with phases **in attendance** which will allow to **enrich** human relationships and the **process** of culture **evangelization**.

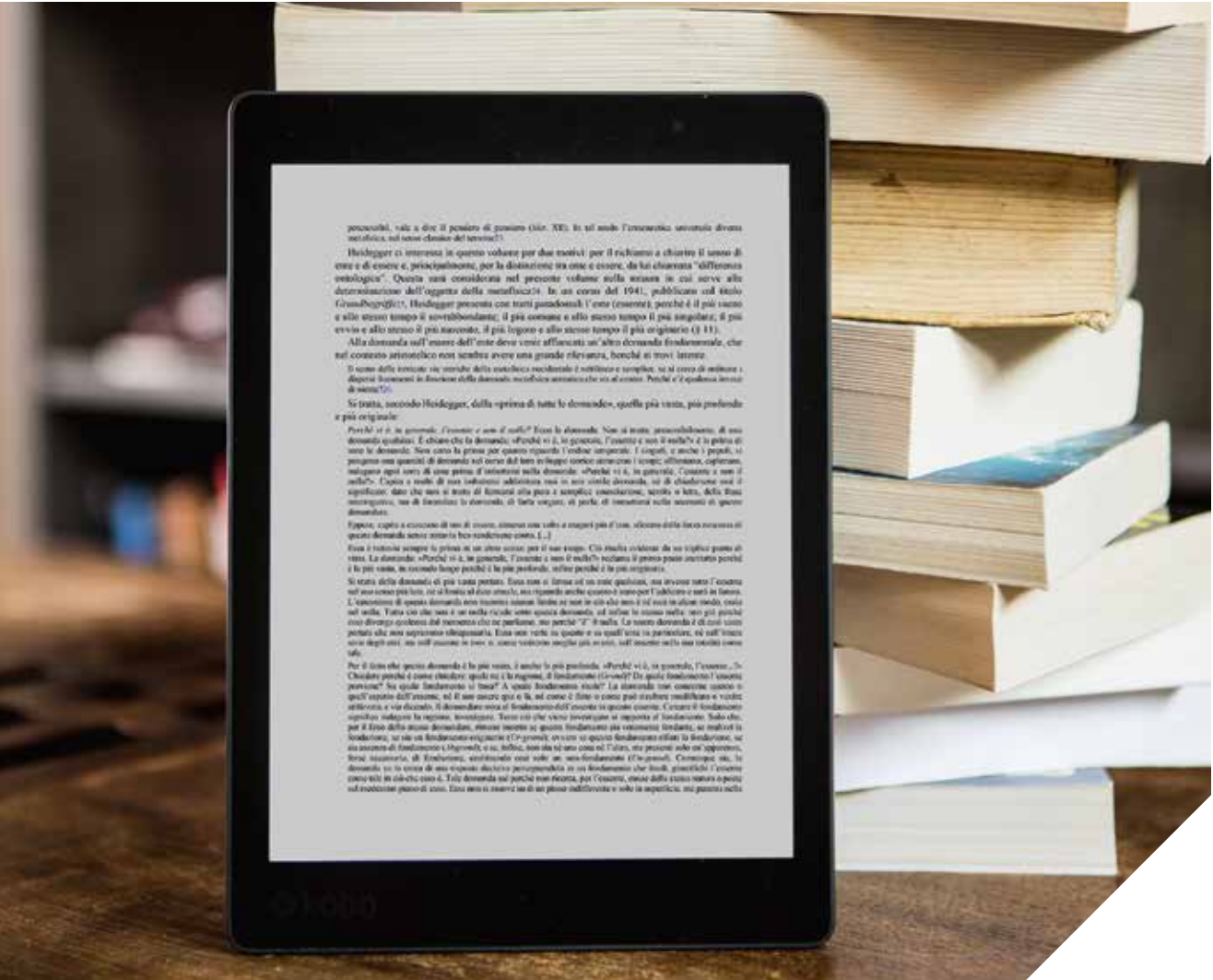


Digital Dissemination Innovation For Evangelizing Culture

by Diego Zanforlin - PhD student in Bioethics

Over the last 3 years, the world of e-learning has undergone an exponential surge and acceleration: like other universities and universities, we too have adapted to digital in order to face **emerging needs**. It's not just about converting courses and texts from analog to digital, but also about exploring new digital dissemination platforms. With this aim, two initiatives were born, the **APRA Ebook series** and the **WebinarAPRA**, which have passed the test and have reached hundreds of students and people interested in the topics offered. The series, now in its fifth publication, covers various topics ranging from **Spirituality to Politics**, passing through **Psychology, Pastoral and Metaphysics**. In digital format, the series reillustrates a selection of books by our teachers, usable both as teaching texts and as topics for ongoing training and dissemination. Through the APRA Ebook Series we have achieved

thousands of views and downloads. The APRA Webinars - online conferences with an international focus with a 1-hour format and translation into two languages - also dealt with different kinds of topics, acquiring popularity within the sector professionals to whom they were addressed. There are many projects which have just begun, as well as many others to be launched or in the process of being developed. We are working on perfecting the use of the Degree Courses, launching the Online Courses and updating our IT systems. Ours is a training offer which is constantly enriched and kept up-to-date with the times. All this inevitably brings important results. We believe in commitment and training because responding to the needs of men and women today, as well putting ourselves in constant dialogue with their current necessities, is a challenge from which the Church, and therefore the University, cannot escape.



Bioethics, Multiculturalism And Religion

International Workshops

by Allister Lee - Graduate Student in Bioethics

Modernity and drive towards the future bring progress and consequences. These are two sides of the same coin that all of humanity will have to deal with, sooner or later. In response to these needs for dialogue and concrete action, the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights of our University organizes the **International Workshops on Bioethics, Multiculturalism and Religion**, today at its **IX edition**, through which it spreads its mission: the art of convergence and cooperation in global ethics between **bioethics experts from world religions**, including, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and from the secular perspective.

One of the most current and **urgent themes**, as well as a subject of important discussions and **new international regulations**, is that of the **environment**. This topic was thoroughly discussed in Bangkok in the VIII edition of the **Protecting Environment, Biosphere and Biodiversity Workshop**, with the aim of understanding how different traditions conceptualize the relationship between humanity and nature and how the current climate issue should be addressed in terms of ethics. Also on this occasion, many representatives of different religions and several students expressed precious concepts, laying further foundations for raising awareness of a topic, which we hope may be transformed into awareness and action. Our Prof. F. Joseph Tham, LC, coordinator of this workshop, highlighted the need for public debate on climate action from a religious perspective.

In response to the Pope's call for dialogue through the Encyclical Fratelli Tutti, the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights organized the IX Workshop, held in Rome with the purpose of studying the document in light

of the many different religious traditions. In this framework of cooperation and collaboration, F. Sameer Advani, LC, contextualized the commitment of *Fratelli tutti* and of the Catholic Church for interreligious dialogue as a product of the Second Vatican Council

and underlined that this dialogue is "*primarily anthropological and only secondarily theological*". He also highlighted that religion is an essential part of human existence and experience, and for this reason, the fundamental questions that interreligious dialogue seeks to answer are consequently also deeply human, such as nature, purpose of man and morality.

The dialogue - as Dr. Chris Durante of St Peter's University in New York reminded participants through the words of Greek Orthodox leaders - "*takes place in all our encounters, whether personal, social or political, and must always be extended to those who adhere to religions other than ours*", wherever "*truth is not afraid of dialogue*". In his presentation, Dr. Durante emphasized the importance of relatability with others in the world, avoiding forms of tribalism and bigoted exclusivity.

With these workshops we explore broad ranges of thinking and generate ideas, comparisons and hypothetical avenues for solutions. It is not only about investigating topics ranging from the theological to the political aspects of religion, but also about how they perceive humanity's reasons for protecting the environment and human brotherhood, in order to prevent further damage. The protection of one and the other, as well as that of the environment, are not topics of discussion, yet the **debate** is needed in order to find the most **ethical** and **efficient** way for continuing to move forward with respect for man and nature in the near future.



Responses to FRATELLI TUTTI FROM DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

9th International Bioethics,
Multiculturalism and Religion Workshop

May 23-25, 2023

Aula Magna
Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum



info@unescobiochair.org - unescobiochair.org



Advances in genome editing technologies

Conversation with Peter Mills - Associate Director of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics. #CulturalBioethicsObservatory



In April, the Faculty of Bioethics of the Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum (APRA) launched the Webinar series of the Cultural Observatory of Bioethics.

This initiative aims to be a monthly event, a virtual forum and an informative-academic showcase with the purpose of informing and training those interested in bioethics on the scientific, ethical and social aspects of a topic or piece of news of utmost relevance and global interest, concerning the life and health of individuals and peoples.

After the first meeting held on April 26th featuring journalist Andrea Tornielli, Editorial Director of the Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See, on **The Courage to Build Peace, The Faculty of Bioethics in dialogue with Andrea Tornielli**, for the second appointment, the Faculty proposed a dialogue with Peter Mills, Associate Director of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on recent advances in genome editing technologies. The Nuffield Council on Bioethics was founded in 1991 in the United Kingdom, and is a foundation which examines and investigates all sorts of ethical problems arising from recent advances in medical and biological research. It is funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust.

During this webinar, the speakers featured within addressed the following topics:

- advances in gene editing of plants, animals and humans;
- politics, public engagement, equal access, equality and governance;
- challenges for bioethics in the UK and around the world.

The conversation was lively and informative. Peter Mills

and F. Joseph Tham, LC, spoke about recent advances in genome editing, which progressed considerably over recent years. They recounted their experience of the third summit on human genome editing, which was held in London last March. During the conference, emphasis was placed on the treatments already available thanks to this technology. Discussions were held on the topic of treatment and possible cure of sickle cell disease, which mainly affects the African continent. From this debate, it emerged that the main obstacle to making the technology available is not scientific in nature, as it involves equitable distribution of expensive treatments. We have already observed similar difficulties with the global distribution of COVID vaccines. During the previous Congress, news of Prof. He Jiankui's creation of the so-called CRISPR babies emerged. There has been some insight into this development in London. The organizers seem to think that self-regulation by scientists can work, but Mills doubts it. The webinar examined China's heavy-handed regulatory approach and how it compares to the rest of the world.

Finally, Peter Mills asked about the Catholic Church's positions on these issues. F. Joseph Tham, LC, responded that, while being in favor of research into cures for genetic diseases, the Church is very skeptical about the use of reproductive technologies and in vitro fertilization that these genetic manipulations would entail.

There have been many advances in gene editing for plants, animals, and humans. Today's main challenge involves **politics, involvement of the public, parity of access and global governance**.

Man-woman alliance: limit, meeting and resource

Institute of Higher Studies on Women

One of the central themes to which the Institute for Higher Studies on Women (ISSD) has dedicated itself in recent years is that of identifying the underlying problems concerning the current interpretation of the body-sexuality-personal identity relationship.

Defining the key themes involved regarding sexual difference, sexual corporeality and the mutual man-woman relationship is a commitment which requires finding new methodologies of thinking, new approaches for grasping the weight that the psychological and cultural dimension has in research and elaboration of the meanings of difference, the body and the relationship between genders.

Thanks to the capillary work carried out over time by our research group "Essere donna, Essere uomo" (made up of teachers, researchers and experts from all kinds of disciplines, such as theology, philosophy, bioethics, psychology, neuroscience, jurisprudence and sociology), every year from February to May, The ISSD organizes a specialization course which offers a path full of insights and criteria for articulating a philosophical vision of the human person capable of considering the Christian influence as a special contribution.

The specialization course called **Male-female alliance: limit, meeting and resource**, with each edition renewed in perspective and development of critical thinking skills, offers a precious multidimensional opportunity for rediscovering and understanding one's identity in a new way, as well as the ability to weave healthy and virtuous alliances, which are the key for animating one's life for the better, as well as that of the next one.



APRA and Research: an own dimension

Our contribution to the service of Integral Human Development

Concerning bioethics, during the last month of May, Prof. F. Michael Baggot, LC, presented the book *Enhancement Fit for Humanity: Perspectives on Emerging Technologies - (Routledge, London 2023)* in the conference **Technology, Art and the Posthuman: The End or a New Beginning for Humanism?** (Technology, art and post-human: the end or a new beginning for humanism?) held at the John Cabot University in Rome. In the era of nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology and cognitive science-related technologies; could there be an upgrade suitable for humanity? How much can emerging technology impact our understanding of human nature? The book reflects on these themes drawing from the Catholic tradition and international scientific, philosophical, legal and religious contributions.



UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights, Faculty of Bioethics Culture Narrates Migrations

Brescia Porto di Mondi: two days of study on the migratory phenomenon



Several representatives of the UNESCO Chairs of Italy reunited in Brescia from February 23rd to 25th 2023, on the occasion of the event **Brescia Porto di Mondi Culture Narrates Migrations**, organized by the UNESCO Chair of the University of Brescia, in collaboration with the Italian Network of UNESCO Chairs and the CARME Cultural Association.

The Representative for our Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights was Dr. Serena Montefusco, who shared experiences and projects in line with **UNESCO's** 2030 Agenda and principles on the issue of migration.

The migration phenomenon, as well as its implications, is among the main interests of UNESCO, which aims at understanding the **connections between migration and education** (from student mobility and international recognition of qualifications), and addressing the social dimensions of climate change and migration, in terms of **governance, conflicts, human rights, international law, gender equality, economic and human development, and public health**.

Serena Montefusco, the Assistant Project Manager of the Chair and Faculty of Bioethics at the University, shared the activities carried out within the Bioethics and Human Ecology area of interest, and specifically the implementation of projects supported by EU funds, namely EUROSOL and CivicAL, and also a presentation event of the Global Compact on migrants and refugees and of the Role and impact of the Church. With the release of the *Laudato Si'* Encyclical, the Chair has created a **research team** for delving deeper into the topic of **environment, biosphere and biodiversity**. Human ecology means that the ecological question is

an ethical question which concerns human actions. In addressing the many oppressing environmental issues, it is important to safeguard the centrality of the human person and his dignity. Sustainable development implies that the progress of society must be accompanied by an integral development of the whole person, including his physical, psychosocial, cultural and spiritual-moral dimensions. The right to integral development of the whole person entails a duty to welcome and provide the tools needed for moving from a state of social vulnerability to a dignified state of life (see art. 3 SDGs), thanks to a good education (see art. 4 SDGs) and to the constant work of governments and societies for peace and justice (see art. 16 SDGs). Indeed, this responsibility is not only of all governments, as all members of society have responsibilities regarding the promotion and realization of this right to migration, including individuals, families, local communities, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations.

The UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights has collaborated concerning migrations in plenty of projects of the Scalabrini Agency for Development Cooperation, as part of the Casa Scalabrini 634 project. For more than ten years, the Chair has aimed to create forums of diverse bioethical thought leaders for promoting interreligious dialogue and human rights, by collaborating in a spirit of respect and friendship, providing a common framework for guiding the application of bioethical principles in light of the UNESCO Declaration (2005). This is how it can effectively inform and illuminate ethical, legal, and public opinions, decisions, and actions related to medicine, life sciences, and human rights and responsibilities.

VIII National Congress of Medical Ethics and Deontology Scientific Medical and Human Care



The doctor-patient relationship is at the center of medical ethics. In today's context, several factors are proving deleterious for this relationship. One of these effects is the transformation of the therapeutic alliance into a long-distance relationship, a source of increasingly frequent conflicts and aggression which are the basis of what has been defined as defensive medicine.

The analysis of each individual factor involved could be the subject of an entire congress, and Prof. Francisco José Ballestra, LC, extraordinary professor of the Faculty of Bioethics in our University, spoke at the VIII National Congress of Ethics and Deontology in Seville. The Congress was organized by the College of Doctors of Seville (RICOMS) and the General Council of the



College of Doctors of Spain (CGCOM), With the objective of becoming a discussion forum for promoting an updated Code of Medical Ethics adapted to social and professional changes, so that all Spanish doctors can provide medical care of high scientific and human quality. On the occasion of this event, the new Code of Medical Ethics was publicly presented, of which the main innovations have

been made known. In this context, Prof. Ballestra intervenes with **Patient Autonomy and the Deontological Texts of the Hippocratic Corpus**, in which he expresses himself on the importance of medical ethics and highlights how the exaltation of a misunderstood autonomy of the patient can influence the relationship between doctor and patient.

Bioethics and Society

Una Vita Per La Vita Award and Tribute to Carlo Casini

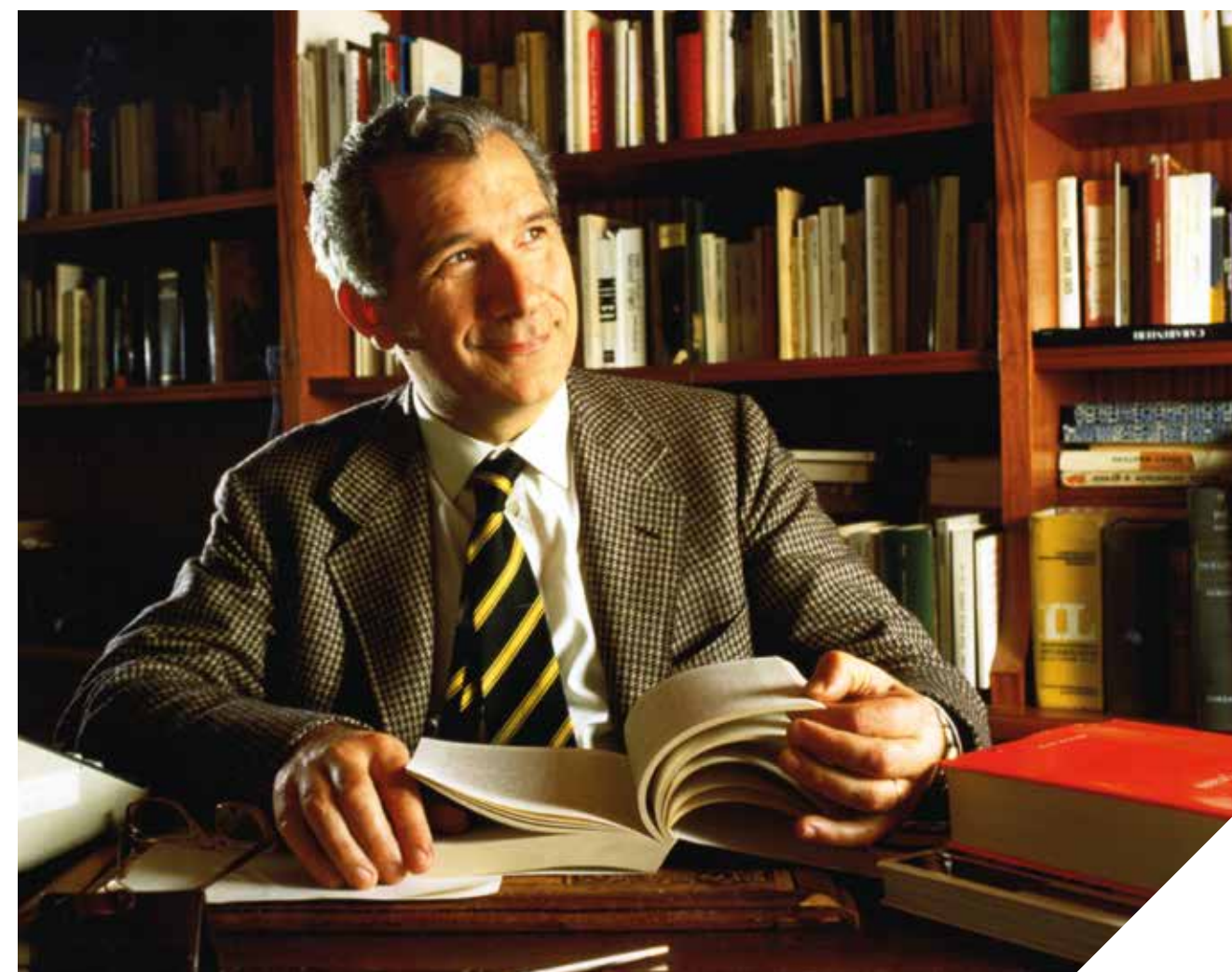
The Faculty of Bioethics and its impact on social affairs

The Faculty of Bioethics wants to recognize and promote people and initiatives the activities of which have influenced the diffusion of the Faculty's own values in society or contributed to doing so, creating channels for insights and dialogue.

On **November 4th, 2022**, in collaboration with the Associazione Internazionale Sant'Elena Imperatrice, the **Una Vita Per La Vita** award ceremony was held with the award conferred to **Dr. Patricio Ventura-Juncá**. In his academic and professional life, he **stood out for his defense of human life** from conception to natural death. In 2003, he was appointed ordinary member of the **Pontificia Accademia Per La Vita** (Pontifical Academy For Life), and became a member of its Management Team nine years later. He also set himself apart in the **Academy of Catholic Leaders** as **teacher** and in the **program development** for high school and university students in Chile and Latin America, steeped in personalist bioethics. Apart from his **significant contribution** to various topics, as a **pediatrician**

he dedicates his activity to the behalf of **small patients**, and in particular, to the **poorest ones**. Another prominent figure that the Faculty of Bioethics wanted to **pay homage to** for his **integral jurist activity** was Hon. Carlo Casini. In his memory, in collaboration with the **Italian Movement for Life**, a commemorative day was held on **November 24th, 2022**. The meeting saw the participation of family members, colleagues and friends, as well as teachers and guests from all over the world. The contributions showed the value of **Hon. Carlo Casini's testimony for new generations**, especially those studying law and bioethics.

Carlo Casini was a member of the Chamber of Deputies (1979-1992), a European parliamentarian (1984; 1989; 1994; 2006; 2009), a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, the President of the Constitutional Affairs Commission (2009-2014), and the President of the Italian Movement for Life (2015-2020). APRA had the honor of having him in the teaching staff of the Faculty of Bioethics as a Human Rights teacher.



"Be Choral!" Pope Francis at CRUIPRO

Training together to evangelize



On February 25th 2023, Pope Francis dedicated an audience to academic communities (students, teachers and employees) of the entities belonging to CRUIPRO (Conference of Rectors of Roman Universities and Pontifical Institutions). The meeting was prepared by the student representatives of the many universities, athenaeums, institutes and faculties involved, and took place in the Paul VI Hall. On this particular occasion - with a preview on February 23 through a Press Conference at Vatican Radio - the first 2022 CRUIPRO Report was presented. This is a document illustrating the Conference of Rectors, the activity of the Academic Communities that are part of it, and a description of its mission at the service of Church and Society. On the Saturday of the Audience, the Paul VI Hall was packed with students, teachers and staff of the 22 CRUIPRO Academic Communities. The Holy Father

encouraged the participants to *"Be Choral! In fact, The university is the school of agreement and consonance between different voices and instruments. It is not the school of uniformity: on the contrary, it is the agreement and consonance between different voices and instruments"*, and to collaborate in common formation at the service of the Church by uniting the three languages: *"the three intelligences that vibrate in the human soul: that of the mind, that of the heart and that of the hands, each with its own timbre and character, and all of which necessary. A language of the mind that is combined with that of the heart and that of the hands: what you think, what you feel, what you do"*.

Video
Forming together to evangelize
presented to Pope Francis.



Summary of the
Pope's speech.



Convegno Internazionale Cattedra Arosio

The *Ipsum Esse* in Thomas Aquinas



From Parmenides to Heidegger and beyond, Western theoretical philosophy attempts to decipher the meaning and scope of the simplest word in the lexicon: the verb "to be". In these twenty-five centuries of thinking, that of Saint Thomas Aquinas stands out, giving the Latin term *they* - to be - a very rich value, that of the source of the ontological richness of things, in God himself who is pure Being, but also, in a participatory way, in all things themselves. This principle is like the soul of all of Aquinas' metaphysical speculation. But his interpreters, as they analyse a history which began after his death in 1274,

disagree on the precise meaning of the lemma *ipsum esse*, meaning "being itself". The conference organized by the Cattedra Marco Arosio on April 19th and 20th 2023 pursued two purposes: exploring the relationship of Thomas's doctrine on the *esse* with that of some predecessors - Aristotle, Boethius, Pseudo Dionysius, Avicenna, and then analysing several historically relevant readings belonging to the Thomasian position - Dominic of Flandria, Étienne Gilson, Johannes Baptist Lotz, the School of Barcelona, Cornelio Fabro. Scholars from Italy, France, Spain and the United Kingdom contributed to the international dimension of the conference.

Cultural Symposium - APRA with Acton Institute

War and Peace

This year too many notable guests enlivened the **Cultural Symposium** event created in collaboration with **Acton Institute** and now in its fourth edition. The focus was on a **very current topic**: war, but most importantly, on how to seek peaceful and prosperous solutions for rebuilding an authentic Christian culture. The Symposium entitled **"War and Peace: Conflict and Culture in the Modern World"** has ranged from **war in Ukraine**, to the ongoing **critical battles** in culture and in **spirituality**, crossing the theme of **mass media**, **global economy**, **geopolitics**, political-religious **history**. The Symposium opened with a **theological-philosophical overview** and ended with an effective tactical lesson in order to answer the question: **"how can this be done?"**.

At the end of the event, **H.H.E. Mons. Stefan Sus**, Bishop of the Archdiocese of Kyev-Galicia, gave us a **short interview**, available on our website and on our YouTube channel, of which we report some quotes.

«This [Symposium] is a **very big contribution** for **Ukraine**. [...] Not only for summarizing the current events happening in Ukraine, but also for **looking for solutions**: how to stop this conflict in a Christian way. All of us are **praying for peace**, we all think about the end of the war, but we also need to know **how we can stop this war** and when will we see it end. We have to **understand the causes** of this war, what came before, the **historical context** and the various conflicts that have already occurred in this world. And I am very grateful that we have gathered in this conference to talk about Ukraine and the Ukrainian people».

Mons. Stefan also left some advice for the many students, coming from various parts of the world, who attend the University: «Jesus [...] invites us to **be peacemakers**, that is, the message for all of us who trust in God and deal with his Holy Scriptures and messages, is that our vocation is to be peacemakers, to spread awareness about war and conflicts all over the world. [...] It doesn't mean we can't defend ourselves. [...] **We are invited to defend and at the same time share peace in this world.**»



Doctoral Theses A.A. 2022-2023

New Doctors for the Evangelization of Culture

The 2022 Academic Year was enriched by a large number of doctoral discussions for which APRA is proud to have been the *alma mater* for so many people dedicated to research and study.

Doctors of Philosophy

- **Jimenez Lopez Baltazar** with dissertation *Comparación entre el binomio "ser y libertad" en el tomismo de Escuela de Tomas Tyn y en el tomismo intensivo de Cornelio Fabro*;
- **Gabriel von Wendt** with dissertation *Melodie des Werdens: Romano Guardinis Gegensatzdynamik als Muster für menschliche Entwicklungsprozesse*.

Doctors in Theology

- **Matthew Schnaider** with the dissertation *A Catholic Theological Analysis of The Right to Informational Privacy*;
- **Modestus Chukwuma Onyewuenyi** with the dissertation *Mary in the Mystery of Christ and the Church: The Perspectives of Saints Louis Marie Grignon De Monfort and John Paul II*;
- **Antonio Porpora** with the dissertation *Il Filioque tra Oriente e Occidente. La reazione unionista bizantina. Studio storico e sistematico*;
- **Jaime Rodriguez** with the dissertation *Al varón padre y la mujer madre plenitud de la imagen de Dios. Diferencia sexual e índole familiar de la persona desde la teología del cuerpo de San Juan Pablo II*;
- **Jason Mitchell** with the dissertation *Aquinas's Theology of Grace: Metaphysics and the New Perspective*.

Doctors in Bioethics

- **Georges El Ters** with the dissertation *Accompagnement Des Mourants. Centre d'Accueil Au Liban. Deniers Moments De La Vie. Evaluation Bioéthique (Mourir En Dignité)*;
- **Alfred Simkonda** with the dissertation *The concept of UTU/UBUNTU and human person, Foundations and Ethical perspectives*;
- **Jery Paul Njaliath** with the dissertation *Articulation of the Theory of Identity of Catholic Hospitals and A Quantitative Research on the Identity of Catholic Multi-specialty Hospitals in Kerala*;
- **Henry Obinna Nwamadu** with the dissertation *The analysis of the different cultural perspective about infertility from the perspective of personalist bioethical concepts*;
- **Antonella Galati Rando** with the dissertation *Sessualità e dignità della procreazione. Il contributo di Carlo Caffarra*;
- **Lilian Ribeiro Santos** with the dissertation *Common themes between Humanity+ Original documents on transhumanism and WHO documents on the global governance of human genome editing. Reflexive thematic analysis and implications for bioethics*;
- **Daniel Mbenga Lisaka** with the dissertation *Genre et la paix sociale dans le cas de kinshasa (rd congo): Étude bioéthique sur l'évolution d'une théorie du genre promouvant la paix sociale à travers la différence sexuelle*;
- **Karina Ordoñez** with the dissertation *Fraude en la investigación biomédica: las implicaciones bioéticas de los casos de Joachim Boldt y Yoshitaka Fujii*.



Study Seminar Proceedings Leaving No One Behind



The Permanent Mission of the Holy See within FAO, IFAD and WFP, the Rome Forum of Catholic-inspired Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), and the *UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights*, established at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum and the European University of Rome, organized a day of study to reflect on a topic now more relevant than ever: the importance of leaving no one behind and of aiming for better production, nutrition, environment and overall a better life for everyone. The chosen topic, which recalls the theme proposed by FAO for celebrating the annual

anniversary of World Food Day, which took place on October 16th, 2022, had the purpose of considering the strategies to be implemented for overcoming poverty and growing inequalities, as well as leading humanity back on a path suitable for achieving integral development of the human being, of truly inclusive economic growth, of the well-being of the Planet, so that no one is excluded and marginalized anymore.

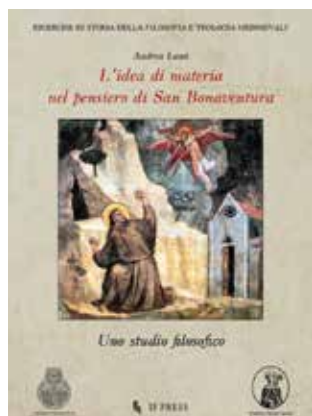
Seminar Study
proceedings.



Arosio Chair

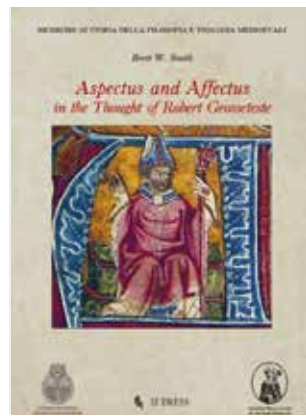
The idea of matter in the thought of Saint Bonaventure

The essay seeks to delve deeper into Bonaventura da Bagnoregio's conception of matter, explaining the aspects scattered throughout his work, placing this conception in relation with its sources, with the contemporaries with whom it is in dialogue, with its more and less immediate derivations. In doing this, the spotlight is put on a Bonaventure capable of bringing forward an active and dynamic conception of the natural world, without taking anything away from the centrality of God, which is particularly needed today; also, the profile of Bonaventure as a true thinker as well as a man of faith, is really brought to attention. According to a metaphor dating back to the thirteenth century, God is the center reachable in a straight line from any point on the circumference, as long as one delves deep enough. Equally, through an in-depth study of the theory of matter, we will try to get to the beating heart of the thought of an author who is as famous as he is often unacknowledged in his speculative depth.



Aspectus and Affectus in the thought of Robert Grosseteste

Generations of scholars have observed that the aspectus/affectus distinction was a distinctive element of Robert Grosseteste's way of thinking (c. 1168-1253). This splitting of the powers of the rational soul into cognitive and appetitive appears frequently in the works of this English polymath, in all genres and for at least four decades of his scholarly career. The work contained in this volume presents the first complete historical and systematic analysis of Grosseteste's aspectus/affectus distinction and discovers that such distinction is an important key to understanding a network of interconnected themes in Grosseteste's thought. The doctrines accompanying aspectus and affectus are crucial to his psychology and have important connections with his metaphysics, soteriology, mystical theology, and epistemology. While in no way replacing the previous studies of James McEvoy (1982, 2000) and James Ginther (2004), this book advances the study of Robert Grosseteste in several areas, including his doctrine of the soul and his theory of illumination.



Other publications

Quaderni del Concilio: La liturgia delle ore

Arturo Elberti opens the treasure of *Sacrosanctum concilium* addressing those, especially the youth, who intend to participate in an increasingly conscious and fruitful way in the Liturgy lived in the Church. The Church is nourished by the liturgy in its pilgrimage towards the celestial homeland, where Jesus Christ finally brings everything to perfection. Considering the liturgical evolution of present times, the text leaves the door open to the future of the liturgy, including it in an "already" and "not yet". The Book, included in the Shalom series, is the work of our Prof. F. Edward McNamara, LC, professor of Liturgy.

Rivelazione, ermeneutica e sviluppo dottrinale in Joseph Ratzinger. Un contributo indiretto alla sinodalità



Focusing on his extensive theological production - thus excluding the magisterial teachings imparted as Supreme Pontiff - this agile volume outlines the thoughts of Joseph Ratzinger (1927-2022) on Revelation and its interpretation. The study traces his thoughts in chronological order, starting from the 1955 qualification thesis, dedicated to the concept of Revelation of Saint Bonaventure, bringing out a clear understanding of the Ratzingerian vision on Scripture and Tradition, on the Magisterium and theology, as well as on faith and its transmission today. The Bavarian theologian's considerations are particularly interesting both in themselves and when applied to the current topic of synodality. They leave the field open to further

developments, insights and clarifications. The essay concludes with a reflection on doctrinal development, based on Ratzinger's theology of Revelation.

Il servizio dell'autorità per la perseveranza nella gioia

The service of authority and the response of obedience have their origins in the very structure of consecrated and ecclesial life, which has its roots in the lifestyle that Jesus chose for himself and his disciples. The purpose of the authority-obedience relationship is perseverance in joy. This implies that the one who exercises this service has as his primary task the care of the community, so that everyone, without exception, has the theological experience of communion with Christ and with their brothers and sisters. Before being a zealous guardian of the rule, he is a promoter of fraternity, a help in perseverance. In order to delve deeper into the authority-obedience relationship, and most

Importantly to offer subsidies to community superiors, the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences, the Regina Apostolorum of Rome, organized a summer course for consecrated life, from July 5th to 9th, 2021, with the title: **The exercise of authority for perseverance in joy**. This volume is the result of the work carried out during those days. It is divided into four parts, in which theology, spirituality, pastoral care and psychology meet, each within its own scope, always with attention paid to the concrete experience in leading their own communities.



In Library and in the Bookshop

BOOKS

ANDREA LAMI, *L'idea di materia nel pensiero di San Bonaventura* (Cattedra Marco Arosio - Ricerche di Storia della Filosofia e Teologia medievali, 19), IF Press - Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum, Roma 2022;

BRETT W. SMITH, *Aspectus and Affectus in the Thought of Robert Grosseteste* (Ricerche di Storia della Filosofia e Teologia medievali, 21), IF Press - Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum, Roma 2022;

La sfida umana nell'epoca della trasformazione digitale, a cura dell'Istituto di Studi Superiori sulla Donna (Collana ISSD, Atti e documenti, 11), Roma 2022;

MARCO AROSIO, *Credibile ut intelligibile* (Cattedra Marco Arosio, 3 e 4), IF Press - Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum, Roma 2023.

THESES

SAMEER VIKRAM ADVANI, *From Religious Pluralism to a Unity in Diversity. An exploration and analysis of Joseph Ratzinger's Theology of Religions* (Tesi Teologia, 45), Roma 2022;

PIERFRANCESCO DE FEO, *Il filioque tra Oriente e Occidente. La reazione unionista bizantina. Studio storico e sistematico* (Tesi Teologia, 46), Roma 2023;

JAIME RODRÍGUEZ DÍAZ, *El varón padre y la mujer madre: plenitud de la imagen de Dios. Diferencia sexual e índole familiar de la persona desde la Teología del Cuerpo de San Juan Pablo II* (Tesi Teologia, 47), Roma 2023;

MODESTUS CHUKWUMA ONYEWUENYI, *Mary in the Mystery of Christ and the Church. The Perspectives of Saints Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort and John Paul II* (Tesi Teologia, 48), Roma 2023;

LÍLIAN SANTOS, *Common Themes between Humanity+ Original Documents on Transhumanism and WHO Documents on the Global Governance of Human Genome Editing. Reflexive Thematic Analysis and Implications for Bioethics* (Tesi Bioetica, 51), Roma 2023.

MAGAZINES

Ecclesia 37.1 e 37.2 (2023);

Alpha Omega 25.1 e 25.2 (2022).

A conversation about art, inclusion, faith and bioethics

12 November 2023: on the initiative of bioethics licentiate student **Dr. Renata Santos Benam**, who committed for over 10 years to raising awareness on the rights of the blind and visually impaired, a **conversation** was held on the topics of **art, inclusion, faith and bioethics**, at Palazzo San Niccolò in Florence, a historic and welcoming environment dating back to the fourteenth century.

"This small event was an opportunity to embrace our humanity capable of meeting new people, creating friendships, enjoying each other [...]. The idea is to challenge ourselves and our imagination on how we see the world and what we can do to make it a more inclusive place through the arts, education, bioethics" – Dr. Benam.

Among its guests, the President of the Italian Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired, territorial section of Florence, **Dr. Niccolò Zeppi**; The **Prof. Luca Uzielli**, Professor Emeritus in Wood Technology at the University of Florence; sculptor **Andrea Bianco**; pianist **Duccio Limberti**; the Professor and Director of the Science and Faith Institute of the Pontifical Regina Apostolorum University (APRA), **F. Rafael Pascual, LC**; and **Prof. Alberto García Gómez**, Dean of the Faculty of Bioethics and Director of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights (APRA and the European University of Rome). Furthermore, **Dr. Santos Beman** shared how supporting the blind and other vulnerable groups, particularly the visually impaired, has helped her take an interdisciplinary approach to research, and changed her career. The Doctor underlined that much can still be done for equity and social inclusion. **Dr. Zeppi** then shared his experience as a blind person and as President of the Italian Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired in supporting and promoting autonomy, education, research and rehabilitation. **Prof. Natalia Parenko**, on behalf of the St. Petersburg International Academy of Art in Florence, introduced the piano performance of a talented young pianist, **Angela Chen**, with an exceptional performance that symbolized the beginning of the Conversation with hope in the younger generations.

After that, **Prof. Uzielli** presented some wooden sculptures and slabs, highlighting how, through the use of sight, touch and smell, it is possible to explore and learn about the world of wood. A contribution from one of the participants was interesting, namely that of **Prof. Paolo Pecile**, who underlined the importance of wood and its versatile properties for the development of society and technology; above all, he reflected on the fact that history is told to us through the Iron Age, for example, and not "the wooden age." After a moment's pause, **F. Rafael Pascual, LC**, introduced interdisciplinary perspectives into the study of religion, particularly through the study of the Shroud of Turin, and how it inspired many artists, including Andrea Bianco. The Permanent Exhibition on the Holy Shroud – *Who is the Man of the Shroud?* – at APRA is a collection of images, objects and sculptures that allow visitors to have a spiritual, historical and scientific experience where the mysteries of the sacred cloth are revealed. Among the works on display, also the sculpture "Ecce Homo secondo la Sindone" donated by **Andrea Bianco** on the occasion of the XV Anniversary of the inauguration of the exhibition. The work is modeled



on the Shroud face. *"The details to be created on that Face were numerous and dramatic. [...] I fully realized that the aim was not to create a beautiful work, but rather a sculpture that represented, as much as possible, the unspeakable pain of our God for the salvation of sinners"* – Andrea Bianco.

MB Dallochio, an artist and social worker from Beverley Hills who now lives in Florence, introduced pianist **Duccio Limberti**, with his incredible history of success as a blind person since birth. Duccio played famous national and international songs also accompanied by his wife, **Lali Burduli**, with which he created the LALIMBERTI Duo.

After an improvised piece together with Duccio, **Prof. Garcia** illustrated the Bioethics and GlobalArt project of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights. Through the different expressions of art, the project aims to promote inclusion in respect of human rights and the importance of vulnerability in bioethics, as well as the arts as a form of education in the universal values and principles of the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights (2005). In conclusion, **Dr. Serena Montefusco**, Assistant Project Manager of the UNESCO Chair, invited participants to an aesthetic experience by showing some works of the International Bioethics and Art Competition that the UNESCO Chair created as an expression of the project.

The conversation ended with the general enthusiasm of all participants who were able to appreciate the magic of meeting and sharing with others, as well as that of the presence of the Holy Spirit which allowed all this.

Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Global New Technologies politics

Article by Dr. Lílían Santos in the magazine *Medicina Y Ética*
By the Anáhuac Mexico University

New doctor in bioethics Lílían Santos has published an article in the International Journal of Bioethics, Deontology and Medical Ethics *Medicine Y Ethics* from Anáhuac University (Mexico). His work focuses on the role of Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals in the global governance of new technologies for human health. The first part deals with governance: the process of governing different issues of collective life, which includes multiple parties and means. The second part deals with the global governance of new technologies: the need, its feasibility and what it should look like. The third part reflects on

the global governance over new technologies for human health, analyzing the recent World Health Organization (WHO) plans for the global governance of human genome editing and artificial intelligence for health. It is concluded that good procedure is not sufficient for good governance; the ethical content is crucial. It is recommended to pay particular attention to the role of human resources and the DGSs. Proactive ethics are suggested throughout the entire process (conceptualization, design, development, deployment and use) of new technologies, with ethical training of different stakeholders.

Gobernanza y Ética en las instituciones de salud
Governance and Ethics in health institutions
Eduardo Gómez Rojas, Angel Salazar Tostado,
Vida Salazar Tostado, Tania Babun Castill

Medicina & ética

Revista internacional de bioética, deontología y ética médica

Derechos Humanos y Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible en la
Gobernanza Mundial de Nuevas Tecnologías para la Salud Humana
Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals in the
Global Governance of New Technologies for Human Health
Lilíán Santos

Técnicas de reproducción asistida para todas las mujeres e igualdad.
¿Cuestión de derecho o de justicia? Análisis del contexto francés
Assisted Reproductive Technology for all women and equality.
A question of right or of justice? Analysis of the French context
Maroun Badr

Lex Artis en oftalmología, análisis ético y bioético
Lex Artis in Ophthalmology, Ethical and Bioethical Analysis
Claudia Lorena Arellano Martínez, María Fernanda Martínez
Palomo, Rene Dávila Mendoza, Juan Manuel Paulín Huerta,
Carlos Francisco Navas Villar, Ulises de Dios Cuadras,
Jaime Francisco Rosales Padrón, Jane Nemer Yaspik,
Camila González Rodríguez

2022 / 4
Octubre - Diciembre
October - December
ISSN revista digital
2594-2166

Read in
Medicina y Ética:

The voice of students

Allister Lee at the Hong Kong University

Allister Lee, bioethics student and intern at the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights, held a conference entitled *Love and Sex in the Time of Robots: The Ethical Impact of AI Robots on Human Relationships* at the University of Hong Kong.

Artificial intelligence scholar David Levy states in his seminal work *Love and Sex with Robots* that in the near post-human future not only will sexual relations with robots be normalized, but sex between humans will also be more widespread. Will this be humanity's new reality (for lack of a better term)? Current developments in robotics and artificial intelligence have made Levy's prediction increasingly likely, with the recent introduction of Optimus by Elon Musk and Sophia by Hanson Robotic. This progress towards a post-human and AI-inclusive society is also highlighted

by the intriguing testimonies of a man who married a hologram, which raises the question of the social role that AI robots have in society: are they simply tools for completing menial tasks or do they have the right to participate in broader social activities? This talk illustrated the current debate on AI robots and their influence on social norms and structures. Furthermore, it highlighted the potential affective capabilities of AI and the consequent practical impact on the gender division, the legal status of robots and the concept of marriage.

In parallel with her degree, Allister Lee is completing a research internship at the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights. He graduated with honors in Nursing from the University of Edinburgh. His main research interests focus on artificial intelligence, genome editing and clinical ethics.



The voice of students


F. Daniel Ochoa, LC

License in Spiritual Theology

I am very grateful to the University for the training it gave us, for preparing us as evangelizers for our Church; ... On this day, we invoke the light of the Holy Spirit, his Wisdom, so that all of us can be beacons of Wisdom in our churches, in our community.

Br. Sebastián Sánchez, LC

Baccalaureate in Theology

The years I spend studying here have been of great grace and many encounters with the Lord. It's not just about studying and learning, but about making it an experience. Therefore, converting all this knowledge and all these things to practical life was the meaning of this path, of this journey, in which the Lord is also training our hearts, little by little.


Rebecca Sarti

License in Bioethics

As a student of the Pontifical Regina Apostolorum University, I see and experience on this Campus the desire to create a community of scholars attentive to man and his beauty. I wish to undertake a journey of search for human truth by putting the person at the centre, in order to build a culture with the aim to safeguard all that is human. Here I find attention to the individual, internationality and research.

Salt of the Earth #APRAcommunity

by Laura Valentini



For the second straight year, on Thursday May 25th, 2023, we celebrated **Employee Day**, the Committee's flagship event now known to all as **Il Sale della Terra (The Salt of the Earth)**.

The main aim of the Committee itself is to ensure that our working environment is a place rich in human relationships. This name is intended to express an invitation to be "salt" in every environment, particularly in the workplace; therefore having the ability to "melt", eliminating the harsh and indifferent approach, isolation, and contributing to giving a good flavor to what surrounds us with goodness, tenderness, welcome, forgiveness and courtesy, aware that only in contact real, you can grasp the gestures, tone and nuances that are so important and distinctive for human relationships.

Therefore, with the aim of intensifying friendships and attention for each other, we organized a ping pong tournament and a table football tournament in the parish hall of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and San Filippo Martire.

Following numerous meetings which sometimes saw opposing sides, other times allies, Fathers and employees, Gianni Iannettone placed first in the table tennis tournament, while the winners of the table football tournament were F. Aarón Robles, LC and Daniela De Carolis. After worthily celebrating the victory with the presentation of the cups, medals were given to all participants, demonstrating the fact that beyond the result of the sporting event, everyone was a winner since true success lies in participation and sharing time spent together.

There was also a convivial moment based on pizza and desserts, an excellent opportunity to exchange conversations and lots of laughs. The event saw the



participation of many enthusiasts; it is certain that we will have to repeat the initiative. The activities of the **Il Sale Della Terra** event were repeated on **July 14th, 2023** with a cultural visit to the **Catacombs of San Callisto**. It was a different way of meeting, no longer playful, but an in-depth study of the history and roots of our faith, retracing the tunnels that held the bodies of many Christians who preceded us. At the end of the visit, there was no lack of a convivial moment thanks to the "homemade" contribution of each of the participants. The sun illuminated our coming together to share and create community.

All I can do is thank you, and encourage you to train hard in view of the next activity.

Greetings

Theology of Saints

The farewell ceremony of Prof. F. François-Marie L  thel, OCD

Prof. F. François-Marie L  thel, OCD shared his spiritual experience in the farewell ceremony.

On May 19th, 2023, a farewell ceremony was held for our dear Prof. F. François-Marie L  thel, OCD, invited professor at the Faculty of Theology for twenty years. The meeting chaired by Rector F. Jos   Enrique Oyarz  n, LC, was attended by many teachers, students and collaborators who have shared both the educational experience, prayer and spiritual growth over the years. F. Oyarz  n expressed his personal gratitude and that of the entire University with words full of friendship and admiration, recalling the years of journey and growth. At the end of the speech he wanted to pay homage to F. L  thel with an icon of the Queen of the Apostles. After the Rector's thanks, F. François-Marie briefly told his personal story, and what drove him to concentrate his academic and spiritual effort in the theology of the saints. *"I entered the Carmelo 56 years ago after reading John of the Cross, I was 18 years old, Teresa of   vila and St. Teresa of Lisieux; they were my saintly mother's books. [...] The theology of saints was born with my vocation to the Carmel. I made my final profession in '68 in France, extremely difficult years, and I really saw a great grace, the theology of the saints is the grace of '68. [...] There was so much confusion, so much*

darkness and I understood that only saints were resistant to suspicion. [...] Where there is holiness there is love of God and service to the Church... [...] it was a light-hearted experience".

Finally, Fr. François-Marie L  thel also expressed the friendship and spiritual journey undertaken alongside the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ and the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi. A path of friendship that must accompany holiness.

When we asked F. L  thel to briefly tell us how to summarize his academic experience at APRA, he addressed us with words that filled us with gratitude: *"Here at the Regina Apostolorum I have found the greatest welcome for my theological approach, the theology of saints, which for me is my whole life". And on yet another occasion: "What struck me the most, together with a rather high academic level - is the use of reason in all fields even with the different faculties - the greatest value I found here is an immense love for the Church, especially for the Pope. [...] I saw how this great love for the Church and the Pope was a source of openness and joy, and that it gives the use of reason greater purity and security".*

We thank to F. L  thel for his words, his presence and wisdom that he shared with us.



2022 CRUIPRO report

Presentation press conference



On February 23rd, 2023 at the **Marconi Hall** of the **Dicastery of Communication of the Holy See**, a press conference was held for the presentation of the CRUIPRO 2022 report, the first since the foundation of the Conference of Rectors of Roman Universities and Pontifical Institutions. Accompanied by moderator Fausta Speranza,

F. Alfonso V. Amarante, president of the Pontifical Alfonsianum Institute and general secretary of CRUIPRO, and sister **Piera Silvia Ruffinatto**, dean of the Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences Auxilium and vice-president of the Conference, were there to illustrate the document.

The Conference acts as a body for coordinating and promoting the common action of the training centers (Universities, Faculties and Institutes) that belong to it, through the representation of their respective Rectors. It is made up of 22 Academic Communities: 7 universities, 2 universities, 9 institutes, 4 faculties, and hosts a total of over 2 thousand teachers, 600 people who carry out auxiliary activities, and 16 thousand students from 125 countries around the world. Among students, the ratio of Italians is 1 to 8, while the ratio with teachers is 6 to 1, making more attentive and personalized training possible: undoubtedly a point in favor compared to state universities where each teacher would correspond 16 students. Remaining in the numerical field, last year alone 3 thousand qualifications were awarded, from baccalaureate to doctorate. Between **innovative** and **consolidated activities** of CRUIPRO, the joint degrees on specific topics were reported: **Ecologia Integrale**, **San Tommaso** and **Spiritualità delle Famiglie Religiose**. APRA has distinguished itself as a leader in the promotion of the **Joint Diploma Women and Church**, apart from its collaboration

in other joint degrees. In the **future**, CRUIPRO will launch **Parsifal**, The **shared catalog** from the **ecclesiastical libraries** of the Roman Pontifical Universities. During the presentation, particular importance was given to the **intervention** of **Don Luis Navarro**, President of CRUIPO and Rector of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. He carefully and briefly illustrated the two main challenges of academic communities: internationality and interculturality; the relationship with culture and state universities. In the first case, it is a matter of finding an academic level that allows those who are more or less culturally gifted to grow together; in the second, it is a bout weaving profitable collaborative relationships. Part of the solution is the initiative of a **"mobility agreement"** among **students** of the institutions of the Conference of Rectors which allows to acquire up to **6 credits per semester** in a **other pontifical university** without having to register and pay. At the end of the presentation, Don Luis Navarro held an interview in which he spoke about the good state of health of the Universities and Institutions of CRUIPRO; of the challenge of communicating the Kerygma to current culture; of the mobility agreement and his expectations for the Audience with the Holy Father the following Saturday.

Even student **Rafaella Figueredo**, representative of all CRUIPRO students, gave a short interview in which she illustrated the **benefits** of **studying in Rome** as **"union between vocation of the student and vocation of proclamation"**, and the importance of taking advantage of the educational exchange method between universities to acquire "not only other knowledge and other credits, but most importantly other ways of thinking and other approaches".

UCID and APRA networking

An opportunity to delve deeper into the relationship between Science and Faith

Since last year, the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum has developed a relationship of knowledge and support with the **Christian Union of Entrepreneurs and Managers (UCID)**, an association of people which ever since 1947 has welcomed those who, with a role of responsibility, intend to commit themselves to consistently bearing witness to the Evangelical message and the social doctrine of the Church.

Last November we had the members of UCID Rome as guests, represented by President Giorgio Gulienetti, in a meeting full of emotions and spirituality focused on the visit to the Permanent Exhibition **Who is the Man of the Shroud? (Chi è l'Uomo della Sindone?)** led by the Director of the Science and Faith Institute, F. Pascual Rafael, LC, which made it possible to analyze in depth the relationship between science and faith, offering answers on the shroud (also defined as "the fifth Gospel") and with the greeting of Magnificent Dean F. José Enrique Oyarzún, LC.

Over the course of the year and thanks to the Rome and the Youth sections, UCID enhanced the conferences held at our



University such as the series of conferences **La Sindone e la scienza** starting from **La Sindone e la scienza, visione d'insieme**; the Symposium **War and Peace: Conflict and Culture in the Modern World** organized in collaboration with the Acton Institute.

RIU Meeting

Collaboration and Strategic Lines

The collaboration with **RIU** (International Network of Regnum Christi Universities) had further developments during the last academic year. After the First Meeting of RIU Researchers (30-31 May 2022), in which F. Alberto Carrara, LC, and Prof. Alberto García participated for the Regina Apostolorum, the **second internationalization meeting** at the Anáhuac International University of Cancún (Mexico) was held. In attendance on behalf of our University was Fr. Giovanni Malgaroli, LC, former general secretary.

The meeting was led by Luis Eduardo Alverde, Rector of the Anáhuac Querétaro University and in charge of the respective strategic line of the Network. The internationalization directors of the respective RIU universities participated in the meeting, together with other authorities. Among the many **great opportunities** to be grasped, there is **greater integration** with the strategic line of **research**, for encouraging **internationalization of teachers** and research projects, as well as the possibility of growing in the strategy of **general communication as a network** in order to favor the positioning of each of the universities. With the institutionalization of the meetings, the Rector decided to form the **Commission for collaboration in the strategic lines of the RIU and RC** publishing the regulation on **March 16th, 2023**. This Commission

is a support body for the Rector in his task of managing relations with academic institutions, in particular for the strategic lines of the RIU. Its role is Advisory, Operational and Coordinative.

Subsequently, from **May 11th to 16th, 2023**, the meetings were held at the Francisco de Vitoria University (Madrid) of the **General Assembly** of the RIU, formed by **RIU Council**, **rectors** and **directors** of educational institutions and **councillors** of the network, with the aim of aligning efforts in favour of person-centred education and comprehensive training. The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the International Network of Regnum Christi Universities.

Currently, the fields of **strategic lines of the RIU** are: **Comprehensive training**, **Research**, **Pastoral**, **Educational innovation**, **Rethinking of subjects**, **Catholic identity**, **Internationalization**, **Accompaniment**. For each line, the University has a Contact Person who is responsible for: promoting the work and developments of his own line of reference within the University; facilitating dialogue between the University and the other RIU institutions in their respective fields of competence so that the planned activities are carried out; supporting the Dean in updating the reporting notes on the strategic lines of the RIU.

Our network is a human, spiritual and professional heritage

by Maria Selva Silvestri - Institutional Development Department

The year 2023 began with a good purpose, an objective which, as also foreseen in the five-year planning, we considered to be a priority: this is namely the **reinforcement** of collaboration with **our internal network** such as the RIU, the *Regnum Christi* (RC) and the *Legionaries of Christ* (LC).

Born from **same charisma** and with one **common mission**, we have the opportunity to enhance our work, **encourage dialogues** and supporting **collaborations** for **mutual growth** and **development**.

Activated directly by our Dean, we have indeed initiated constant and continuous relationships with the various figures of institutional communication at a global level, sharing **integrated uniform and transversal communication plans**, aimed at encouraging the expansion of visibility and positioning opportunities for the University and each Institution.

The strategy is therefore oriented towards feeding institutional information by enhancing its themes of competence and distinctiveness, Projects, Services and Events by precisely identifying the different stakeholders and channels with which to reach them.

The aim is to make our reality known within the Internet, as we are part of the **same family** and international catholic

movement, a human, spiritual and **professional heritage** that we can "capitalize" on.

The *Regnum Christi* movement expresses its own way of evangelizing like this: "*The love of Christ always pushes us to be his joyful witnesses and tireless apostles in order to respond with apostolic creativity to the main needs of evangelization for our time*". Inspired by these words and oriented towards our assets such as education, evangelization in professional and cultural fields, we have therefore launched fruitful initiatives and meetings between us Communications Managers at a global level.

We met in person here in Rome on the occasion of a conference on Institutional Communication at the Santa Croce University; we had an opportunity to get to know each other, train ourselves professionally, experience the city of Rome all together and start our collaboration which continues to be active and stimulating. It was a drive to network among us, which F. Aaron Smith, LC (Regnum Christi's International Director of Communications) summarizes as follows: "*I am really happy with this collaboration which seems vital and of great benefit to everyone. In today's world, we direly need to form collaborative networks capable of helping in the common mission of evangelization. How could we not do this among ourselves, as a spiritual family?*".



Agreements

Affiliations to the Faculties of Philosophy and Theology

Second *Veritatis gaudium* art. 63 it is strongly recommended that the Theological Studies of both dioceses and religious institutes be affiliated with a Faculty. The Pontifical Regina Apostolorum University wants to respond to this need to "network" among institutions which cultivate and promote ecclesiastical studies in every part of the world.

This process demands a series of requirements from the affiliating party to guarantee the training of the seminarians. These include the adequate training of teaching staff, a suitable number of ordinary students, the necessary scientific, IT and audiovisual technical aids, among others, which guarantee the quality of training. The Institute's Study Plan and Statutes are made in light of this *Veritatis gaudium* asks the Pontifical Universities and Athenaeums.

The University is affiliated with three Theological Institutes: the **Maria Mater Ecclesiae Theological Institute** in Brazil, the **Carlos y San Marcelo Theological Institute** in Trujillo,

Peru and the **Istituto Teologico Pio XI** in San Remo, Ventimiglia.

The three Institutes are affiliated to the Faculty of Theology of the University and the Brazilian Institute also to the Faculty of Philosophy. In the 2021-2022 academic year, a total of 32 students obtained the baccalaureate degree in Theology or Philosophy. In the 2020-2021 academic year, the total number of students who finished the Baccalaureate program was 25.

It is a great satisfaction for the University to be able to accompany these institutes in the training they offer to seminarians. Every year a member of the teaching staff visits the Institutes to take final exams and meet with the Institute authorities to learn more about the reality and challenges that the Institutes face.

The human and intellectual richness of the Roman universities lies in their teachers and trainers; being able to establish affiliation helps to share this wealth through the formative accompaniment of the seminarians.

The Students Committee is born

Spirit of initiative and development of transversal skills



The spirit of initiative of APRA students is a **dynamic ferment** and a **talent** to be developed. Student Coordination was created **to promote, channel and coordinate** the initiatives of the students themselves, with **common project activities** aimed at enhancing the sense of **membership** to the University and developing and perfect those transversal skills useful for their personal and academic **growth**.

Among the activities that the Coordination has contributed to carrying out, we highlight the participation of a group of students in the **Run Rome Marathon**, the largest running event in Italy; the promotion of the **Street Faith** event, which involved many APRA and UER students in recreational, sporting and spiritual activities; The **Carlo Acutis Football Tournament**, which many students took part in; the implementation of the first **RC Talks** in Rome,

a container of conferences recognized in Mexico, and organized in APRA and UER jointly with the Association for the Study of Philosophy and Culture (APC) of the University. Each of these initiatives were an opportunity and at the same time a personal and academic challenge, in terms of organization and involvement, in different areas: evangelisation and closeness to the people; openness and collaboration in planning events; brotherhood and the joy of forming a community; the dissemination of ideas and reflections on the challenges of today's culture.

The **Coordination** is composed by: F. Daniel Ochoa, LC, Br. Roberto Allison, Br. Daniel Fernández, Br. Darius Lawrence. For submitting projects and activities it is possible to write to: ufficiostudenti@upra.org



University of Notre Dame Fall Conference

Prof. F. Michael Baggot, LC, attended the Fall Conference *"And It Was Very Good: OnCreation"* - University of Notre Dame (Indiana)



The 22nd Annual Fall Conference of the Centro de Nicola explored the many facets of the created world and the act of creation, including questions of cosmology, teleology, natural ends, natural law, the Imago Dei, status of creature, ecology, stewardship, cocreation, recreation, redemption, and more.

The Conference brought together the world's leading Catholic thinkers, as well as those from other traditions, in a fruitful discourse and exchange on the most urgent and thorny issues of ethics, culture and public politics today. F. Michael's speech dealt with **The Thomistic metaphysics of creation as a correction to the technocratic paradigm of transhumanism: emerging technologies without a metaphysical foundation risk distorting traditional virtue ethics.** Although secular transhumanism correctly encourages individuals to seek a form of life superior to mediocrity, its project will only achieve partial improvement of humanity as long as it excludes the transcendent dimension of the person.

VI Meeting of Law Students of Arequipa

"Right to development: Challenges and achievements"

On November 17th, Prof. Alberto García Gómez, Dean of the Faculty of Bioethics and Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights, held an opening conference at the VI Meeting of Law Students in Arequipa: **"On the right to development: challenges and achievements"** organized with the Universidad Católica San Pablo, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences.

Reflection on the right to development initially pushes us to understand what development is and how it is currently being contributed to by the international community. We believe that development and the right to development represent a special motivation for legal scholars. Given the current situation in Peru and the international reality, from a social, political and legal point of view, topics such as these allow us to motivate thinking, dialogue and convergence among students.



New Opportunities For Our Students

In order to meet pastoral needs and other particular situations, starting from the incoming academic year (2023-2024), our Faculties will offer the possibility of taking advantage of integrated **individual study plans**, aimed at **attendance in person and online**.

The methods of use will vary among faculties depending on the programs and the cycle to which they belong. The Licence in Philosophy will allow for up to 30% of lessons to be attended remotely, with exams always in person; the Licence in Theology will include a timetable concentrated on the central days of the week; the Faculty of Bioethics already offers, to those who wish, an intensive modality for the Licence, which concentrates attendance on two weeks of presence per academic year. This way even professionals

or non-residents of the City will be able to benefit from the APRA Training Offer.



F. Florián Rodero, LC

Member of the Pontifical Mariana Academy Internazionalis



On December 21st, 2022, F. Florián Rodero, LC, professor emeritus of Mariology, was awarded a particular honor to crown an academic life dedicated to teaching the mysteries of the Blessed Virgin. F. Stefano Cecchin, OFM, president of the Pontificia Academia Mariana Internazionalis, gave F. Florián the attestation, certifying his belonging as a Member.

Our Professor has always stood out for a particular delicacy and Marian devotion, which he conveyed in his lessons, together with his academic skills. This recognition is a source of joy, not only for F. Rodero, but for our entire Academic Community, as evidence of the professionalism and dedication of our teachers, as well as the high and appreciated academic depth.

Appointments and Credits

September 28th, 2022 – the Rector appoints F. Aarón Robles, LC assistant professor of the Faculty of Philosophy.

September 28th, 2022 – the Rector appoints Br. Andrew Torrey, LC assistant professor in the Faculty of Philosophy.

October 24th, 2022 – the Rector approves the collaboration of the Faculty of Bioethics with the Journal *Medicine and Ethics* of the la Anáhuac University.

November 8th, 2022 – the Grand Chancellor Appoints Prefect of the Library F. Pedro Mendoza, LC.

November 17th, 2022 – the Rector appoints *for three years* F. Miguel Subirachs, LC Coordinator of the Sacerdos Institute.

November 30th, 2022 – the Rector appoints *for three years* F. Pedro Mendoza Magallón, LC- Prefect of the Library.

January 16th, 2023 – the Grand Chancellor has appointed Prof. F. Michael Baggot, LC Associate Professor of the Faculty of Bioethics.

January 18th, 2023 – the Rector appoints *for three years* Member of the Publications Office Committee F. Joseph Tham, LC.

January 18th, 2023 – the Rector appoints *for three years* Member of the Publications Office Committee F. Michael Paz, LC.

January 18th, 2023 – the Rector appoints *for three years* Member of the Publications Office Committee Prof. F. Rafael Pascual, LC.

March 22nd, 2023 – the Rector appoints F. Giovanni Malgaroli, LC Contact for the Strategic Line of Internationalization in the RIU and RC Collaboration.

March 22nd, 2023 – the Rector appoints F. Advani Sameer, LC Contact for the strategic line of "Repensamiento" in the RIU and RC Collaboration.

March 22nd, 2023 – the Rector appoints F. Aarón Robles, LC Contact person for the strategic line of integral training in the RIU and RC Collaboration.

March 22nd, 2023 – the Rector appoints F. Alberto Carrara, LC Contact person for the strategic line of Research in the RIU and RC Collaboration.

March 22nd, 2023 – the Rector appoints F. Michael Baggot, LC Contact person for the strategic line of Pastoral Care in the RIU and RC Collaboration.

March 22nd, 2023 – the Rector appoints F. Alejandro Alberto Carlos Páez, LC Contact person for the strategic line of Educational Innovation in the RIU and RC Collaboration.

March 22nd, 2023 – the Rector appoints F. Daniel Ochoa, LC as Contact person for the strategic line of Accompaniment in the RIU and RC Collaboration.

March 22nd, 2023 – the Rector appoints Dr. Anita Cadavid as a member of the APRA Commission for the promotion of collaboration with the Red Internacional de Universidades de la Legión de Cristo y del Regnum Christi

May 29th, 2023 – the Rector renews the appointment of F. Rodrigo Ramirez, LC as Director of the Publications Office.

May 29th, 2023 – the Rector renews the appointment of F. Fernando Pascual, LC as Director of the Ecclesia Magazine.

May 29th, 2023 – the Rector appoints F. Rodrigo Ramirez, LC Director of the Alpha Omega Magazine.

October 13th, 2023 – the Rector appoints *for three years* F. Vincenz Heereman, LC Coordinator of the Sacerdos Institute.

APRA 30th Anniversary

Beginning of Activities



On the last September 15th, on the occasion of the date of establishment of the University and opening of the new Academic Year, the Dean reminded us how special this year is for our APRA Community: *"Dear members of the academic community, I am pleased to welcome you at the start of works of the 2023-2024 academic year, a particularly significant year as it launches the celebrations of the thirtieth anniversary of our University, established on September 15th, 1993. This anniversary is an opportunity to*

think about and treasure our past and an opportunity to look to the future with hope, aware of our role in the mission of the Church". To celebrate this 30th Anniversary, celebratory activities will be held throughout the year, in which we will strengthen the sense of mission and belonging to an Ecclesial Institution aimed at the education of thought and culture. There are many initiatives to be discovered from time to time, according to the Calendar that we will soon communicate.

Solidarity Activities

A cycling pilgrimage between charity, sport and spirituality



July saw the latest edition of the **Tour2France**, our cycling initiative in favor of students who would like to continue their studies at our Pontifical University but who, due to economic difficulties, cannot continue their training. The Tour thus becomes an opportunity to offer one's own **support** to the *Pedaling for Scholarships* campaign in order to support the **Good Samaritan Scholarships** offered to the students of our University and spread the value of these initiatives capable of promoting the beauty of solidarity sport.

It was an edition full of opportunities and challenges, between dizzying slopes and breathtaking views of the Alps that our team faced to guarantee support to those in need, thus becoming spokespersons for the words of Pope Francis

for whom **Sport** is **Loyalty, Commitment, Sacrifice, Team spirit** and **Redemption**.

Our team, made up of 9 participants, both religious and lay, men and women, again led this year by our Alumnus, F. Clemens, started from St. Peter's Square with final destination in France at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Laus combining, for the entire route over 1,000 km long, charity, sport and spirituality.

Through this and other solidarity initiatives, our Pontifical University was able to approve the granting of **over 20 scholarships** for Degree Courses; for this, we thank our Donors who with their contribution have given these young students a brighter future and a testimony of faith in the importance of education and solidarity.

A Christmas with new guests

Sharing, care and love in our Mission

by Roberto Serafini - Institutional Development Department

The Holy Father Pope Francis, in His message for the **VII World Day of the Poor**, reminds us that:

*"We live in a historical moment which does not favor attention towards the poorest (...) The parable of **good Samaritan** (see Luke 10:25-37) is not a story of the past, it questions the present of each of us. Delegating to others is easy, offering money for others to do charity is a generous gesture, getting personally involved is the vocation of every Christian".* Reflecting on this teaching, the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum is actively committed to extending a helping hand to those who find themselves in difficulty. Through a path of solidarity, we seek to embody the compassion of Christ in concrete activities and to give hope to the most needy, demonstrating that apostolic formation is not just an intellectual act but a concrete service to the human community. On the occasion of **last Christmas**, we created a truly special moment of **sharing and solidarity**, offering a hearty lunch to several **dozens of people** in difficult circumstances. During this

exciting day, employees and academic authorities joyfully embraced the task of serving meals to our guests, thus testifying to the importance of altruism and love towards others. This lunch, offered thanks to the collaboration of our supplier **Pilgrims**, was not just an opportunity to nourish the body, since some of our students brought their voices and their lively spirit, brightening the atmosphere with songs of **hope and brotherhood**. This was an act of compassion, a tangible expression of the extension of Christ's love to those who need it most. It demonstrated that our dedication to apostolic formation is not limited to study classrooms but is intended to extend to the daily practice of solidarity. Even for the Holy Christmas of the year 2023 we will continue to carry on this precious tradition, testifying that love towards others and care for the less fortunate are intrinsic values of our Community. In every act of kindness we see a reflection of our mission of service, which we hope will always be an inspiration to all.

TESTIMONIALS

Renee Pomarico



I obtained a degree in Religious Sciences from the Pontifical University Regina Apostolorum in 2011. My consecration to God in Regnum Christi led me to university. I started with a degree in Education and Development from Anahuac University in Mexico. Subsequently, I attempted to obtain a licentiate in Religious Studies from the Regina Apostolorum by participating in their distance learning program. I committed myself to studying the material, one class at a time, over the course of four years, while working full-time in the ministry. It was definitely a rewarding experience! My degree in Religious Studies has provided me with extensive support in the academic, catechetical, spiritual and pastoral fields.

Academically, the material I studied in Religious Studies provided a solid foundation for my career in teaching. I was a teacher of Apologetics, Faith and Revelation, Public Speaking, and Drama at Immaculate Conception Academy for five years. Later, I became a Catechism teacher for candidates for consecrated life in Regnum Christi, as well as assuming the role of academic dean in Monterrey, Mexico.

In the catechetical field, my studies at the Regina Apostolorum have allowed me to dedicate time as a catechist in numerous parishes and other school programs over the years. I was also hired as the Director of Religious Education at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Providence, RI. From a spiritual point of view, the contents have enriched my personal journey in faith, increasing my knowledge of the Scriptures and theological concepts. They have been the basis of the retreats I have preached for adolescents, young people and adults.

I consider the degree in Religious Sciences essential for my pastoral ministry. A solid education in philosophy, theology and spirituality is necessary in a life dedicated to evangelism. The degree also allowed me to subsequently obtain certification in Spiritual Direction at Divine Mercy University and to carry out vocational accompaniment in the archdiocese of Monterrey, Mexico.

Some elements of the Religious Studies program that I appreciated are:

- The choice of 8 books, one for each academic discipline, to read and write an essay on. Two of my favorites, which I refer to often, are:
 - The search for the meaning of life by Viktor Frankl.
 - Love and responsibility by Karol Wojtyla.
- The lessons on the Old and New Testaments have been fascinating and enriching for my spiritual life and pastoral ministry.
- Metaphysics is essential to understanding the being and order of essential and accidental properties. Thanks to this material, I have significantly enriched my knowledge.

After earning my bachelor's degree in Religious Studies, I obtained a master's degree in Communications from Spring Arbor University in the United States of America. Currently, I am Director of Communications for the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi, based in Rome. I also continue to serve as spiritual director.

Eugenia Álvarez



My name is Eugenia Álvarez, I am Venezuelan, consecrated to God in Regnum Christi since 1999.

I finished my degree in Religious Studies in 2014. I carried out my studies in the University's distance learning program, combining them with a degree in Education and Development from the Universidad Anáhuac de México.

My studies in Religious Sciences have reawakened in me a love for the intelligence of faith and its transmission in an ecclesial service of evangelization. I particularly appreciated the study of fundamental theology and Holy Scripture. In both I found the reasons for our hope and the ways to establish dialogue between theology and contemporary man. The preparation of the thesis on the offering of one's life according to Romans 12, 1-2 was of particular inspiration for my life and my apostolate.

After these studies I was able to obtain the canonical license in spiritual theology at the "Centre Sèvres", the Jesuit faculty in Paris, and some diplomas from Spanish universities: "Specialist in Spiritual Exercises" (U. de Comillas), "Expert in theology of consecrated life" (U. de Salamanca). I'm considering doing a doctorate in theology.

After graduating in religious sciences I discovered a natural taste for theology and spirituality, a natural way of connecting it to life and sharing it with simplicity. I had the opportunity to work apostolically with adolescents, young people and adults. My way of evangelizing is characterized by encouraging experiences of faith that facilitate people's personal encounter with God. For this reason, the knowledge of revelation and Ignatian spirituality were particularly inspiring.

I currently offer a service as general councilor of the Society of Apostolic Life: "Consecrated of Regnum Christi", combining it with different ways of sharing the richness of the spiritual exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

I live with the desire to contribute to what Pope Francis expressed to the new prefect for the doctrine of the faith: "We need a way of thinking that is able to convincingly present a God who loves, who forgives, who saves, who liberates, who promotes people and calls them to fraternal service." (Pope Francis 1/07/23).

Joseph Baselais



Dear managers and collaborators, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, peace and joy to you! Allow me to congratulate you on the very important role you play within our University, in particular in the Faculty of Bioethics.

I take this noble opportunity to also thank you for the considerable financial assistance (tax reduction) that I have received for this year.

I am Baselais Joseph, Haitian by origin, second year student of bioethics.

Honestly, this year it would be very difficult for me to continue my studies if I didn't receive your support because I am here in Rome without financial coverage for my studies, nor can my parents help me anymore due to the difficult political, economic and social situation of my country. This is why I tell you: Thank you very much sincerely!

Always counting on your help for the future, I remind you that my greatest dream is to continue with this study to invest in myself and commit myself to helping the Church of my country which needs it so much. Because up to now talking about bioethics is and will always be a new and strange thing (people still don't have a bioethical conscience). The lack of respect for the dignity of the person, the trivialization of human life, the violation of fundamental human rights, cases of daily murder are very concrete examples.



Via degli Aldobrandeschi, 190 - Roma
Tel. +39 06 916891 - info@upra.org
upra.org



VERITATEM FACIENTES IN CARITATE