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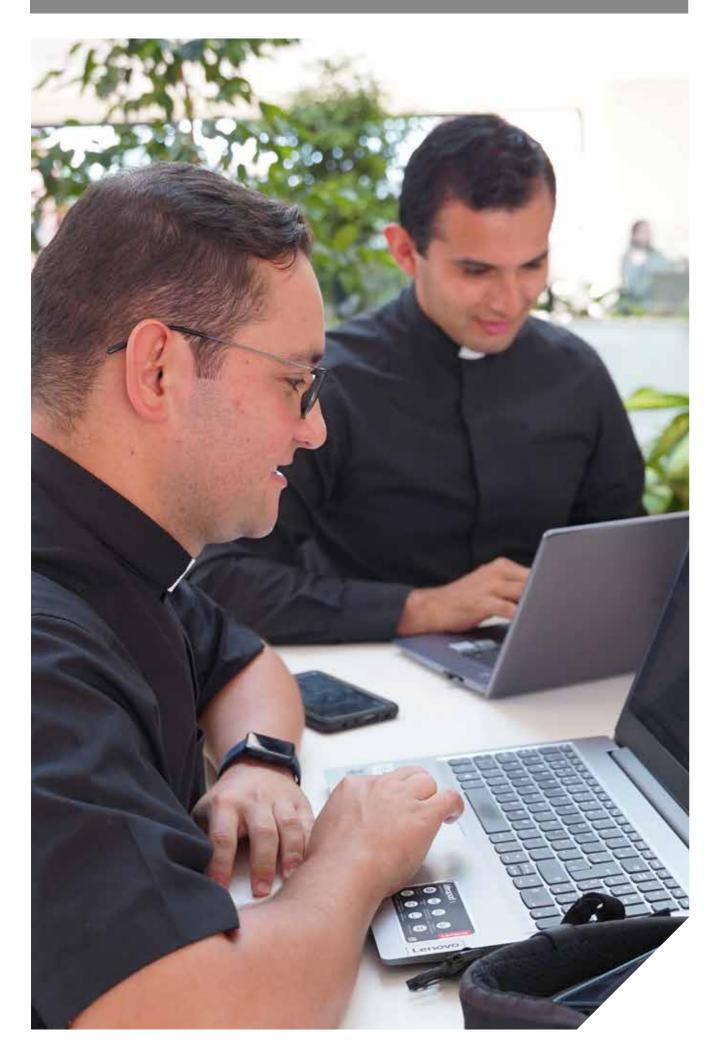


Read here The Magazine in different languages

Testimonials

APRAFOCUS





Innovation and commitment towards a new academic year

by Prof. P. José Enrique Oyarzún, L.C. - Rector Magnificus

s we open the doors to a new year, we are faced with a privileged moment of reflection and projection. This space, which the magazine seeks to offer, is an **opportunity** to verify not only the results achieved last academic year, but also the goals we set ourselves in a constantly changing world. Education, especially academic formation in an ecclesiastical institution, must be able to respond creatively and intelligently to contemporary challenges, without losing sight of the **principles** underlying it and its essential **mission** of evangelizing culture.

The 2023-2024 academic year was particularly significant, marked by the celebration of our 30th anniversary. This milestone has given us the opportunity to look back with gratitude and has been a catalyst for various activities focused on strengthening and growing our identity as an academic community, while projecting our vision into the future. It was a year of reflection on what we have inherited and of renewing our commitment to academic excellence, service to society and the evangelization of culture.

The journal's pages offer a journey through some of the most important moments we have experienced as an academic community. From the advances of our research to the new initiatives that have allowed us to integrate technology more effectively in training processes. This effort is not only a response to the needs of the present, but also a commitment to the preparation of apostles - Christian leaders - capable of contributing to the construction of a more humane and just world, in line with the words of Pope Francis: "Education is an act of hope that, from the present, looks to the future" (Video message for the launch of Mission 4.7 and the Global Compact on Education, 2020).

The ability to innovate, to use technological resources intelligently and to open up to dialogue with different cultural and scientific realities is fundamental to project ourselves into the future and fulfill our evangelizing mission. Every achievement described here is a step in that direction, and each new challenge we set for this new academic year reinforces our commitment to integral formation, which not only educates, but also inspires and transforms.

The **new academic year**, enriched by the experience of our 30th anniversary, invites us to redouble our efforts to promote a **culture of encounter**, of fruitful dialogue between **faith and reason**, between **science and spirituality**. As we grow as an institution, so do our **responsibilities** to the **global academic community**, the **Church**, and **society** at large.

Our commitment to the evangelization of culture permeates every dimension of our academic and pastoral work. We do not limit ourselves to training competent professionals, but people dedicated to transforming the world in a Christian perspective. As Pope Francis reminds us, "to evangelize is to make present the Kingdom of God in the world" (Evangelii Gaudium, 176). This mission directs our efforts towards the future, ensuring that every academic and institutional initiative



contributes to "reaching and transforming with the power of the Gospel the criteria of judgment, the determining values, the points of interest, the lines of thought, the sources of inspiration and the models of life of humanity, which are in contrast with the Word of God and with the plan of salvation" (Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, 19)¹. We hope that the following pages will not only serve to look with gratitude at what we have achieved, but also inspire those who accompany us on this journey to continue to dream and build a hopeful future, based on the rich tradition we have cultivated, the innovation that drives us forward, and our unwavering commitment for the evangelization of culture.

¹ Quote from the official Spanish translation.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

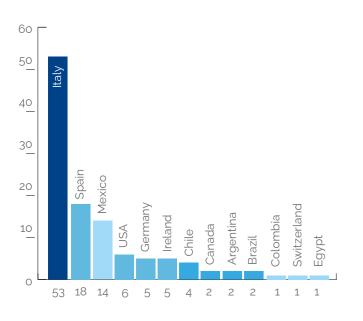
APRA in numbers

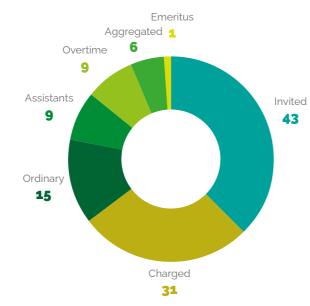
A.Y. 2023-2024

114 lecturers from 13 countries

Teachers by nationality

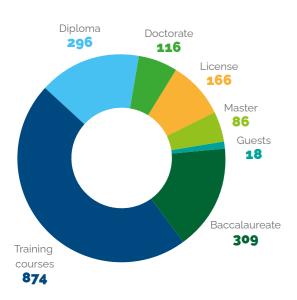




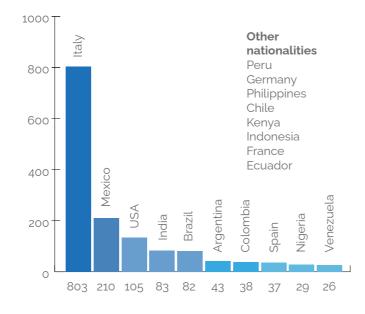


1865 students

Students by training cycle



Students by nationality (top 10)



New Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Projecting the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum into the future

Starting from its mission, the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum aims to form apostles and Christian leaders, both clerical and laity, at the service of the Church by witnessing to the mystery of Christ, in full harmony with the Magisterium, and responding to the theoretical and existential challenges of man. This mission contributed to the development of the 2019-2024 strategic plan with extremely positive results. As we face a new five-year term, we are preparing to undertake new challenges and opportunities to offer the Church an institution capable of meeting needs and solving current problems. The academic community was involved in this process and, thanks to the teamwork, commitment and collaboration of the different departments, we were able to create and develop the new strategic plan

In the last five years, the University has achieved significant goals in various areas. Among the most relevant successes



we highlight the creation of the Student Committee, a fundamental body to ensure the active participation and involvement of students in university life. In addition, a team dedicated to distance learning has been launched which has made it possible to expand the training offer and reach a wider audience. The introduction of new technologies in classrooms has facilitated distance learning, making teaching more accessible and interactive. In parallel, the implementation of the academic and administrative management system, via the Zoho One platform, has significantly improved the efficiency of our processes, optimizing the service offered to authorities, faculty, and students

The intensive work of institutionalization has been a key pillar of our success, as it has resulted in the development of regulations to control internal processes. This led to the revision of the General Statutes and the General Regulations, ensuring a solid and well-defined organizational structure. In terms of communication, promotion and economic sustainability, we have developed and activated projects that have helped to improve our visibility and ensure responsible financial management. Building a strong network of institutional relationships has further strengthened our position in the academic landscape.

Looking ahead, the 2024-2029 strategic plan focuses on four main areas: Academic Quality, Community and University Spirit, Institutional Management and Institutional Development. Key objectives include the promotion of quality scientific research, the provision of innovative and engaging programmes, both face-to-face and online, and the strengthening of the teaching staff through initiatives aimed at developing professional skills and attracting new talent.

Students' involvement is crucial, with initiatives to integrate their academic experience with extracurricular activities, aimed at fostering a university. Particular interest will be paid to the promotion of the **Third Mission**, which links the academic sphere with the cultural, social and charitable context, enriching the education of students and strengthening the **link between university and society**.

At the level of institutional management, we aim to strengthen the sense of co-responsibility and collaboration, ensuring competent and motivated staff, and integrating technological innovation into teaching and administration processes.

Finally, institutional development will focus on growing in terms of visibility and number of students, promoting economic sustainability and maintaining meaningful relationships with *alumni*.

With the next five-year strategic plan, the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum is committed to continuing its path of academic excellence and service to the Church and the community, preparing to face the challenges of the future with confidence and determination, and pursuing those objectives that inspire the common vision.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES INNOVATIVE AND DIGITAL TRAINING

Multicultural and ecclesial richness

Broad horizons for a broader vision of the Church

by Fr. Salabert Pierre, L.C. - PCIMME Rector

At each new beginning of the school year, what amazes me Church. This year, for example, our community is composed is to perceive the force of attraction that Jesus Christ still exercises in the hearts of young people today, to the point of leaving everything to follow him. I'm not talking about fairy tales or a glorious past. It's still a fact!

While, especially in the Old Continent, we are witnessing a sort of vocational winter, in other latitudes we are experiencing a vibrant springtime of faith and Christian life, in many cases watered by persecution and martyrdom, where numerous vocations still flourish. Well, many of our seminarians come from this reality.

And, every year, a new group of representatives of this courageous youth who have decided to leave everything and follow Christ, becomes part of our community at the Pontifical International College Maria Mater Ecclesiae. Like the 38 new seminarians from Angola, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, India, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. At Mater Ecclesiae these young people find an international environment that, in a certain way, is a reflection of the catholicity of the make him known.

of priests and seminarians from 23 countries, from 47 dioceses, most of which are of the Latin rite, but also of the Syro-Malabar rite. A multicultural and ecclesial richness that, without a doubt, opens horizons to a broader vision of the Church.

This experience is further enriched by the exchange that each of the young seminarians carries out in contact with the academic community of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, where our students not only receive instruments of scientific knowledge, where they can also share their own cultural traditions and their experiences of a particular Church, as well as grow in the knowledge of the One who has called them and calls them to mission. In fact, Christ's power of attraction continues to be cultivated also through the study of his mysteries and in the concrete experience of the ecclesial community. As we know, Christ not only attracts at first contact, but the more we know him, the more we want to know him, follow him, love him and



Educational innovation

The first MOOC courses

by Laura Dalfollo - Distance Learning

he academic year 2023/2024 marks an important moment for educational innovation in our university with the launch of two new \mathbf{MOOC} (Massive Open Online Courses) courses as part of the Distance Learning Department's project.

The courses "Introduction to the Catechism: the profession of faith and the sacramental economy" by Prof. Fr. Daniel Ochoa, L.C., and "Introduction to Spiritual Theology online" by Prof. Angela Tagliafico, represent not only a novelty in the university's educational proposal, but also a concrete response to the needs of those who wish to take care of their formation even if they cannot physically go to university classrooms or not having long times available to devote to study.

The course Introduction to the Catechism: The Professionof Faith and the Sacramental Economy intends to provide an understanding of the fundamental principles of the catechism by following its conceived and written structure. It is aimed not only at students who intend to approach these teachings for the first time, but also at those who wish to deepen their knowledge of this. Through a series of structured lectures and carefully selected teaching materials, the course addresses the key themes of the first part of the catechism, providing a foundation for further theological study. During the academic year 2024-2025 it will be possible to access "Introduction to Catechism 2: Sight in Christ and Prayer".

The Introduction to Spiritual Theology online course offers students a **clear** and simple explanation of the Christian spiritual life by emphasizing the relationship between human life and spiritual life. This course is designed for those who are interested in better understanding the spiritual dimension of the Christian faith and developing a deeper personal spiritual practice. The lessons cover various aspects of spiritual theology, giving students tools for personal and community reflection.

Impact and Results

The introduction of these two new MOOC courses has already been a great success, attracting 88 enrolled students and attracting the interest of many more who have registered to see the presentation webinars held by the regular lecturers. This positive result not only testifies to the quality of the content offered, but also highlights the importance of providing flexible and accessible learning opportunities. The students enthusiastically welcomed the opportunity to access online lessons and teaching materials, which allow them to reconcile their studies with other personal and professional commitments.

Teachers' Commitment

I want to emphasize a fundamental element of the success of these courses which is the extraordinary commitment of our teachers. Facing this new challenge with **enthusiasm** and passion, our teachers have invested time and energy in creating content and in the adaptation of their teaching methodologies to the asynchronous format. Their dedication has been crucial in ensuring that students have an engaging and enriching educational experience, despite physical distance.

Future Vision

Our university is committed to expanding the offer of MOOC courses, with the aim of reaching an increasing number of people. We believe that education should be accessible to everyone, regardless of personal or geographical circumstances. Our MOOC courses are designed to quarantee a high level of training quality, not only at a



distance but also able to integrate and enrich face-to-face

The use of digital materials and interactive resources. through the Canvas educational platform, allows us to create a dynamic and engaging teaching experience, encouraging active and participatory learning. Students have access to video lectures, interactive quizzes, discussion forums, and other resources that facilitate an indepth and integrated understanding of the topics covered.

In conclusion, the new MOOC courses represent a significant step towards a more inclusive and accessible education. With the intention of further expanding this offer, our Athenaeum stands as a pioneer in the use of digital technologies for education. We will continue to develop courses that respond to students' needs and promote continuous and quality education, thus helping to create a global and interconnected learning community.

RESEARCH RESEARCH

Institute of Higher Studies on Women

A window of continuous dialogue with society and culture for a new narrative on the Feminine

by Anita Cadavid - ISSD Director

he Institute of Higher Studies on Women was founded in 2003 with the aim of promoting the contribution of women in all areas of life: culture, family, work, Church. From that moment on, we have never ceased to strive to make this purpose effective. It is our belief that fostering an alliance between women and men is the key to accomplishing these objectives. It has been 22 years since it was established, and the reason we started the Institute remains a source of inspiration for us. We want what is done in the Institute to continue to transform the reality that surrounds us through concrete actions.

In recent years we have deepened our **research**, we have identified new issues that are increasingly topical in the field of women. We have launched **working groups** to offer new proposals so that the presence of women is effectively enhanced in the workplace. We want to commit ourselves to the development of a new narrative on the feminine so that the presence of women in all areas is seen as an enrichment for everyone.

One of the most strategic projects for us is to contribute to the reflection on the **role of women in the Church**. This reflection is part of the context of the role of the lax and of the greater awareness of the common dignity of all the baptized. This project becomes concrete above all

with the **Women and Church Joint Diploma** that we are carrying out together with seven other pontifical academic realities: Pontifical Salesian University, Pontifical Urbaniana University, Pontifical Thomas Aquinas University, Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Theological Institute for Consecrated Life (Claretianum), Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences (Auxilium) and the Teresianum. We also want to engage through other types of initiatives so that the ideas coming from teachers and students can be conveyed in different ways.

Work is constantly changing and this affects the lives of all men and women in different ways.

We have been dealing with the issue for many years already. Today we are faced not only with the challenge of organizational time flexibility but with a new tool with many new potentials: artificial intelligence.

The challenges of the world of work do not end and we must look at them with eyes capable of grasping the news but also the critical issues. Generative AI presents us with ways to make life and work more usable. This is why within our Value @ Work group, we are starting a research and dissemination path that helps us to illuminate the issue of artificial intelligence and its impact also on women's work in a proactive and prospective way.



Anniversary of the Neurobioethics Research Group

15 years of Neurobioethics

by Diego Zanforlin - PhD student in Bioethics

2024 marks an important anniversary for our Neurobioethics (GdN) Research Group. On **March 20**, the **15**th **anniversary of the creation** of this dynamic and interdisciplinary reality was celebrated with a commemorative and in-depth event, on-site and online.

The GdN deals with **emerging**, **avant-garde** and frontier **issues** in the field of neuroethics such as the critical scenarios of motor, cognitive, affective, emotional and social enhancement; from scenarios that challenge the neurobioethicist, such as brain organoids, from the so-called "organoid intelligence" to human-machine hybridization for non-therapeutic purposes.

The rapid developments and applications of neuroscientific and neurotechnological discoveries to human beings challenge us to decide with awareness the direction to be given to progress

In the March seminar, the past was remembered, the present illustrated and we projected ourselves towards the future of systematic and informed reflection on neuroscience and on the interpretation of the neural sciences themselves.

After an introduction on the history and path of the neurobioethics group in these 15 years, Prof. Carrara gave voice to the various coordinators of the research subgroups: the first to intervene was Dr. Maria Paola Brugnoli, anesthesiologist-resuscitator and coordinator of the subgroup dedicated to consciousness; below, Emanuela Cerasella, coordinator of the neurolaw subgroup; Dr. Riccardo Carrara, surgeon and coordinator of the subgroup on neurobioethics and methodology; Prof. Claudio Bonito, coordinator of the subgroup on Posthumanism, and at last, Ing. computer scientist Rosario Moscato, coordinator of the subgroup relating to neurobioethics and artificial intelligence. The debate was not attended by Alessandro Norsa, the psychologist who coordinates the subgroup on neuroaesthetics.

On this occasion, the dear colleagues who passed away were remembered: Prof. Maria Addolorata Mangione and Prof. Giorgia Salatiello.

The meeting ended with a convivial moment at the University.

Workshop

Bioaesthetics and global bioethics

by Serena Montefusco - Faculty of Bioethics and UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights



From 8 to 10 November 2023, the Bioaesthetics Study Group (GBE) proudly celebrated its tenth anniversary with an international multidisciplinary meeting: "Bioaesthetics and Global Bioethics" at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum.

The GBE (founded in Madrid in 2013) and the International Network of Bioethics and Aesthetics were born from a partnership between the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights in Rome and the Universidad Militar de Nueva Granada in Bogotá, Colombia to create an interdisciplinary and international network that explores the symbiotic relationship between bioethics and art. This initiative seeks to understand how art influences human behavior, research ethics, and medical and environmental ethics. The study group seeks to reduce the gap between the academic community and the art world, promoting a deeper appreciation of how the arts can articulate and embody ethical principles, thereby enhancing our collective understanding of human dignity and rights in a globalized context.

A key objective of the GBE is to assess the transformative power of the arts in shaping ethical thought and practice. By engaging art lovers and the general public, the group aims to inspire greater sensitivity towards the universal language of art, which transcends cultural and linguistic barriers.

The meeting provided the right space to evaluate and disseminate the influence of art on bioethics, encouraging academic communities to incorporate artistic perspectives into bioethics education. This dialogue between art and ethics is key to promoting a more comprehensive and humanistic approach to global bioethical issues.

In addition, reflections on the interaction between bioaesthetics and the 15 principles outlined in the UNESCO Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights allowed the expert members of the GBE to present reports that explore how bioaesthetics can enrich and be influenced by global bioethical standards.

The meeting was structured in such a way as to encourage deep reflection and dialogue between experts. Each morning, participants were engaged in presentations to analyze the nuances between bioaesthetics and bioethical principles such as, for example, human dignity, autonomy and justice. These sessions not only highlighted theoretical frameworks but also offered practical points on how aesthetics and ethics converge in real-world applications, from medical practices to environmental conservation.

The expert participants were invited to participate in the *Bioaesthetic Tour*, which consisted of a series of contemplations and guided discussions in the afternoon. These sessions gave participants the chance to engage in reflective dialogue, provide feedback on the papers submitted, and explore new ideas. The intent was to create an atmosphere of collaboration in which scholars could refine their work and broaden the discourse on the ethical implications of aesthetic experiences.

Guided tours of significant historical and artistic sites in Rome, at the Church of San Luigi dei Francesi, Santa Maria della Pace and the Sistine Chapel aimed to demonstrate the profound relationship between life and aesthetics, encouraging participants to consider how artistic expressions reflect and shape ethical and humanistic values.

While the GBE looks at its fourth publication (in press) entitled *Bioestética y Bioética Global. An aesthetic experience* at the light of the principles of the Universal Declaration of *Bioethics and Human Sciences*, this meeting marked a significant milestone in his journey: it laid the foundations for future explorations. The convergence of different disciplines and perspectives in this meeting underlined the GBE's commitment to promoting a holistic understanding of the interconnectedness between art and bioethics, bioaesthetics.

Deepening the riches of medieval thought

Conference and Award of the Marco Arosio Chair of Advanced Medieval Studies

On 10 and 11 April 2024, the Marco Arosio Chair of **Advanced Medieval Studies** of the Faculty of Philosophy of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, under the patronage of the International Tommaso D'Aquino Society (SITA) and the Studi Bonaventuriani of Bagnoregio (CSB), organized the usual annual Conference. This year's theme was dictated by the 750th anniversary of the death of two illustrious pillars of medieval thought and Catholic theology: Saints Bonaventure and Thomas Aquinas.

It was impossible for the medievalists of the Arosio Chair not to seek a comparison, among other things included in the three-year preparatory period of another Thomist anniversary (2025). The title of the Conference was, in fact, "Bonaventura of Bagnoregio and Tommas D'Aquino in

Dr. Marco Arosio wrote, in Aristotelianism and Theology, "Gilson strongly emphasizes the irreducibility of Augustinianism and Aristotelianism. Bonaventure and Thomas become the representatives of two different conceptions of philosophy. This position, which exalts the clear separation between two parallel and irreducible expressions of Christian thought, was determined as a reaction to the "concordist" tendency that had established itself among the fathers of Quaracchi's publishers: concerned not to be excluded from the neoscholastic movement that found in the Roman Curia the strong endorsement of Pope Leo XIII, they presented the Franciscan master as a precursor of Aquinas and the philosophy of Bonaventure as a sort of sketch preparatory of Thomistic philosophy"

United in life and death, the Conference reflected on the interpretation of the thoughts of the two great Doctors:

Concordism or divergence? The divergences regarding the eternity of the world, universal hylemorphism, and Anselm's way are well known; less known and perhaps more interesting are those of the Trinitarian epistemological and theological order. Do these differences complement the basic harmony?

These questions were answered by the invited specialists: Don Sergio Bonanni; Father Pedro Barrajón, L.C.; Lorella Congiunti; Don Alain Contat; Alessandro Ghisalberti; Massimiliano Lenzi; Letterio Mauro; Marco Moschini; Father José Enrique Oyarzún, L.C.; Father Rafael Pascual, L.C.; Carmelo Pandolfi.

At the end of the day on April 11, the award ceremony of the thirteenth edition of the Marco Arosio Prize (2023) was held, won ex aequo by Drs. José Carlos Robles Arenas, with an unpublished monograph entitled ¿Esse secundarium Christi? La noción de esse en tres configuraciones tomistas como

clave de interpretación histórico-especulativa del hápax de la Quaestio disputata de unione Verbi Incarnati, a. 4 de Santo Tomás de Aguino, and Eugenia Fera, with a monograph published in 2023 entitled Symbolic Figurations of the Church in the Homily n. 25 "in Evangelia" by Gregory the Great.



Jean Daniélou, «Between **Eternity and Time>>**

Insights on the 50th anniversary of his death

Cardinal Jean Daniélou (1905-1974) was one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth century, and one of the architects of the Vatican Concyclical II. His work has left an indelible mark on contemporary theology, and his work has traversed the great tradition of the Fathers of the collaboration with the Faculty of Theology, an in-depth Webinar dedicated to this great figure was held on the anniversary and in memory of the 50th anniversary of his

Principal guest of the event Prof. P. Marcelo Bravo Pereira, L.C., an expert on the writings of the French theologian, who presented his latest book Between Eternity and Time:

The Office of the Theologian in the Life and Methodological Proposal of Jean Daniélou; and the Author's Complete Bibliography Project entitled The Work of a Life. Bibliographic repertoire of Jean Daniélou (1905-1974).

Daniélou's theological and pastoral legacy is shown in the Church, integrating theologians, scholars and philosophers more than two thousand articles and books published that both Christian and non-Christian. On May 29, 2024, in still inspire those who undertake theological studies. Among the participants was Prof. P. Jean-Robert Armogathe, cofounder and current publisher of Alfredo Catalfo's magazine Communio, and director of Edizioni Efesto, who oversaw the publication of the book, as well as the presentation of the Bibliography.

Gianni Cardinale, of Avvenire, was in charge of moderating

#WebinarAPRA

Gender identity and the defense of life

Listening and paying attention to current issues

The mission of evangelizing culture stems from APRA's identity and listening to the issues that animate the current socio-cultural context. The #WebinarAPRA were created as a platform for dialogue and reflection on these topics, to address them from interdisciplinary perspectives, and in a network with other academic institutions.

On May 9, 2024, together with RIU (Red internacional de universidades de la Legión de Cristo y del Movimiento Regnum Christi) and CISAV (Centro de Investigación Social Avanzada), a topic that is still open was addressed: education, sexuality and the Church. Together with the author of the book Género, jóvenes and Iglesia: Juntar las piezas Prof. Marta Rodríguez, Rodrigo Guerra, Diana Fernández, Miguel Pérez, with the moderation of Paulina Suárez del Real

Another important event, entitled Defense of life: Ideas and reflections on the protection of life, was held on July 4, 2024. Moderated by Francesco Ognibene, Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper Avvenire, Prof. Claudia Navarini, Professor of Moral Philosophy at the European University of Rome (UER), Member of the Neurobioethics Group, of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights and of



the Scientific Committee of the ARETAI-Virtue Center; and Prof. Don Renzo Pegoraro, professor of Bioethics, expert in Bioethics and Professional Ethics and Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy for Life. The Webinar was an opportunity for discussion and analysis on topics such as palliative care, euthanasia, abortion, surrogacy and all topics of bioethical interest in relation to the protection of life in all its phases. giving answers and bioethical criteria in line with the Magisterium of the Church.

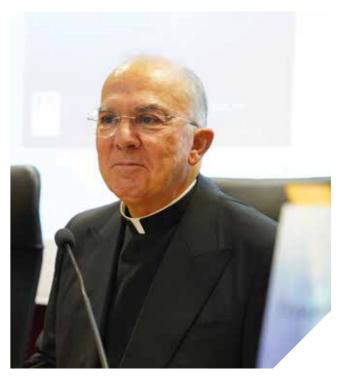
Encounter *Death of Life*

A book to question the meaning of life and death with P. Ramón Lucas. L.C.

On December 13, 2023, the Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum had the privilege of being the first place for the presentation of the book *Temporali Eterno* by our invited professor of the Faculty of Philosophy Prof. P. Ramón Lucas Lucas, L.C., and professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University. From an anthropological point of view, the book deals with one of the mysteries most investigated by thinkers of all times, regardless of religious confession or cultural background: suffering, death and mourning, trying to offer an answer to the question of meaning, adequate to the dignity of the human person.

The presentation took place within an **evening of reflection** entitled *Morte Vitale*, which was attended by various speakers. Prof. Guido Traversa, professor of Philosophy, has faced death from an anthropological point of view. Afterwards, Prof. Claudia Navarini, professor and member of the National Committee for Bioethics, spoke about it from the bioethical perspective. Finally, Prof. Fr. José E. Oyarzún, L.C., Rector and APRA Lecturer, illustrated the eschatological aspects of death, in the broad framework of the resurrection and the fulfilment of the call to life.

In the evening, space was given to guestions from the many participants, friends, lecturers, researchers and students. After the final greeting, Fr. Ramón took time to sign copies of the books available for purchase during the event.



14 ATENEO PONTIFICIO REGINA APOSTOLORUM | MAGAZINE 2024 ATENEO PONTIFICIO REGINA APOSTOLORUM | MAGAZINE 2024 15 **EVENTS**

The exhibition of the Holy Shroud

A journey between faith, science and art



The Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum in Rome hosts an extraordinary exhibition dedicated to the Holy Shroud, an event that combines art, faith and science to offer visitors an immersive and engaging experience. The exhibition Who is the man of the Shroud?, which is part of the University's wider program to explore the mysteries of the Shroud, represents a unique arouses. opportunity to get closer to one of the most enigmatic and revered objects of Christianity.

The Holy Shroud has been at the center of a debate involving theologians, scientists and historians for centuries. Considered by many to be the shroud that who were eager to explore the mystery of the Shroud wrapped the body of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion, with a faith and science approach. this relic fascinates and questions the modern world for A Dialogue between Science and Faith its extraordinary religious value and the mystery that The itinerary of the exhibition at APRA and its itinerant surrounds it. The exhibition set up at the Athenaeum is not limited to exhibiting a reproduction of the Shroud, but guides visitors through a multimedia and interactive path that traces the history of the shroud, examines its characteristics and explores both its scientific and spiritual implications.

Traveling Exhibition of the Shroud: Orte and San Godenzo

The exhibition at the Athenaeum is part of a broader context that sees the Shroud as the protagonist of other initiatives. Between April and May 2024, a traveling version of the exhibition was brought to two important Italian locations: Orte and San Godenzo. From 6 to 20 April 2024, the city of Orte (Viterbo) hosted the exhibition in the Hall of the Bishop's Palace. This event attracted great interest, culminating in a closing conference entitled Shroud: a mystery between history, science and nourish the devotion of those who participate.

faith, also held in Orte. The conference was attended by illustrious scholars in the field:

G. Bellucci, E. Marinelli, R. Pascual and D. Repice. These experts offered insights into the historical and scientific significance of the Shroud, stimulating a deep reflection on the multiple interpretations that the relic

After Orte, the exhibition continued its journey to San Godenzo (Florence), where it was on display from 1 to 30 May 2024. The event attracted a broad audience, including devotees, scholars, and curious individuals

journey demonstrate how the Shroud is able to speak not only to believers, but also to those who are fascinated by the encounter between science and mystery. The exhibition explores not only the history of the shroud, but also the modern scientific techniques used to analyze it, such as carbon-14 analysis and studies of the image imprinted on the fabric. Despite numerous researches, the Shroud continues to remain an enigma, an object that defies rational explanations and invites spiritual contemplation.

In conclusion, the exhibition represents an extraordinary opportunity to approach the mystery of the Shroud, through a journey that touches the heart of faith and reason. Orte and San Godenzo were significant stages of a journey that will continue to raise questions and

Doctoral dissertations A.Y. 2023-2024

The Doctoral Dissertations of the academic year 2023-2024 offer valuable contributions to philosophical-theological reflection and bioethical research. We hope that they will enrich the academic debate and offer answers to the questions of contemporary society.

Philosophy

• Torres Andres Francisco with the dissertation Las raíces de la contingencia según la Expositio Libri Peryermeneias IX de Santo Tomás de Aquino.

Theology

- · Thomas Taison with the dissertation Can the Church be both a Faithful Spouse and a Merciful Mother in the service of conscience? A critical reflection on the implications of Veritatis Splendor and of Christus Vivit;
- Philip John Wood with the dissertation A Study on John Henry Newman's New Exodus Theology. With a Special Emphasis on Christological and Mariological Implications;
- · Marcello Iuliani with the dissertation La formazione umana del presbitero, nuovo pilastro formativo. Un'analisi storicoteologica del concetto.

- Ivano Sassanelli with the dissertation The "fantastic bioethics" by J.R.R. Tolkien;
- · Mairon Wesley Gavlik Mendes with the dissertation Atualidade da bioética personalista ontologicamente fundada.Visão atual e reflexiões com vista a sua maior expansão;
- · Maroun Badr with the dissertation L'autonomie de la femme entre liberté personnelle et santé publique Application sur l'avortement et la contraception, et enjeux bioéthiques dans le contexte français des Objectifs de Développement Durable;
- Maximilien Longanghe Panzula with the dissertation Contour et conditionnement de la clause de l'objection de conscience en matière de santé. Comment l'Eglise catholique s'oppose à la légalisation de l'euthanasie.

Course for Seminary Formators

Forming formators: a specific course at the service of the Church and the Priestly Vocation

For many years, the Sacerdos Institute of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum has been offering a course aimed at Rectors, Vice-Rectors, spiritual directors, other seminary formators, or those who will become so, who carry out the delicate task of accompanying candidates to the **priesthood** in their vocational journey, whether diocesan or religious. The knowledge required is broad and ranges in all areas of discernment and vocational accompaniment. One thinks of the human aspect, not only spiritual, and the need to integrate seminarians from different social or cultural backgrounds, which often make the seminary a true intercultural center, where communion must be built day by day on the basis of faith and common vocation. In addition to this, they need skills in the psychological, psychosocial and didactic fields; especially because candidates present new educational and training needs, often dependent on the fragmented social fabric that we all experience. Accompanying a candidate for the priesthood, therefore, is a **commitment** and a **mission** that is as exciting as it is demanding.

This year the Course took place from 1 to 31 July for the first time at the International College of the Legionaries of Christ (Rome). The 55 participants of 20 different nationalities, coming from almost all continents (especially Africa and Latin America), experienced the life of communion themselves, alternating the strictly formative part with the community part, being able to enjoy guided tours and moments of retreat and **prayer**. This aspect is fundamental because

the Course for Seminary Formators is transformed into an opportunity for relationship, sharing, and discussion among the participants, who can expose and reflect on the real needs they face in their seminars. In coexistence, the participants go beyond the merely theoretical aspect and have the opportunity to find concrete solutions in intercultural dialogue.

All this foundation is found in the didactic tools at the basis of the Course and in the teachings of the documents of the Magisterium such as the Gift of the Priestly Vocation: Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis, Pastores Dabo Vobis, the guidelines of the New Directory for the Ministry and Life of Priests, and the guidelines of the Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium. These instruments contemplate, require and hope for an adequate formation that is also attentive to the **new** personal, human, social and community challenges, as well as to spiritual and human needs that need integral responses in step with

Those who participate return to their diocese not only with in-depth knowledge, but with a real experience that accompanies and supports them in concrete decisions. One of the participants told us "this course was really a grace! A time of renewal, fraternal communion and intense work, drawing from the rich wisdom of the Church and the competence of expert speakers. A precious help in my ministry as a formator!". For the Sacerdos Institute, testimonies like this confirm its Mission of Service to the Church.

APRACOMMUNITY



THE "VOICE" OF OUR COMMUNITY THE "VOICE" OF OUR COMMUNITY

Cattedra Marco Arosio

The Cogito in Medieval Times

The volume publishes the proceedings of the International Conference The Cogito in the Middle Ages, organized by the Marco Arosio Chair and the Faculty of Philosophy of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome (13-14 October 2020), with contributions from professors Alain Contat, Christian Ferraro, Juan Antonio Gaytán, Alessandro Ghisalberti, Rupert Mayer, Carmelo Pandolfi, Graziano Perillo, Davide Riserbato.

From the works of Étienne Gilson on the scholastic origins of Cartesian philosophy, we know that the Cogito did not appear by spontaneous generation in Descartes' mind, but that it passed through a long history that embraces the whole of the Middle Ages. The volume explores the major moments of this itinerary from the thematizations of St. Augustine and St. Bonaventure, to the more directly philosophical characterizations of self-consciousness with the Dominicans of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries such as St. Albert the Great, St. Thomas Aguinas, Meister Eckhart, and John Duns. The reflection of subsequent Franciscan thinkers, such as William of Ockham and his nominalist posterity, was different, who would use the Cogito as an epistemological tool intended to measure the field of the possible.

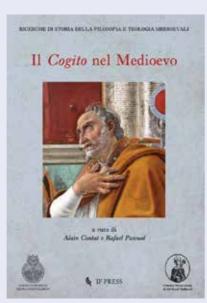
Dante Alighieri On the 700th anniversary of his death

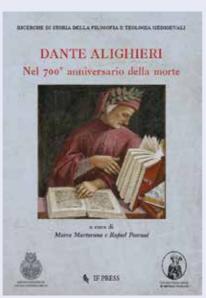
The volume publishes the proceedings of the Dante Alighieri International Conference, on the 700th anniversary of his death, promoted in Rome (13-15 April 2021) by the Marco Arosio Chair of Advanced Medieval Studies of APRA in collaboration with the European University of Rome. The conference made use of the interventions and contributions of professors Pedro Barrajón; Isabella Becherucci; Vittorio Capuzza; Marcello Ciccuto; Alain Contat; Giulio Ferroni; Alberto Forni; Marco Frisina; Edoardo Fumagalli; Alessandro Ghisalberti; Gianfranco Maglio; Giovanni Malgaroli, Mirco Manuguerra, Marco Martorana, Franco Nembrini, José Enrique Oyarzún; Carmelo Pandolfi; Rodolfo Papa; Rafael Pascual; Angela Patrono; Fabio Pierangeli; Samuele Pinna; Davide Rondoni; Silvia Rossetti; Carlo Serafini; Costantino Sigismondi; Massimiliano Venturelli.

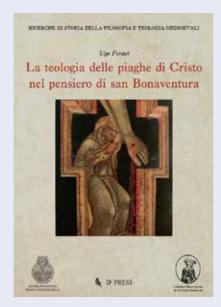
The Conference promoted the thought of the Supreme Poet by offering an overview of Dante's philosophy and theology, and then allowed the gaze to wander on the versatility and modernity of a figure who remains always relevant for the topicality of the questions he raises and the answers he offers.

The Theology of Christ's Wounds in the Thought of St. Bonaventure

The research presented in this volume points out how the wounds of Christ can help to express some key elements of St. Bonaventure's theological vision, describing the trajectory of a revelation that culminates from the overflowing divine heart in the suffering humility of the Cross. The text also investigates the reason why the stigmata become the decisive seal of the spiritual experience of Francis of Assisi. The first part of this research is reserved for the critical analysis of Bonaventure's sources and of Scripture, the second, aimed at identifying Bonaventure's theological contribution to the wounds, is divided into two sections. The first (descensus) focuses mainly on Bonaventure's Christology, thus understanding the movement of revelation and redemption through the kenosis of the cross; the second (ascensus) focuses on the stigmata of Francis: the title, in fact, recalls the path of ascent to God that passes through the conformation to Christ that Francis has accomplished in an exemplary form.







Science and Faith Institute



Models of bioethics - 2

The volume continues a research on pluralism in bioethics, initially shaped in the publication of a work with the title Modelli di bioetica (ART, Rome 2007). The research has continued over time and has given rise to several articles that are now collected and republished. The authors studied in this new publication are the following: Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, Peter Singer, Hans Jonas, Edward Osborne Wilson, and Hugo Tristram Engelhardt. A chapter is included in the volume that provides a concrete example of the application of the different models to a very concrete topic, abortion. Research on models in bioethics is oriented towards a purpose of great importance for our time: to promote a dialogue oriented to the search for truth on issues that intimately affect the lives of individuals and peoples, and which, studied in an adequate way, make it possible to promote an authentic culture of life, in the wake of the teachings and proposals of Pope John Paul II.

In libraries and bookshops

BOOKS

JOSÉ E. OYARZÚN - RODRIGO RAMÍREZ, Evangelizzare la Cultura (Atti di Congresso, 17), Rome 2023;

DAVID KOONCE, Saldi nella Fede. Temi scelti di teologia fondamentale (Teologia, 22), APRA-IF Press, Rome 2024;

MICHAEL RYAN, Etica sociale (Filosofia 13), APRA-IF Press, Rome 2024;

MARCELO BRAVO PEREIRA - FRANCESCA MAGI, L'opera di una vita. Repertorio bibliografico di Jean Daniélou (1905-1974) (studi e sussidi didattici, 10), APRA, Rome 2024;

THOMAS MONTANARO, The Spousal Meaning of the Body in Celibacy and Consecrated Virginity According to St. John Paul II. An eternal meaning of spousal love. (studi e ricerche, 13), APRA-IF Press, Rome 2024.

THESIS

JERY PAUL NJALIATH, Articulation of the Theory of Identity of Catholic Hospitals and a Quantitative Research on the Identity of Catholic Multi-specialty Hospitals in Kerala (Estratto) (Tesi Bioetica, 52), Rome 2023;

IVANO SASSANELLI, La "bioetica fantastica" di J.R.R. Tolkien (Estratto) (Tesi Bioetica 53), Rome 2024;

MAIRON WESLEY GAVLIK MENDES, Atualidade da bioética personalista ontologicamente fundada. Visão atual e reflexões com vista a sua maior expansão (Tesi Bioetica 54), Rome 2024;

MARCELLO IULIANI, La formazione umana del presbitero, nuovo pilastro formativo. Un'analisi storico-teologica del concetto (Tesi Teologia 49), Rome 2024;

MAROUN BADR, L'autonomie de la femme entre liberté personnelle et santé publique Application sur l'avortement et la contraception, et enjeux bioéthiques dans le contexte français des Objectifs de Développement Durable (Tesi Bioetica 55), Rome 2024.

MAGAZINES

Alpha Omega 25.3 (2022), 26.1, 26.2, 26.3 (2023); Ecclesia 37.3 (2023), 38.1, 38.2, 38.3 (2024).

THE "VOICE" OF OUR COMMUNITY

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Global Debate on Technology, Ethics and Ecology

International commitment to current research

The commitment of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum to the contemporary debate on ethics, technology and ecology has recently been demonstrated through the participation of two of its eminent professors in international conferences. Il Prof. P. Michael Baggot, L.C. took part in the *Human Flourishing Forum 2024* in the Vatican, while Prof. Lilian Santos contributed to the *Expanded Reason Conference 2024* in Madrid. These interventions underline the University's interdisciplinary and international approach to the great ethical and social challenges of our time.

Prof. Michael Baggot and the Frontiers of Technology

Prof. Michael Baggot, L.C., Adjunct Professor of the Faculty of Bioethics and Research Scholar of the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights, participated in the Human Flourishing Forum 2024 held at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in the Vatican (23-24 May), organized by Humanity 2.0 (a non-profit organization). In his exhibition Tech Frontiers - Beyond the Doom and Boom Binary explored the future of our society by intertwining with Al. During his speech, Prof. Baggot reflected on the moral implications of artificial intelligence (AI), and drew attention to the risks of uncontrolled technological growth, which could increase social inequalities and undermine respect for human life. However, it has maintained a perspective of deep hope in humanity's ethical commitment to the use of AI, providing examples and benefits in the context of assisting complex medical diagnoses and for educational purposes, such as online tutoring and translation platforms.



as de la Razón Abierra

Prof. Lilian Santos and Integral Ecology

Prof. Lilian Santos, Professor of the Faculty of Bioethics and Research Scholar at the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights, participated in the Expanded Reason Conference 2024 in Madrid (10-12 June), Congress of Integral Ecology inspired by the Encyclical Laudato Si' of Pope Francis, held at the Francisco de Vitoria University. Prof. Santos' talk explored gene editing and theology from a broader perspective; showing how the global governance of gene editing can be challenged by the ideas of Laudato Si' and, conversely, how the Encyclical can be inspired by genetic knowledge and the possibilities that exist in the field of gene editing, including some issues not covered by Laudato Si'.

The University's Commitment in the World

The participation of our professors in these events of international importance reflects the mission of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum to contribute to the global debate on crucial issues for the future of humanity, ensuring respect for human dignity and creation. The institution continues to promote an interdisciplinary dialogue, in which ethics, science and faith meet to face the challenges posed by technological progress and the environmental crisis.

Doctorates APRA in the current Biolegal debate

The voice of our students in two important debates on Bioethics and Biolaw

On March 20, 2024, **Giulia Bovassi**, PhD Student at the Faculty of Bioethics, Assistant Researcher of the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights and Assistant Professor at Anhauac University (Mexico), was one of the speakers at the conference *Too High a Cost: End Surrogacy Now Preventing the Exploitation and Commodification of Women and Children*, during the **68**th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, one of the main annual events of the United Nations at the **United Nations Headquarters** in **New York**. The conference was organized by the **Holy See's Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations** and **ADF International**, and enjoyed the participation of various **international experts**. Spokesman of the Holy See was **H.E. Msgr. Gabriele Caccia**, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer to the United Nations.

Bovassi, on the subject of **surrogacy**, or gestation for others, raised questions related to the dignity of women with the question "where is the mother?". Women are **devalued** and reduced to a **means of profit** and a tool to obtain the best possible product. Thus, even the **child**, **from being a subject of law**, becomes **object** of right and desire, subordinate to global biobusiness.

The speech brought arguments in support of the universal crime of surrogacy, the objective of the conference.



Another Biolaw intervention was that of the researcher of Prof. Me. Marlon Derosa, PhD student at the Faculty of Bioethics, invited by Federal Senator Eduardo Girão to participate in the Thematic Debate Session to Discuss Fetal Asystole. This is a procedure recommended by the World Health Organization when pregnancy is terminated after more than 22 weeks from the beginning of gestation and consists of injecting potassium chloride to stop the fetus' heartbeat before it is removed from the uterus. The **debate** saw the discussion for the possible approval of a **bill** for the equivalence of abortion after 22 weeks of gestation to the crime of homicide. Derosa highlighted various contradictions in the application of the legislative proposal and some information gaps on the reality of abortion and the circumstances in which it takes place, in addition to the bioethical debate on the status of the embryo.

The participation of Giulia Bovassi and Marlon Derosa in these forums of international and political importance, are testimony to APRA's commitment to training bioethicists capable of contributing to the global debate on complex and delicate issues such as surrogacy, abortion and

human rights; highlighting the need for an ongoing dialogue between science, law and ethics to protect the most vulnerable and promote a culture of life.







THE "VOICE" OF OUR COMMUNITY ARTICLES ARTICLES THE "VOICE" OF OUR COMMUNITY

We Are APRA

A moment of celebration for the entire APRA Community



On May 21, at the John Paul II Auditorium, We are APRA, the artistic and concluding event of the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, took place. It was a moment of celebration for the entire APRA Community, with music, testimonies, theatrical sketches and collective moments of play (TivialAPRA). A real show that saw students, teachers and APRA employees as protagonists.

The event was opened by the **choreographic theme song** We are APRA: an animated and lively moment that saw thirty festive people parade towards the stage, moving and shaking to the rhythm of music, balloons and luminous writings with a thirtieth theme.



The event was then conducted by **Adele Ercolano**, coordinator of the ISSD Cultural Area and **Fr. Giovanni Malgaroli, L.C.**, APRA contact person for internationalization at the RIU, who in harmony introduced the various moments of the program. First of all, the **Rector's greeting**, followed by the interpretation of **Prof. Marco Martorana**, professor of Italian and Latin, who interpreted the **spirit** of the **APRA Community** with goliardy and sympathy: "more than a drain, it is a home and a journey, where the spirit and the mind make a destiny".

Afterwards, Irene Tognella, from the fundraising office, presented a short film with the testimonies of students, teachers and alumni, who told their human and study experiences, and of being part of this Community. A mosaic of experiences emerged that well represent the richness of a community that knows how to walk together towards new horizons and respond creatively to today's challenges. Two groups also took turns on stage with covers and lively repertoire. The first is the APRA Band coordinated by Daniele Ridolfi, musician and member of the staff of the General Secretariat (on the piano), Gonzalo Flores, alumnus

(sax), Fr. Alejandro Paez, L.C., teacher (guitar and voice), F. César Fernández, L.C., student (guitar) and Vinicius Pessuti, student (bass). The second, a group of four students of the 2nd and 3rd year of Philosophy and Theology. A hilarious moment was the theatrical sketch *La Pentecoste in Ateneo* written by the student Ignacio Garcia Uzcanga. Employees and students have parodied the daily life of APRA: Br. Héctor Augusto Baca Guichard, L.C. (student of Philosophy), Gennaro Casa (Faculty of Bioethics), Fabrizio Del Prete (administrative office), Carlo Fattori (promotion office), Sidya Sow (General Services office) and Camilla Raciti (ISSD).



The playful moment **TrivialAPRA** the battle of knowledge involved all those present with an interactive online quiz on history and life in APRA, which included a prize (coffee voucher) for the 3 fastest to answer correctly.

The event ended with the **awarding** of the participants in the **Collective Art Exhibition** which brought together artists and talents from the Community on the theme of APRA values interpreted by the artistic *medium*.

We are APRA was a festive initiative, which by giving lightness and a cheerful good mood, offered the APRA community the opportunity to experience an atmosphere of sharing and internal connectivity.



Art, Culture and APRA Mission

Values and mission inspire works of art

On the occasion of the **30th Anniversary** of the foundation of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, among the many celebratory activities, a **Collective Art Exhibition** was organized open to the participation of all students, teachers, *alumni*, staff members and partners of the University.

The event, entitled *Art: Universal Language; Crossing Borders, Uniting Hearts*, aimed to share and promote personal talents, as well as to give space to creativity and artistic expression within the Academic Community. If art is a universal language that can break down borders and unite hearts, it can also become a suitable means of expression to spread values and contribute to APRA's mission in dialogue with culture between faith and region. To thematize this potential, participants were invited to explore the theme of Pentecost as a summary and iconographic symbol for APRA through different artistic forms: painting, sculpture, photography, video, music and writing.

The initiative enjoyed a **growing participation**, with the participation of **28 artists** including lay and religious students, *alumni*, employees, collaborators, who had the opportunity to exhibit a maximum of three works each. The **exhibition** of their works embellished the entrance to the University **from 18 April** to **29 May 2024**, meeting with an excellent reception from the Community, and becoming a meeting point.

On April 23, during the inauguration ceremony, Academic Vice-Rector Fr. David Koonce, L.C. emphasized the communicative and expressive value of art, linking it to the values emphasized by the exhibition: Catholicity, Multiculturalism, Truth and Charity, Communion. This aspect was also taken up as a horizon of common growth by the intervention of Diego Zanforlin, Curator of the exhibition and Coordinator of the Executive Committee formed by Maria Selva Silvestri, Fr. Alejandro Paez, L.C., Fr. Diego Deschamps Cornu, L.C., Juan Ignacio Uzcanga García.

The Art Collective recognized the effort of the artists, with the presentation of two prizes: the **Critics' Prize** for the work that best combined technique and theme, and the **Theme Award**, awarded to the work that has shaped the APRA values in the most complete way. The award ceremony took place on **May 21**, **2024** as part of another event celebrating the 30th anniversary, the **We Are APRA**. The Jury, composed of the Executive Committee and other members of the community, including the Rector, awarded the Critics' Prize to **Patrizia Langher** with the work *Presente Presente Presente*, and the Theme Prize to **Br. Andrés de la Torre Salazar, L.C.** with a *Triptych on Pentecost*. Each participant was awarded a certificate and a participation prize, as a sign of the importance of combining their talents in a common goal.

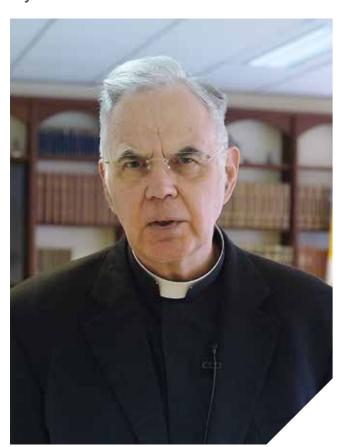


NETWORK #FACCIAMORETE THE "VOICE" OF OUR COMMUNITY

1994-2024

Thirty years of teaching at the Regina Apostolorum Athenaeum

by Don Alain Contat



"Ask nothing, refuse nothing": such was the advice of St. Francis de Sales regarding ecclesiastical offices, and it could also be extended beyond the strict munus gubernandi. In fact, the Christian who follows this motto is sure to fulfill God's will, because his talents - in the evangelical sense of the word - are then put at the service of the common good. Others will say whether my thirty years of teaching will have contributed to the formation of the students of the Regina Apostolorum Athenaeum; But I can testify that I was called twice to teach philosophy there in 1994 as a lecturer, then in 2007 as a full professor.

At the end of this long period, I would like first of all to thank Providence for these years of teaching, together with those who were, so to speak, its ministers, and then the various Deans who have helped me, since 2007, to carry out my mission: Frs. Michael Ryan, Rafael Pascual, Alex Yeung and Alberto Carrara, LLCC. My gratitude then goes, of course, to my colleagues, especially those with whom I have been able to discuss philosophical problems: among others,

P. Jesús Villagrasa, L.C., also Proff. Jason Mitchell and Carmelo Pandolfi.

Finally, thanking my many students for their participation, I would like to encourage them and their successors to continue their study and research in the direction I have tried to follow: that which closely unites the Thomas metaphysics of being on the one hand, and the historicaltheoretical understanding of Western philosophy on the other. In this way they will be able to face the intellectual challenges that come from the postmodernity in which we are immersed

The voice of the students



F. Alfonso León Sánchez, L.C.

Baccalaureate in Theology

In this celebration of the Baccalaureate in Theology, I am very grateful to our Alma Mater, the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, where we have not only learned to know the Mysteries of God and the Church, but also the mystery of man and the source of love and hope. This aspect was the best thing about coming every day to receive the lessons. Thank you very much to the whole family of the Athenaeum.

Bioethics and Ethics Education at the center of the debate

APRA at two international academic events in Mexico

The Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum (APRA) recently participated in two prestigious academic events in Mexico, strengthening its international presence and its commitment to crucial issues such as bioethics and ethics education. APRA professors contributed as experts at two major congresses organized by the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Tamaulipas and the Anáhuac University respectively.

1st International Congress of Bioethics



The First International Congress of Bioethics, organized by the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Tamaulipas, took place from 25 to 28 July 2023. Here, APRA professors Alberto García and Lílian Santos represented the university as speakers. The congress, focused on emerging bioethical challenges, brought together experts from around the world to discuss topics ranging from medical ethics to scientific research and issues related to human dignity.

Prof. García, Dean of the Faculty of Bioethics, addressed the theme of the Biological Challenges of Emerging **Technologies** with particular reference to the new frontiers of medicine such as genetic engineering and human-machine interaction. His reflection highlighted the importance of ensuring ethical awareness in medical decisions, especially in increasingly advanced technological contexts. Prof. Santos, an expert in transhumanism, spoke about *Bioethics* and Dignity as Human Rights, presenting a historical-legal path of Human Rights from definition to affirmation in the international arena, both as a result obtained and as a goal to be achieved

12th International Conference on Education for Ethics

From 12 to 14 August 2023, Anáhuac University Mexico (North Campus) hosted the 12th International Conference on Ethics Education. On this occasion, APRA was represented by professors Prof. Alberto García, Prof. P. Joseph Tham, and PhD student Ana Maria Ganev, who shared their experiences and research on the topic of ethics in education.

Prof. Tham focused on the debate that arose about the resistance to vaccines during COVID-19 and the relationship

with various aspects of trust. Prof. García expounded on the importance of Bioaesthetics as an educational strategy. Studying the relationship and interaction between bioethics and art and the impact of art on human behaviour is part of of Bioaesthetics, which aims to inspire lovers of the arts to appreciate the universal artistic language as a possibility of expression of moral values and ethical principles, respecting human dignity and human rights. Ana Maria Ganev explored the delicate role of chemistry in the moral endeavour. morality. Is there a 'chemical morality pill'? A certain type of psychedelic could have positive effects, supervised by an expert, but only as a supplement to a programme of ethical improvement that requires a sustained effort on several

Strengthening international engagement

The participation of APRA professors at these congresses represents a further demonstration of the Atheneum in promoting interdisciplinary dialogue on topics of great ethical and social relevance. These events offer the opportunity to share knowledge, experiences and educational approaches, strengthening the international network and contributing to the development of an academic culture oriented towards values and the common good. The presence of APRA in such prestigious settings underlines the relevance of the institute in the global academic landscape, in line with its mission of promoting the integral formation of the person through dialogue between faith, reason and science.



NETWORK #FACCIAMORETE NETWORK #FACCIAMORETE

RIU 2024: Forging the Future

Integral leadership and response to current challenges

Forging the Future of Regnum Christi University, which address them together, with a view to a cohesive took place at Hacienda Cantalagua and Mexico City from May 27 to 30, 2024, was a unique opportunity for dialogue and reflection on the future of higher education in the context of Regnum Christi.

In a constantly changing world, Regnum Christi Universities have a responsibility to train leaders of integrity, capable of responding to the challenges of the twenty-first century. This occasion was an opportunity to strengthen the identity as Catholic universities, inspired by the charism of Regnum Christi. Driven by the idea of renewing the common educational mission, so that all universities can be beacons of light and hope in the world and train leaders committed to building a more just and fraternal society, work was carried out to deepen the mission of the RIU in the world, as a source of inspiration for

The meeting also provided an opportunity to reflect on the role of the Catholic university in the current context, in the light of some speeches and documents of Catholic universities, and also to identify the challenges and opportunities that the universities

The RIU 2024 Board Meeting and General Assembly: of Regnum Christi face and develop strategies to group aimed at the common goal.



AIED: Artificial Intelligence in Education

The merits and benefits of AI presented at the FUCE

On 5 and 6 June in Seville, Spain, Fr. Alberto Carrara, L.C., Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Professor of the Faculty of Theology of our University, participated as a speaker at the Plenary of the Rectors of the European Catholic Universities (FUCE) talking about the theme of artificial intelligence in the educational field: AIED, a theme already present for some years in scientific and cultural debates, with a magazine dedicated to the concrete theme and a world congress of the company of the same name. The speech, in English, was entitled Navigating the New Brave World of Artificial intelligence in education and touched, among other points, on the improvement of research capabilities: the use of artificial intelligence to analyze large data sets, predict trends and improve the quality of research. But not only that, AI can in fact be applied as a support to students with disabilities by creating customizable artificial intelligence tools that adapt to different learning needs.

In the topics addressed, Carrara also highlighted the importance of considering the dependence and dequalification that could result from an improper use of AI, since an excessive dependence on technology could generate the risk of reduced critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



APRA: a Beacon of Light in Contemporary Culture

by Santiago García Huerdo - Coordinator of RIU Operations

Collaborators of the International Network of Universities of Regnum Christi (RIU), composed of 15 universities from 5 countries, participated in the ninth edition of the Christianity and Culture course, held by APRA. This course, which is part of the RIU's Catholic Identity strategic line, seeks to ensure that each institution in the network lives and promotes an authentic experience of Catholic faith, integrating spirituality and doctrine into academic and community life. Over the years, around 360 employees have been trained in this course under the direction of Prof. Sameer Advani, L.C. and his group. The course deals with fundamental themes such as the Christian vision of man, ethics and bioethics in a post-Christian world, the search for truth through Christian faith and scientific culture, the relationship between Christianity and other religions and worldviews, the role of the Catholic university in contemporary culture.

The Christianity and Culture course is one of the most appreciated by Regnum Christi collaborators, as it **combines** academic lectures by eminent professors of APRA with visits to emblematic places of Christianity. This experience allows participants to immerse themselves in the **historical** and spiritual richness of Christianity, promoting a deep understanding and authentic commitment to the faith. In addition, the course provides tools to assess the essential role of Christianity in Western civilization and to prepare

participants to deal with the challenges of evangelization in contemporary culture, reflecting on the role of the Catholic university in this process.

In a context of cultural revolution, marked by ideologies such as scientific positivism, Marxism and moral and religious relativism, the RIU, through APRA and this course, seeks to offer an answer to the world. In the face of these reductive visions, the Church presents an integral perspective that allows the human being to attain his maximum freedom and dignity, founded on the truth about God, about the world and about the human person. This Catholic worldview is not just an abstract or historical idea, but a real commitment to those who identify as Christians and have the well-being of humanity at heart. Precisely because of these changes, the University becomes a beacon of light in contemporary culture.

Rome, with its historical and cultural richness, is an ideal **setting** to explore these topics. The Pope's presence inspires the spread of Christian culture in the existential peripheries of today's world. For all these reasons, the Christianity and Culture course is designed to help participants live their faith in the twenty-first century, understand the Church's response to the contemporary worldview, and assume their mission of Christian collaborators, providing a unique opportunity to encounter Christ in a deeply enriching and



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Dialogue and reflection in freedom in a philosophical café

by Mauro Bombardieri - Department of Institutional Development

Every year the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum offers a special event that combines reflection, dialogue and philosophy: the Philosophical Café.

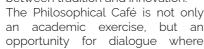
The initiative offers an open and inclusive space, where students, teachers and enthusiasts can discuss highly topical issues, and represents a significant initiative to promote critical and reflective dialogue.

The Philosophical Café is characterized by its participatory structure, people, arranged in a circle, dialogue freely and informally, guided by a moderator, Associate Prof. Guido Traversa, professor of the Faculty of Philosophy, who stimulates discussion and guarantees a constructive comparison.

It is an informal space where people with common interests can meet to discuss current issues of existential, ethical and cultural relevance. Each edition focuses on a specific theme with a targeted in-depth analysis.

The circular aspect of the arrangement, together with the presence of a moderator, creates a democratic and open environment, where every voice has space and importance. This **mode** of **dialogue**, which reflects the spirit of **Socratic** maieutics, favors a genuine confrontation between different positions, enriching the discussion with varied perspectives. The circle structure also helps to eliminate hierarchies and put all participants on an equal footing, encouraging active and spontaneous participation. Last year, for example, the reflection focused on how wine culture can foster dialogue and conviviality, combining philosophy with a millenary tradition. An extremely topical topic will be the focus of this year's November event:

Artificial Intelligence, ethics and opportunities. During the meeting, we will explore the challenges and opportunities that AI presents, asking how to integrate ethical principles into the design and use of these technologies. The themes chosen reflect an interesting balance between tradition and innovation.





contemporary challenges. This initiative is also linked to the Master's Degree in Philosophical Counseling of the Faculty of Philosophy, in which the issues of work ethics are explored, which concern not only individual integrity, but also the way in which relationships, responsibilities and well-being are managed within an organization. An ethical approach is reflected in a corporate culture that values justice, transparency, respect for rights and social responsibility. Dialogue and work ethic, integrated into business practices, are not just abstract values, but powerful levers to improve the efficiency, job satisfaction and sustainable growth of any organization. These elements create an environment where people not only work better but find a sense of belonging and personal fulfillment, contributing to more lasting and harmonious

Meetings on the Holiness of the Laity and Sacred Scripture

Fr. Vincenz Heereman, L.C. guest at two International Biblical-Theological Conferences

Fr. Vincenz Heereman, L.C., Coordinator of the Sacerdos Institute, and lecturer in charge of the Faculty of Theology of our Pontifical Athenaeum, was one of the speakers at two important academic meetings at the international

On November 18, 2023, in San Antonio (Texas), he reflected on lay holiness from the point of view of St. Ephrem, with the talk "All Humans Are Cast into Battle": Ephrem the Syrian's Vision of Ascetic Heroism for Lay Christians presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, held November 18-21, 2023.

In Rome, on 16 June 2024, at the Pontifical University of teachers invest time and energy.

St. Thomas Aguinas - Angelicum, he presented the report The 'Life of Moses' and 'Life of Christ' Cycles of the Sistine Chapel: A 15th-Century Approach to the Old Testament's Own Voice in the Church's Two-Testament Bible at the International Symposium Understanding the Old Testament as Christian Scripture held from 17 to 20 June 2024.

Fr. Vincenz's interventions testify to the commitment and appreciation of our teachers in many areas of study; in this case in spirituality and in the study of the Holy Scriptures. In addition, they are an indication of the recognition of the value of personal and didactic training, in which our

The Shroud, a special course at the ISSR

Teaching religion using the Sacred Relic by Prof. Emanuela Marinelli



For a long time the Shroud has entered the University as an important topic for its scientific and religious value. In 2006 the permanent exhibition Who is the Man of the Shroud?, organized as part of the activities of the Master in Science and Faith. The interest in this initiative is evidenced by the success of the recent video presenting it.

Furthermore, for the fifteenth consecutive year, the Institute of Science and Faith presents the Diploma in Shroud **Studies**, which is also highly appreciated in its English and Spanish versions. At this point the attention of the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences could not be missing, because the pedagogical value of the Shroud is also evident, which is a real **Gospel of the Passion** summarized in an image. In the age of visual learning, especially for the younger generations, the Shroud is a powerful tool, a "photo news from Calvary", as the late Vatican correspondent Orazio Petrosillo defined it.

The Shroud, "a mute witness, but at the same time surprisingly eloquent" (St. John Paul II) is extremely interesting for teachers of Catholic Religion, who can thus arouse a first interest of children in the story of Jesus.

Thus, in the academic year 2023-2024, the six-month course Shroud and teaching of the Catholic religion was born, which aims to provide teachers of Religion. Cattolica the essential skills on the subject and the didactic indications to present to students the complex problems concerning the Shroud and the numerous researches that have been carried out around it.

The topics are treated with a view to indicating appropriate strategies to arouse the interest of students, both from a cultural point of view and from that of the implications for faith, in order to stimulate the desire for further study. The course is held by professors who are scholars of the Shroud with decades of experience, also in the educational field. Trainees are also provided with indications of the necessary sources and teaching tools. Some hours are dedicated to practical proposals, with examples of specific lessons.

Registration was open to all interested people, even as simple listeners, and was a great success, with 230 members. The students showed great enthusiasm.

Without a doubt, this course gave great satisfaction to the eight teachers who held it (Bruno Barberis, Lucia D'Adamo, Fr. Andrew Dalton, L.C., Livio Giorgioni, Alessandro

Malantrucco, Emanuela Marinelli, P. Rafael Pascual, L.C., Domenico Repice) and a big thank you goes to Fr. Marcelo Bravo, L.C. and Fr. Rafael Pascual, L.C. who conceived and supported it, with personal commitment, in every phase.



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New collections for the Pio XII Library

by Giovanni lannettone - Coordinator of the Pio XII Library

that enrich it, to offer our students and all those who benefit from interlibrary loans more and more research

Thanks to benefactors, donations and various campaigns, the Ratzinger-Benedetto XVI Fund project grows and acquires physiognomy, which has come to count 1278 titles (in addition to the Opera Omnia in several languages) on Ratzinger's theological thought. A project aimed at supporting the study, research and publications of the Faculty of Theology, especially at the level of Licentiate and Doctorate, which among its characteristic elements has precisely the deepening of the thought of Joseph Ratzinger.

For historians interested in reconstructing the intellectual career of a great figure of the twentieth century, the Library has been embellished with the **Ernesto de la Torre** Villar Fund, historian of republican Mexico, and one of the most representative Catholic intellectuals of Mexico, with an enviable curriculum: book historian and director of the National Library of Mexico for thirteen years, founder of the chair of Historia de la Civilización Mexicana at the

The Pio XII Library continues to grow thanks to new funds Catholic Institute of Paris and member of the Commission Editorial of the Revista de la Facultad de Teologia of the University of Navarra, he has published, among others, La Iglesia en México de la Independencia a la Reforma. In addition to paying homage to a great intellectual and a great country, the goal is to become a reference point for scholars interested in the history of Mexico and America. Also worth mentioning is the Evan E. Kimble Fund destined for the Library of the European University of Rome by his daughters Elena and Lizabeth. Kimble, an American man of culture, son and grandson of New Jersey industrialists in the field of glass (Kimble Glass Company), chose to devote himself to culture instead of business, cultivating his studies in many disciplines and moving to Europe for this. After graduating in French Literature and Medieval History at Princeton University, he perfected his education especially in Germany, in Göttingen, home to one of the most prestigious universities. Throughout his life, he was a tireless buyer and collector of texts, mostly relating to disciplines such as history, political science, literature. His book collection is located partly in Rome and partly

Nominations and Acknowledgements

APRA appointments

September 18, 2023 - Br. Luis Eduardo Rodríguez Alger, L.C. Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Philosophy for the Academic Year 2023-2024

2 October 2023 - P. Jose Maria Antón, L.C., research professor for A.Y. 2023-2024.

October 2, 2023 - Fr. Vincenz Heereman, L.C., coordinator of the Sacerdos Institute for a three-year term.

5 October 2023 - Prof. Samira Sidarous Professor of Pentateuch and Historical Books of the Faculty of Theology for the first semester of the A.Y. 2023-2024.

9 October 2023 - Prof. Melissa Maioni Adjunct Professor of the Faculty of Bioethics.

14 November 2023 - Fr. Alberto Carrara, L.C., Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy for a three-year term starting from 1 January 2024.

1 December 2023 - Prof. Lilian Santos: member of the Board of Directors of the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human

December 4, 2023 - Fr. Rodrigo Ramírez, L.C. Permanent Teacher of the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences.

March 8, 2024 - Fr. Alberto Mestre, L.C. Coordinator for attention to Consecrated Life in the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences.

22 May 2024 - Fr. Ferney Cartagena, L.C. Delegate DG Stabile APRA.

4 July 2024 - Fr. Alex Yeung, L.C.: Director of the Institute

15 July 2024 - Prof. Lílian Santos: Aggregate Lecturer of the Faculty of Bioethics

External Appointments and Recognition

The Centro Studi Scienza & Vita (CS S&V - formerly Associazione Scienza & Vita) has appointed **Prof. Massimo** Losito, Adjunct Professor of Bioethics of the Faculty of Bioethics (APRA), among the elected members of the Scientific Committee.

Prof. P. Michael Baggot, L.C., Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Bioethics (APRA) and Research Scholar of the UNESCO Chair, has been appointed Fellow of the program Medical Ethics: Transhumanism and the Body dell'Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies della University of Southern California to collaborate in research projects.

The Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Fr. Alberto Carrara, L.C., has been recognized by the *International Neuroethics* Society as an expert in Neuroethics, Neuroscience, Philosophy, Philosophical Anthropology, Philosophy of Neuroscience, Psychiatry, Philosophy of Psychiatry. This recognition allows our teacher to receive requests from the press, requests for tutoring, consultations with other professionals and other questions related to his expertise. His name enters a context of experts from all over the world with similar interests

30 years of teaching at APRA

On December 14, 2023, the Rector Fr. José E. Oyarzún, L.C. presided over the Celebrations of Recognition to APRA teachers for the thirtieth anniversary of teaching in APRA. In addition to words of thanks and appreciation for their contribution to the APRA Community and to the integral formation of the students. Fr. Ovarzún presented an icon depicting Mary and the Apostles at Pentecost, a symbol of our LOGO and of the Evangelization of Culture.

The teachers who received the special recognition are:

P. Pedro Barrajón, L.C.; P. Edward McNamara, L.C.; P. Fernando Pascual, L.C.; P. Rafael Pascual, L.C.; P. Miguel Paz Latova, L.C.: Prof. Luciano Sole: don Alain Contat: P. José Antonio Izquierdo Labeaga, L.C.; Fr. Pedro Mendoza, L.C.;

P. Gonzalo Miranda, L.C.; Prof. Guido Traversa; P. Ramón Lucas Lucas, L.C.; P. Jesus Villagrasa, L.C.; Michael Ryan,

A special mention went to the emeritus teachers:

P. Javier García, L.C.; P. Roberto González, L.C.; P. Fidel Quiroz, L.C.; P. Francisco Mateos, L.C.; P. George Woodall; P. Florián Rodero, L.C.

Mention was also made of the deceased Professors, to whom special tribute is due:

Fr. Antonio Izquierdo, L.C.; Fr. Sabugal Santos, L.C.; Fr. Álvaro Corcuera, L.C. (first Rector of the University and later Grand



APRA SOLIDARITY APRA SOLIDARITY

Solidarity Activities

Tour To France 2024

On the pedals since 2018 to unite Prayer and Solidarity

The **Tour To France** continues its activity as an initiative in support of students for the "Pedaling For Scholarship" fundraising campaign and reaches its seventh edition this

P. Clemens Gutberlet, L.C. - Alumnus and Team Leader of TeamAPRA, remembers him as follows: "The first Edition in **2018** was an **extremely** sporting **challenge** (1621 km and 13981 meters of elevation gain from Rome to Lourdes in 8 days). At the same time, the founders of the Tour To France, Giuseppe Fatato and I, experienced these days as an **intense** pilarimage. He as a sign of gratitude for his recovery and I with a long list of prayer intentions that hundreds of people had asked me for. This year the destination was **Lourdes** and despite the great sporting challenge - especially considering the other six years behind me and two knee screws - I decided and faced the Tour by providing **two series of stages** much more beautiful than the Alps (Savona-Avignon) and the Pyrenees (Perpignan-Lourdes), for a total of 1088 km but with **19290 meters of elevation gain** some of which were traveled in the support vehicle. The whole tour was a real pilgrimage with time for silent prayer, daily Holy Mass and a spiritual

the Italian-French border, allowed us to experience firsthand the maternal protection of Maria and her mother Anna. In fact, we enjoyed a special heavenly protection. With **9 cyclists** on the road at the same time and a grand total of 9,000 kilometers traveled, the group was larger and more closeknit than ever but we had no accidents and only a flat tire. Another challenge was staying together despite the different levels of training. This brought us together as a group, even though we were often spread out for several kilometers, but the biblical saying 'the last will be the first' came true. The former had exaggerated due to an arrangement error and on their return the last were already there.

Most of the participants brought with them serious family concerns as they went to Lourdes and then presented them to Mary, an extra motivation and impetus to reach the goal, in the full awareness of truly carrying out an activity of total

The Tour To France represents a physical, spiritual and human commitment. A concrete commitment that this year has allowed the disbursement of 13 scholarships and the Sant'Anna di Vinadio, the highest place of pilgrimage right on confirmation of the support of our donors continues.



Networking and Solidarity between Conviviality and Art

by Roberto Serafini - Department of Institutional Development

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary, several dedicated activities were organized, with the aim of celebrating this important milestone together with friends, partners and colleagues, and thanking God for these three decades of dedication to the mission of forming evangelizers who spread the values of the Gospel in different cultural contexts. With an institutional slant, with the aim of networking and fundraising, an AmiciAPRA dinner was organized on April 19 with the Inauguration of the monographic exhibition of works of art by our teacher Prof. P. Joseph Tham, L.C. The evening began with the institutional greetings of the Rector P. J.E. Oyarzún, L.C. and the story of the artist P. Joseph

Tham, L.C. He explained how "The ART FOR GOD Harmony & Spirituality Exhibition is a rare opportunity to attend Rome for the first time. The inspirational and expressive artworks have been exhibited in various parts of the world, including Canada, the United States, Mexico, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Macau... Chinese painting has a long history of expression of nature by literati, more as an expression of the human spirit and less for decorative purposes... Calligraphy, in particular, is the highest form of Chinese art..." and then underlined "All proceeds from the works of art in the Exhibition will be allocated to the disbursement of scholarships from the Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum".



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Testimonials

Ana Paula Pinheiro da SilveiraTestimony on the Postgraduate Diploma
in Psychopedagogy and Formation for Consecrated Life



I am Ana Paula Pinheiro da Silveira, Brazilian, student of the Specialization Diploma in Psychopedagogy and Formation for Consecrated Life. The course has helped me a lot to integrate my vision of accompaniment by offering me the opportunity to immerse myself in a very well organized. The disciplines

have been articulated in such a way as to offer a broad vision of formation that integrates the different dimensions of the person: cultural, spiritual, pastoral, reflecting the vision of the Church today.

Each lesson has been carefully prepared by combining theory and practice, and addressing crucial issues for the deep understanding of psychopedagogy applied to consecrated life. This holistic approach has enriched my personal training and strengthened my ability to apply the knowledge acquired in a real-world context.

The evaluation method was not only a method for measuring knowledge, but represents an opportunity for research and in-depth study, in order to stimulate critical reflection. This approach has pushed me to further research the topics covered, transforming each exam into a real opportunity for growth and discovery.

I want to thank everyone involved in the organization; and I would like to invite anyone interested in an in-depth formation in psychopedagogy for consecrated life to enroll in the Course. It is a path that enriches on an academic, human, spiritual level by offering tools to accompany people on their journey of faith and life.









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