

Dear Friends/Family,
Greetings from the Eternal City!

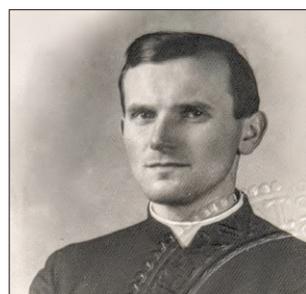
I am just starting my second year at the *Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (The Angelicum)* in Rome. I apologize that I have not kept in touch. This letter is your update of my life! I ask your prayers and, if you are able, I am begging your financial assistance. I am not asking for myself, I am asking for our university & the Church. Seriously, I don't have funds to run my office. I know I need to communicate better – that's my plan for this year.

ONE YEAR IN

I am now one year into my new role as the Angelicum's director of Development & Mission Advancement. I am proud that our University has 140 cardinals & bishops who are our alumni serving the Church throughout the world today. Our students come from over 90 countries. Our university, unabashedly faithful to the



Fr. Benedict Croell – Director of Development & Mission Advancement



John Paul II's student picture at the Angelicum

Church, is teaching future professors, rectors of seminaries, pastors, bishops, cardinals and even Popes! Most importantly, we are teaching future saints. Did I mention Pope St. John Paul II and Venerable Fulton J. Sheen were once students here?

In addition to being a renowned academic institution, the Angelicum is a place of prayer. Since 2002 we have had Eucharistic Adoration each day of classes. The Adoration chapel is always filled with students, faculty and friars throughout the day. It is beautiful to see leaders of the Church kneeling before the Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in adoration.



Screen shot of new website angelicum.it

HIGHLIGHTS

The past year has been full! My office, with the help of our new internship program, has created new brochures, updated *The Angelicum* newsletter, and our student publication. We've created EWTN radio spots (USA) and a more user-friendly website. Be sure to take a look at it: angelicum.it



Donor "homecoming"/come and see days

We established an annual "homecoming" event for donors to spend several days on campus to meet the students and faculty, attend classes and an evening lecture, and truly get to know the University. There were of course wonderful opportunities to see the



Experiential education

Eternal City as well. The exclusive Vatican insider tours were



Friars entertain Guests

popular! Would you like to come to our next homecoming in Spring of 2020?

We were pleased to organize the first Angelicum Leadership / Experiential Education Summit for our students. The event included a tour of both the Roman Forum and St. John Lateran. Here, the foundational principles of leadership (complementing the presentations) were brought to light through Rome's own cultural history & our faith.



Leadership formation



Bishop Barron receives honorary doctorate

Finally, my office organized our university's major event of his Excellency, Bishop Robert Barron receiving the honorary doctorate. Bishop Barron is world-

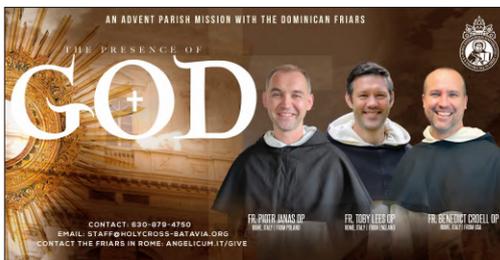
renowned as a Thomistic thinker and for his joyful preaching of Truth. As one of the largest events held on our campus in recent memory, it was a privilege for my office to organize this.

CHALLENGES & BIG PLANS (!)

It has been seventeen years since the university has had an advancement office. We have major challenges with living spaces for friars, classrooms & the library for our students. I am excited to announce that one year into my role here, and thanks to generous donors, we are already in the middle of an \$8.5 million capital campaign. If we find \$4 million, one generous donor will give us \$4.5 million. Please say a prayer for this effort! We want this university to continue to be a place where saints are educated! This plan would provide an endowment for six full-ride scholarships for young priests to earn pontifical doctorates, and two academic chairs as well as major renovations & repairs.

STATESIDE SOON

Last year *Angelicum* friars preached a Lenten parish mission in Florida that was attended by thousands of people. Myself & two other Dominican priest-preachers each heard over 24 hours of confessions! We will be doing a second mission in Advent, this time in Illinois, if you are free to join us. You can also follow the mission virtually if you so desire: <http://bit.ly/HolyCrossMission>



Parish missions in the U.S.

NEED RIGHT NOW

This semester I am delighted to have Sr. Martin Thérèse OP and Sr. Teresa Benedicta OP here helping me in my office. Now with these *Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist* (from Ann Arbor, MI), I have the ability to better communicate with all of you!



Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in the mission advancement office

As I shared with some of you previously, I have no money for a budget for any work that comes from my office. It is important that I can give the Sisters a stipend for their assistance. Can you help?

YOUR RESPONSE - MONTHLY DONATION?

I am telling you, the *Angelicum* is a *worthy cause*. Would you consider a small monthly donation? If you do it monthly, it ensures I will be able to run my office. Your help is actually needed. Make a tax deductible donation online at angelicum.it/give or by using the enclosed envelope with a check made out to the “**International Dominican Foundation**”, which is registered as a 501(c)3 non-profit.

For your generosity and for your many prayers, GRAZIE MILLE! (a million thanks!). If you are ever in Rome, I would love to show you some of the good things God is doing in and through the *Angelicum*!

In St. Dominic,

Fr. Benedict Croell, OP call/text: 1.202.642.3597
development@pust.it

P.S. - become a friend of the *Angelicum* & stay in touch with me, sign up at angelicum.it/friends

