

# Lumen

A Catholic Studies Publication  
UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS | FALL 2025

## SILVER JUBILEES:

MA in  
Catholic Studies

The Bernardi  
Campus

Guadalupe's  
Scholars





# Lumen

A Catholic Studies Publication  
UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS | FALL 2025



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**Spotlight on Alumni ..... 4-7**

### Silver Jubilees:

**CSMA.....8-11**

**Bernardi Campus .....12**

**Guadalupe's Scholars .....13**

### Why I Give and

**Legacy Society.....16-17**





We are filled with gratitude as three important Catholic Studies programs mark their Silver Jubilees. From modest beginnings 25 years ago, each has become a signature program and helps define our vibrant life on campus today.

The **Catholic Studies Master of Arts** program started with a handful of students and is now the largest graduate program in the College of Arts and Sciences. Students from all walks of life and from various locations across the country and around the world engage in the Catholic intellectual tradition in person and online each week. More than 70 Catholic school teachers are currently enrolled, bringing a renewal of Catholic faith and life into the classrooms.

The **Catholic Studies Rome Program on the Bernardi Campus** has been transformative for hundreds of students who experience the universal character of the Church in the Eternal City. It's a truly distinctive

program that is lived out in the heart of Rome and comprised of four interrelated elements: culture, intellectual life, spiritual life, and friendship in community. The next group of students will move into the beautiful Bernardi campus in the spring to begin another life-changing semester at this 25-year-old campus.

The **Guadalupe's Scholars Program** welcomed 49 students at the beginning of fall semester. From its inception with one student in 2000, the program makes a university education possible and ensures that its participants are immersed in a transformative, integrated opportunity built upon four pillars: academics, community, faith, and servant leadership.

Enjoy this issue of *Lumen* in which we give thanks, recognize three important milestones, and provide a glimpse into the life of Catholic Studies today.



JOHN F. BOYLE, CHAIRMAN  
DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC STUDIES



MICHAEL NAUGHTON, DIRECTOR  
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# Did you know?

## ARGUELLO SOTRO LEAVES HER LEGACY

During her 11 years in Sitzmann Hall - as an undergraduate student, graduate student, and staff member - **Melina Arguello Sotro '18, CSMA '20** played a pivotal role in the growth of the Guadalupe's Scholars program. After five years as Program Coordinator, she is stepping away to devote more time to her growing family.

When Melina began as a graduate student intern in 2019, ten students were enrolled. Today, there are 49 Guadalupe's Scholars, and the program has a 97% retention rate. Thanks to her commitment to strong formation and accompaniment, the program is poised to grow to 75 by 2030 (see p.15).

But for Melina, it was never just about the numbers; it was about the students. And, as she moves on, she will be remembered for a joy beyond measure.

"Melina's passion for and dedication to the Guadalupe's Scholars program, as well as her joy and faithful witness, was shared with students and colleagues alike," says **Nancy Sannerud**, program manager of the Habiger Institute. "She helped design a program model that is poised for growth and continued student success."



Seven Guadalupe's Scholars traveled to Chicago this summer for a conference that celebrated the vibrancy of the Catholic evangelical Latino community. Hosted by ISKALI, an organization that forms, empowers, and equips young Latino Catholics to become transformative leaders, the four-day "Pilgrims of Hope" conference attracted more than 200 young adults.

**Gio Gonzalez '26** (pictured above, second from right) was encouraged to be surrounded by other young

Catholic Hispanics who take their faith seriously: "It was a huge blessing to see others like me who are on fire for the faith."

**Dr. Michael Naughton** provided a keynote address, **Nancy Sannerud** presented on the formation component of the program, and the Guadalupe's Scholars shared their experience of integrating Catholic Studies with their other fields of study at the University of St. Thomas.

## CATHOLIC STUDIES AND ANSELM HOUSE HOST DR. JENNIFER FREY FOR FLANNERY O'CONNOR EVENTS

Was O'Connor a Hillbilly Nihilist or a Hillbilly Thomist?

That was the question

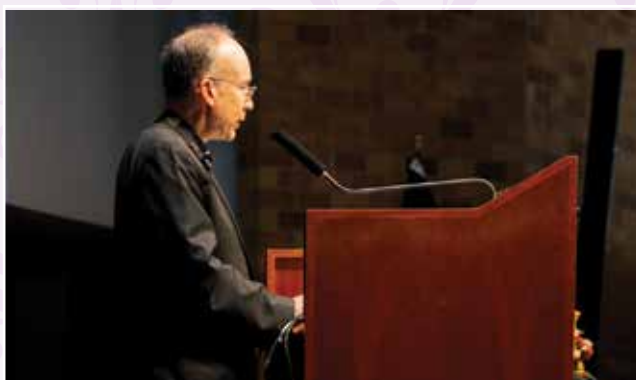
**Dr. Jennifer Frey** posed to an audience gathered at the University of Minnesota in October. Catholic Studies and Anselm House co-hosted the public lecture which brought together our campus communities to better understand O'Connor's work and how she was influenced by St. Thomas Aquinas. Anselm House cultivates Christian community at Minnesota's flagship university through lecture series, short courses, book studies, prayer groups, and student and faculty fellowships.

Dr. Frey, professor of Philosophy at the University of Tulsa, and popular speaker, author, and podcaster, has published widely on virtue and moral psychology. In her lecture, she argued that the key to unlocking the fiction of O'Connor is understanding her as a student of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Frey also offered a closer look at O'Connor's short story "Parker's Back" to a small group of Catholic Studies' faculty and students.



Scan the QR code to watch Dr. Frey's public lecture at the University of Minnesota.



**Msgr. Martin Schlag** delivered the Saint Paul Seminary's annual Archbishop Ireland Lecture in September. "From Leo XIII to Leo XIV: Catholic Social Thought in an Era of Anti-Humanism" offered a fresh perspective on Pope Pius XI's vision of society's essential institutions, building on Pope Leo XIII's legacy and proposing a fourth pillar: the world of work and economic exchange. This theme connects closely with *Rerum Novarum*, the landmark Church document on labor and social justice recently highlighted by the election and name choice of Pope Leo XIV.

**Dr. Michael Naughton** serves as a consultant on the USSCB's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, offering his expertise in Catholic Social Teaching. The committee, which is part of the Secretariat of Justice and Peace, met in Washington, DC, in October during which they addressed pressing social questions facing our nation and Church. **Archbishop Bernard Hebda** of Saint Paul and Minneapolis also serves on this committee with bishops and ecclesial partners from across the country.





# One Cup at a Time

Catholic Studies Alums Integrate Faith, Work, Life

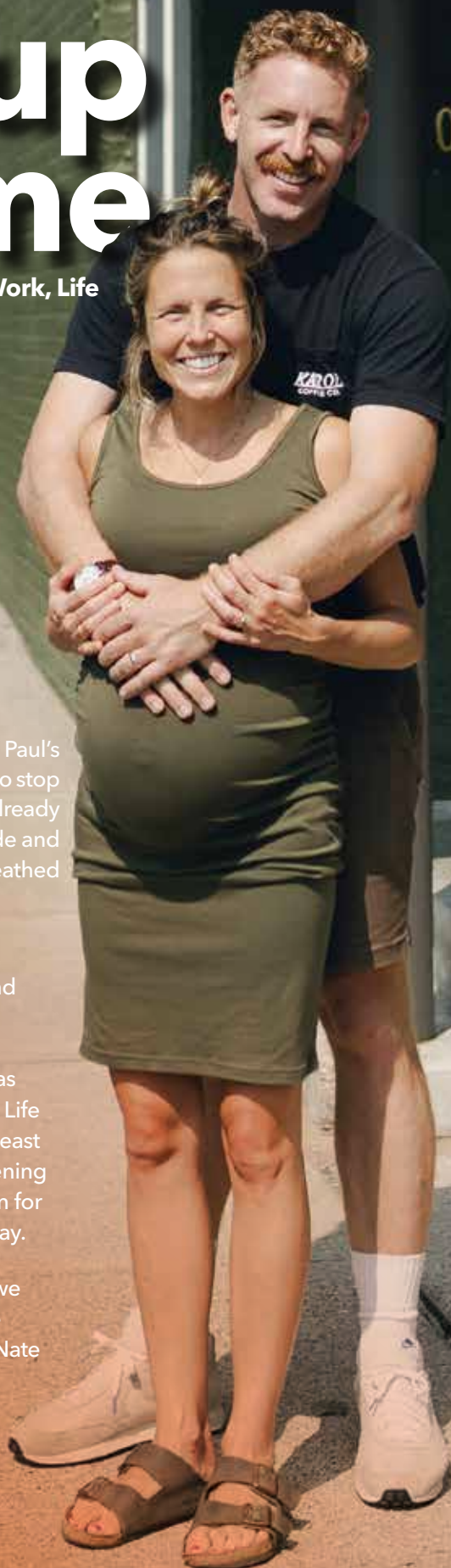


When you drive by Karol Coffee Co. in St. Paul's Como neighborhood, you might want to stop and check it out, even if you have already had your cup for the day. Its freshly painted facade and welcoming interior signal that someone has breathed new life into this old building.

That "someone" is a married couple with deep Catholic Studies roots. **Megan (Hastings) '13** and **Nate Whipple '25 CSMA** were married in 2020 when Megan was studying at the Atelier Studio Program of Fine Arts in Minneapolis and Nate was working as a Director of Outreach and Apostolic Life for **Fr. Spencer Howe '09** at Holy Cross in Northeast Minneapolis. Neither could have envisioned opening a coffee shop, but God had been preparing them for an integration of faith, work, and life along the way.

Perhaps the Holy Spirit was at work when Fr. Howe asked Nate during his job interview, "What is the best way to reach young people in Northeast?" Nate replied, "At a bar or a coffee shop."

With that, a dream was born.



It all started in a garage with Megan using more than half the space for a large art commission and Nate, tucked in a corner, learning the art of roasting coffee with a roaster purchased on Facebook Marketplace.

The rest of their story – which moves from the garage to the farmer’s market to a food truck to the present-day coffee shop – sounds like many other American dreams. But there is something different about this one. Something intentional is happening in this space where coffee is poured. There is a culture that you can see in the artwork, hear in the buzz of conversations, and feel when you step into the shop. None of this is by accident.

Catholic Studies played a big role in how the Whipples see the integration of faith, work, and life. “Going to Rome in 2012 was really impactful,” Megan said. “This is where I read about the role of the religious and the laity and how they are understood in the Church. I was struck by this universal call to holiness no matter who we are or what we pursue.”

In the CSMA program, Nate was heavily influenced by Romano Guardini and centered his master’s thesis on the writings of the Italian-born priest. “In a very real way, we see this shop as our vocation, as the way in which we are working out our salvation and bringing the good to bear on our neighborhood,” he says.

The Whipples work very hard to create a culture that promotes human flourishing, a lofty idea for a coffee shop, to be sure. But it’s so embedded in Megan and Nate that it simply happens in the particulars of their daily life – roasting, training, serving, painting, welcoming, and balancing the books. “This shop is our reality,” Nate says. “It’s the conjunction of people, circumstances, and events in which we have an interest, which affects us personally, and which makes a demand on us.”



Another sign of their intentionality is evident when you check their store hours. “Closed on Sundays” might seem like a bad business decision to some, and it was not an easy one for Megan and Nate. They prayed about it and consulted with **Dr. Naughton** and his wife, **Teresa ’15 CSMA**, who pointed them back to their patron, St. John Paul II, who had a lot to say about the Lord’s Day.

“In the coffee shop business, Saturdays and Sundays are the busiest days. We had to weigh the sacrifice, and we even considered being closed on Mondays instead,” they said. “But we ultimately decided that we could rest on Mondays, but we couldn’t get the Sabbath on Mondays.” And so, their mission to integrate their faith, life, and work, and their desire to create a culture in which others can do the same, is poured out, one cup at a time.



“Catholic Studies gave us an encyclopedia for life that we can consult. It is a framework that is integrated into our whole humanity. It has been invaluable in our life and work.”

Megan ’13 and Nate Whipple ’25  
CSMA



# Alumnus Brings Saint's Story to Theaters

Scan the QR code  
to watch a trailer of  
*Triumph of the Heart*:

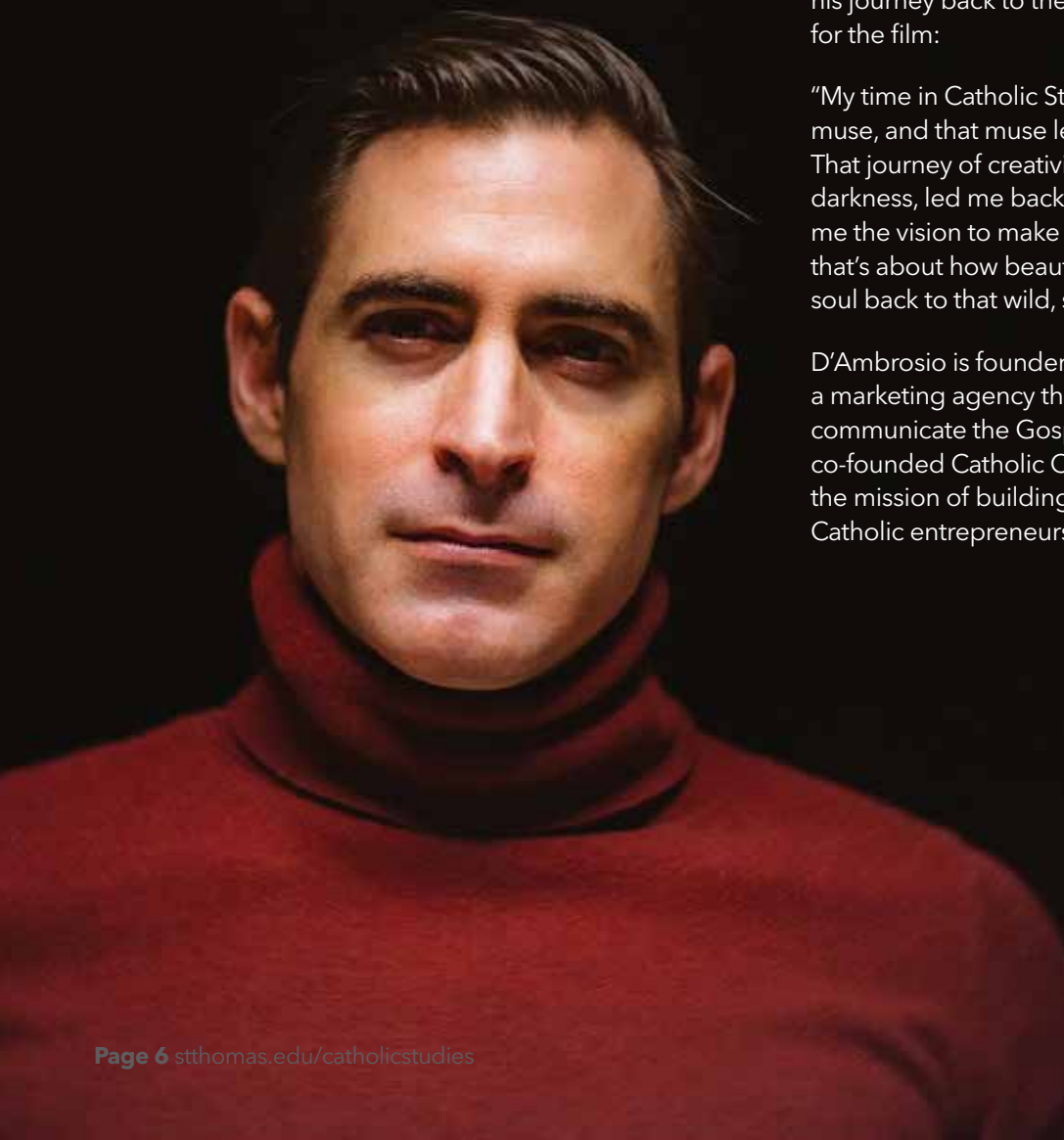


**A**nthony D'Ambrosio '10 wrote, produced, and directed the critically acclaimed film *Triumph of the Heart*, which was shown in theaters nationwide this fall. At the heart of the film lies the harrowing yet transcendent saga of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Franciscan priest whose voluntary substitution in Auschwitz's starvation bunker in 1941 epitomizes *caritas in extremis*.

D'Ambrosio describes how Catholic Studies impacted his journey back to the faith and served as inspiration for the film:

"My time in Catholic Studies gave me beauty as my muse, and that muse led me to create in my darkness. That journey of creativity, of seeking the sacred in the darkness, led me back to my faith, and ultimately gave me the vision to make *Triumph of the Heart*—a film that's about how beauty and goodness can rescue a soul back to that wild, stubborn hope of the Eucharist."

D'Ambrosio is founder of Sherwood Fellows, a marketing agency that helps organizations communicate the Gospel to a greater audience, and co-founded Catholic Creatives, a group committed to the mission of building events and digital spaces for Catholic entrepreneurs and artists.





A FILM BY ANTHONY D'AMBROSIO

# TRIUMPH *of the* HEART

PASSION OF ST. KOLBE

COMING FALL 2025

SHERV  
MARCIN KWAŚNY  
ARMAND PROCAC  
COSTUMES LAUREN L  
DESIGNED BY ANGELIKA SOWA

## COMING TO CAMPUS IN FEBRUARY!

*Triumph of the Heart* will be shown on campus on **Friday, Feb. 6**. Ticket information coming soon. Watch for an email and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for details.

"HEART"  
DREK ALEKSALIĆ  
ANGELIKA GLOWACKA  
DREW HOLZSCHUH  
ANTHONY D'AMBROSIO

# Silver Jubilee: CSMA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



*Dr. Mary Reichardt served as the first CSMA Program Director.*

The Catholic Studies MA program (CSMA) is celebrating 25 years of amazing growth, both in terms of scope and number of students. Recent college graduates, mid-career professionals, and retirees find their way to this transformative program through a variety of paths, but in the program they all find a new depth of integration of their learning with their faith and all of life.

Under the leadership of **Dr. Mary Reichardt**, the first program director, CSMA was developed as an opportunity for those who did not receive a BA in Catholic Studies, as well as a response to a call for deeper, more mature reflection for anyone at a graduate level.

It is that integration for adult learners of every age that sets the program apart from a one-discipline humanities graduate program on the one hand or a lay theology or apologetics program on the other. Catholic Studies brings many disciplines together in each class: theology, philosophy, history, literature, science, and the arts. It is intentionally not a pre-professional credential for a given specialization but

rather teaches how to think and analyze—skills that bring about growth in people’s lives through the discussion-based classes.

“The CSMA incorporates everything,” says **Dr. Billy Junker, CSMA Program Director** (pictured below). “It takes on everything: Catholic and secular authors, the best of culture so far, and the yearning for transformation of civilization through the study of the impact of the Incarnation.”

In Fall 2025 we have 131 students enrolled—quite an increase from our first class of seven in 2000. Some





have come for personal enrichment, and some are using it for professional development or a springboard toward further graduate studies. They all have a place in the program.



Second-year CSMA student **Danny Dalenberg '26 CSMA** (pictured above) has developed an interest in a Catholic approach to culture and politics and is currently taking "Money, Power and God" with **Msgr. Martin Schlag**. "The class connects to the whole CSMA program," he says. "We see that God works through the political order to bring about salvation to those in particular times and places."

In 2000, all classes were taught in person but since 2018, online options have been available. Some students finish the program completely online, some are in person, while many take the opportunity for a mixture of both. However they participate, there is no distinction – each class is based on real human interaction and in-depth discussion. Our furthest flung students are in the UK and Uganda, who make a heroic effort to participate, considering the time difference.

One of the areas of extraordinary growth has been with Catholic school teachers. With funding from the Murray Institute, a benefits-eligible teacher from a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis can pursue one of our graduate programs for free. Currently there are more than 40 teachers using their Murray scholarship awards toward a Master of Arts in Catholic Studies, a Graduate Certificate in Mission & Culture in Catholic Education, or a Two-Course Study in Catholic Education. "All of the Murray students," says Dr. Junker, "find intellectual stimulation and models that refresh their own teaching."





A further innovation within CSMA is the creation of the Mission and Culture Fellows in Catholic Education program, a response to the need for more teachers in Catholic schools, especially those who are mission-driven and well-formed. Program Coordinator, **Sarah DeCock '12, '23 CSMA** says that the program allows aspiring teachers "to be formed in the Catholic intellectual tradition in CSMA classes while also spending time in the classroom, learning the practicals of running a class." Fellows often say they began the year afraid to be up in front of a classroom and ended feeling ready and excited to have their own classroom, through learning lesson planning, classroom management, or different teaching techniques. The community offered through their training site school, CSMA classes, as well as their Fellows cohort boosts their practical and philosophical understanding of Catholic education, which can lead to fruitful careers in Catholic schools.

Another growing feature of the CSMA program has been adding summer courses that are taught in Rome. In 2024, **Dr. Erika Kidd** taught "Mary in Rome" a course that incorporated readings with art depictions of Our Lady in museums and churches across the Eternal City. Students loved the onsite learning and asked for more summer opportunities and so "The Christian Transformation of Pagan Rome" will be taught in July 2026 by **Dr. Junker** and **Fr. Austin Litke '04, OP**.

"The Incarnation," says Dr. Junker, "is the basis for which and *through* which we integrate our learning and community together. The variety of our students—whether online or in person, whether in their 20s or 70s, whether they take the classes for fun or aspire to a PhD—find that the style of the program enables their integration of faith and life, their understanding of their gifts and work, and their horizons broadened."

Scan the QR code to watch  
the new CSMA video.





# What are CSMA students reading this fall?

Dr. Ray MacKenzie is teaching his popular CSMA course, ***The Catholic Novel***, one last time before he retires in the spring. This year, the class is reading:

*Brothers Karamazov*, Fyodor Dostoevsky

*Lord of the World*, Robert Hugh Benson

*Thérèse Desqueyroux*, François Mauriac

*God and Mammon and What Was Lost*,  
François Mauriac

*Diary of a Country Priest*, George Bernanos

*The Power and the Glory*, Graham Greene

*Brideshead Revisited*, Evelyn Waugh

*Wise Blood*, Flannery O'Connor

*Other essays and letters*, Flannery O'Connor

Dr. Mackenzie shares that if he could teach ***The Catholic Novel II***, he would add these other favorites:

*Death Comes for the Archbishop*,  
Willa Cather

*Shadows on the Rock*, Willa Cather

*Silence*, Shusaku Endo

*Deep River*, Shusaku Endo

*Betrothed*, Alessandro Manzoni

*Kristen Lavransdatter*, Sigrid Undset

*Crime and Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoevsky

*Devils*, Fyodor Dostoevsky

*Notes From Underground*,  
Fyodor Dostoevsky



# Silver Jubilee: Bernardi Campus Turns Twenty-Five

Catholic Studies was still in its earliest years on the St. Paul campus when the first group of students spent a semester in Rome. But the accommodations were temporary and not conducive to community life.

Thanks to a gift from the Bernardi family, St. Thomas purchased a 20,000-square-foot home from a group of Spanish nuns and renovated the interior. In 2000, Catholic Studies students moved into the Bernardi Campus, named in honor of Antonio and Cecilia Bernardi, parents and grandparents of St. Thomas alumni, including **Luigi Bernardi '85, '89 MBA**. From this home on the Tiber River, more than 1,000 students

have been transformed by the cultural, intellectual, spiritual, and community life that are foundational to the Rome experience.

In the Spring 2025 issue of *St. Thomas Magazine*, **Derrick Diedrich '21, '24 CSMA** shared how the Bernardi Campus provides a home away from home:

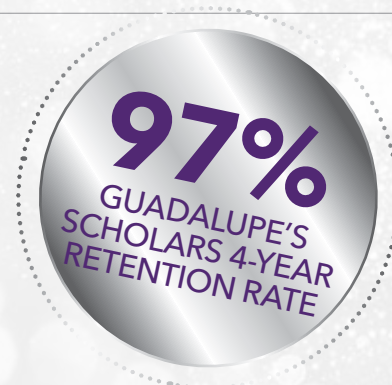
"The Rome campus is such a unique place and reflects all the best of St. Thomas' ideals and mission. Having our own home in the heart of the Church creates one of the best learning environments I have ever had the privilege to be in and an experience of community that I will remember for the rest of my life."

Scan the QR code to read more about St. Thomas' 25 years in Rome on the Bernardi Campus.





# Silver Jubilee: 25TH Anniversary of Guadalupe's Scholars



For the past 25 years, Catholic Studies has been home to the Guadalupe's Scholars Program where faithful student leaders are invited to engage the Catholic intellectual tradition in the context of the growing Hispanic community in the American church.

Beginning with just one student in 2000, there are now 49 Guadalupe's Scholars in this program built upon four pillars: rigorous academics, strong community, faith formation, and servant leadership.

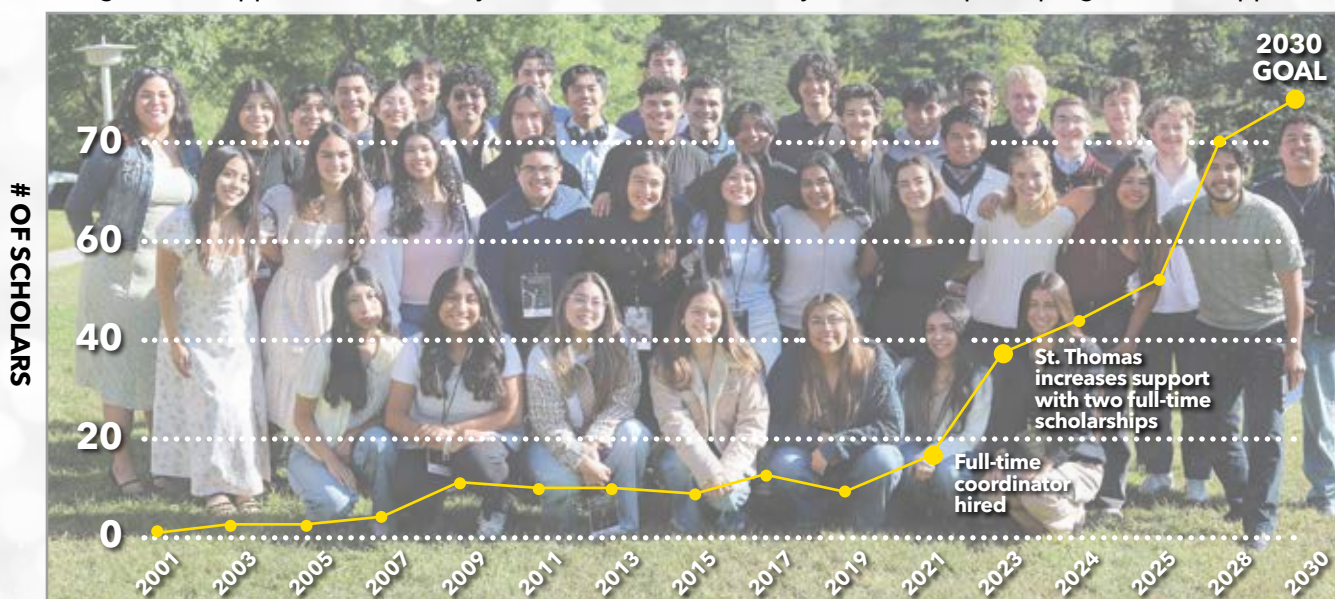
Guadalupe's Scholars was born when **Drs. Michael Naughton** and **Bill Cavanaugh** were establishing a Catholic Worker House at a local Latino parish. As the project unfolded, parishioners shared that the most pressing need for the community was scholarships to make higher education possible for their children. Naughton and Cavanaugh channeled their efforts to create a scholarship fund for students at the University of St. Thomas.

Throughout the program's tremendous growth, the purpose has remained the same: to ensure that each recipient engages in a transformative educational experience, one that develops in them the ability to recognize and pursue what is true, good, and beautiful.

Guadalupe's Scholars receive personal accompaniment throughout their four years of university life; meet monthly to celebrate a bilingual Mass, receive formation, and share a meal; and serve the local Hispanic community by helping with youth ministry, leading a college immersion program for high school students, or participating in Bible studies on campus.

What began as a scholarship that paved the way to St. Thomas has become an integral part of the Catholic Studies movement. The goal is that, by 2030, seventy-five Guadalupe's Scholars will participate in this transformative educational and spiritual formation experience while preparing for professional lives of service.

Our goal is to support **75 Scholars** by **2030** with **\$500K** annually in scholarship and programmatic support.



## Peru Conference Commemorates 10th Anniversary of *Laudato si'*

In July, the Murphy Institute hosted the conference "Sustainability and Integral Ecology in Business and Law: Ten Years after *Laudato si'*" in Lima, Peru. In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the ecological encyclical *Laudato si': On Care for Our Common Home* by Pope Francis, the conference aimed to study the implications of integral ecology on business and law. The interconnectedness characteristic of "integral ecology" was to be examined from theological, philosophical, administrative, economic, ethical, and legal perspectives.

The two-day event was held on the Lima campus of Universidad de Piura, a longtime partner of the University of St. Thomas School of Law. Nearly 100 academics and practitioners from 10 countries participated in this interdisciplinary gathering with multiple publications forthcoming as a result.

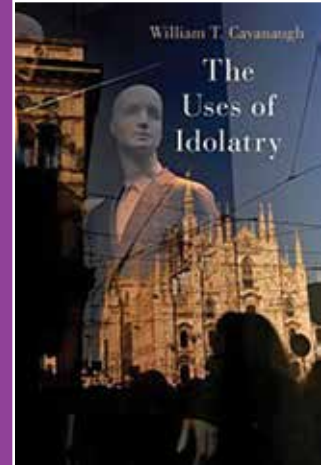
Plans are underway for the next conference on Catholic thought in business and law, tentatively scheduled for July 2027.

*Pictured (L to R): Professor Mariana H.C. Gonstead, School of Law; Dean Daniel Kelly, School of Law; Michelle Rash, Murphy Institute; Fr. Austin Litke, OP, Catholic Studies; Dr. Romain Lorentz, Opus College of Business; and Msgr. Martin Schlag, co-director of the Murphy Institute.*



## CAVANAUGH EVENT AT CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

Dr. William Cavanaugh, Catholic Studies professor at DePaul University and former member of the St. Thomas Theology Department, presented "Consumerism and Idolatry" at the Church of the Assumption (St. Paul) in October. A collaboration between the Murphy Institute, the Center for Catholic Social Thought, and Anselm House, the program focused on themes of Cavanaugh's recently published book, *The Uses of Idolatry* (Oxford Press, 2024). The following day, Cavanaugh led a faculty book discussion at St. Thomas.



## hot topics cool talk

Terrence J. Murphy Institute for Catholic Thought, Law and Business

## Checks and Balances

The program "Hot Topics: Cool Talk - Can Courts Impose Nationwide Remedies for Government Wrongdoing?" took place on October 30 at the School of Law. Professors Ilya Somin (George Mason) and Monica Haymond (Northwestern University) deliberated the intricacies of the checks and balances of our constitutional system in place to protect citizens from abuse of power by the Federal Government.

The "Hot Topics: Cool Talk" series brings together leading scholars with differing views for a civil yet spirited dialogue.



# Truth and Humility in Higher Education

By DR. JONATHAN FUQUA AND  
FR. ETIENNE HUARD, OSB

Universities committed to the pursuit of truth must ground their curricula, pedagogy, and institutional culture in this objective reality. Truth, as something discoverable and not constructed, requires an interior disposition of humility, sometimes known as “docility”—an acknowledgment that reality exists independent of our desires or preferences.

For students and educators alike, this humility must be accompanied by the virtues necessary for intellectual flourishing: fortitude to persist in the often-arduous pursuit of knowledge, temperance to subordinate lesser goods to the greater good of truth, and fidelity to follow the argument wherever it leads, even when it challenges preexisting beliefs.

This integration can take several forms. We suggest two.

First, the university’s curriculum should embrace interdisciplinary inquiry, recognizing that the intelligibility of creation demands exploration from philosophical, scientific, theological, historical, and artistic perspectives. This holistic approach affirms that no single field can exhaust the depth of truth, fostering the harmony between intellect and creation.

Second, the university must also deliberately cultivate virtue—and hire faculty and staff that can



model these virtues—shaping pedagogy and culture to foster intellectual humility and curiosity through inquiry and dialogue, and moral virtues like temperance and fortitude through mentorship and co-curricular programs.

A university that embraces the reality of objective truth and the cultivation of virtue will not only fulfill its intellectual mission but also contribute to society’s moral and spiritual renewal. By grounding its practices in the harmonious relationship between mind and being, higher education can offer students more than knowledge; it can offer wisdom and a path to freedom and flourishing.



*This article is an excerpt of “Education as Soulcraft: What the University Can Learn from the Seminary” in Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture 28:4 (Fall 2025). Scan the QR code to read the whole article on Project Muse or become a print or digital subscriber.*

# Why I Give to Catholic Studies

LISA ANDERSON –  
ADVISOR, DONOR, FRIEND

**L**isa Anderson '83 MA echoes her father, Guy Schoenecker, when she says, "You either grow or die. You can never become complacent. Even in the worst of times, you need a growth mindset."

That way of thinking drove her father throughout his career, and it is what drives Lisa today. It is also what she appreciates the most about Catholic Studies and the University of St. Thomas. "There is an entrepreneurial mindset here that continually thinks about how we can get better. It's embedded in the culture."

knew it allowed students to deeply explore their faith in relationship to the Catholic intellectual tradition and to integrate it with the professions they were pursuing.

She accepted his invitation and has been connected to Catholic Studies ever since—as a founding member of the Advisory Board, as a strategic consultant, and as a generous donor. She has also served on the university's Board of Trustees for the past 10 years, a platform from which she can see how Catholic Studies fits into the university's broader strategic vision of Catholic identity and national growth.



*Lisa and Rich Anderson are pictured with their daughters (left to right): Marissa '10 and Tara '04, '07 JDMA.*

*In Catholic Studies, students grow deeper in their faith, more mature in the formation of their character, and leave prepared for life. I cannot imagine a more meaningful place to direct our charitable contributions.*

Lisa Anderson

Lisa's relationship with Catholic Studies began in 1996 when her good friend, then President Msgr. Terrence Murphy, asked her to join the Catholic Studies Advisory Board. He told Lisa that he believed Catholic Studies might be the most important legacy of his career. He

Lisa has been an integral part of the growth of Catholic Studies. She was a driving force behind the online MA program and the Guadalupe's Scholars program, two entrepreneurial initiatives where she saw opportunities to grow. "Catholic Studies even grew during

the pandemic," she says. "It was uniquely positioned to offer further study of the faith when the world was under stress."

Lisa has heard from several Catholic Studies alumni who were formed in this program and were grateful for the role it played in their formation. "They prepared for a career and deepened their faith at the same time," she says. "That is the highest purpose of Catholic education."



# The Emery and Karen Koenig Legacy Society in Catholic Studies

RECOGNIZING  
EXTRAORDINARY  
COMMITMENT

Since its founding in 1993, the work of Catholic Studies has been sustained by the prayers, encouragement, strategic advice, and generosity of our donors. In every way, Emery and Karen Koenig have participated in this work.

For the past 20 years, the Koenigs have made Catholic Studies one of their philanthropic priorities through annual giving as well as with a generous planned gift. Emery served as Chair of the Advisory Board for nine years, and has participated in numerous panels and discussion groups, particularly at the intersection of the Catholic social thought and business.

Together, Emery and Karen attended special events and served as lead sponsors of the Catholic Studies 25th and 30th anniversary celebrations. With a deep desire to see Rome through the eyes of our students, the Koenigs went on Catholic Studies pilgrimages to Rome in 2017 and 2025. Through it all, they have touched the lives of countless students who seek this transformative, interdisciplinary education.

**To recognize their deep commitment to the Catholic Studies movement—and to show our gratitude for their generous planned gift—it is our privilege to announce the newly named Emery and Karen Koenig Legacy Society in Catholic Studies. This society honors all those who include Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in their estate plans or establish an endowed scholarship or programmatic fund.**

To learn more about leaving your legacy with Catholic Studies through an estate gift or an endowed fund, contact **Nancy Sannerud** (651.962.5705) or **Karen Laird** (651.962.5716).

*Emery and Karen Koenig, far left and second from left, are pictured with Denise and Eddy Rojas, provost of the University of St. Thomas, while on a Catholic Studies pilgrimage to Rome. (March 2025)*



“Since our first encounter with Catholic Studies we have been deeply touched by the impact it has on the students, on St. Thomas, and in society as graduates live out their Catholic faith. We want to do our part to see Catholic Studies continue to grow and expand in the years to come.

Emery and Karen Koenig



**Center for Catholic Studies**

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## MONASTICAMP

Catholic Studies co-sponsored a first-of-its-kind event in September called "Monasticamp" to introduce nearly 40 students to all things monastic: Gregorian chant, the Divine Office, illuminated manuscripts, lectio divina, vows, authors, work and ministries, and more.

Scan the QR code to read coverage of the day by the National Catholic Register. This event was made possible through a College of Arts and Sciences Elevating the Arts grant.

