



# Santa Croce



PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE HOLY CROSS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER • FALL 2004

## Friends of the University Launched



The Washington and Boston chapters of the Friends of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross launched their inaugural events recently. The events were held at the Army & Navy Club of Washington, D.C. and the Harvard Club of Boston.

Area residents, drawn from business, government, law and academia came to hear

Fr. Giuseppe Tanzella-Nitti speak about the University and its current plans.

Fr. Giuseppe is a professor of fundamental theology at Santa Croce, where he explores and teaches the theology of revelation and the theological and philosophical image of God, among other subjects. Before becoming a priest, he worked as a professional astronomer.

In his remarks, Fr. Giuseppe stressed prayer - that without prayer, nothing is possible. He asked those in attendance to consider being ambassadors of the University, by telling their friends and acquaintances of its important work of training priests, theologians, philosophers and people who work in the media. He mentioned supporting the University financially, since

*Former Ambassador to the Holy See and Mayor of Boston, Raymond Flynn, attended the 'Friends of the University' luncheon hosted by Jim Morgan.*

at this time the University is undergoing the important work of expanding the physical campus in order to keep up with worldwide demand for the education it offers.

During the question and answer period, Father Giuseppe was asked what were the advantages to American benefactors of supporting the University when most of its students come from the Second and Third world. He reminded the audience of the communion of saints: when one part of the Church grows, the entire Church grows, and the benefits of that growth are shared throughout the Church in the measure of faith of each local Church.

Fr. Giuseppe also made reference to the large number of American students who attend classes there, where they receive sound theological and professional training. Since many of the graduates go on to fill positions of responsibility - chancellors, vocation directors, theological educators and even

**Friends** *continued on back page*



“The University is answering the call of the Holy Father by preparing its students for the New Evangelization.”

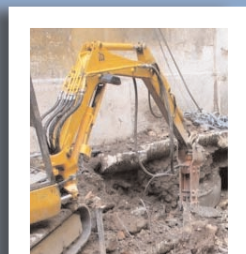
- Fr. Giuseppe Tanzella-Nitti

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# Marriage Tribunal Course Well Attended

The school of Canon Law recently provided a refresher course for legal practitioners in Ecclesiastical Tribunals. Entitled "Revision of the Canonical Process for Marriage Nullity Cases", the course was held over a six-day period in September 2004 in Rome. More than 15 experts spoke at the conference and over 280 people participated from all over the world.

The course was presented in answer to the Holy Father's interest in the subject of reviewing the handling of marriage nullity cases.

The course was aimed at helping legal practitioners who offer their services within Ecclesiastical Tribunals, (judges, defenders of the bond, advocates). Its purpose was to introduce the most recent doctrinal and jurisprudential developments regarding issues in both procedural and substantive law, which are frequently experienced and often problematic in the tribunals of the Church.

The layout of the course was theoretical and practical: presentation of the most recent jurisprudence and doctrine on individual issues, and discussion of practical cases on the themes, which had previously been treated in a theoretical manner. The practical cases were sent to the participants two months before the course began. This facilitated an opportunity to study and offer contributions during the debate, which was moderated by the professors.

Some of the courses included, "Immaturity as a Cause of Nullity of Marriage" and "Exclusion of Indissolubility". The course was given in Italian with simultaneous translation into English and Spanish.

In this regard and in order to encourage an ever better administration of justice from both the substantive and the procedural standpoint, I have established an interdicasterial commission charged with drafting an instruction on the conduct of trials concerning marriage cases.

- Pope John Paul II,  
Address to the Tribunal  
of the Roman Rota

## Students Express Their Thanks

"My first year at the University has gone by so fast. I remember fondly my first days living in the heart of Christianity that is Rome. I couldn't help but notice the rock-lined streets and consider how many saints walked on these stones. I also remember the early days of learning Italian. I recall making friends - priests and laymen from all over the world.

Moreover, I remember the initial academic lessons, which, at first, were a challenge. For me, it has meant going from being somewhat overwhelmed to experiencing peace because my first year is behind me. Now everything is different. I understand the talking in the streets and in the classroom. I can express myself in this new language. I have a new vision and understanding of the universality of the Church. Certainly, all this is possible because of you. My sincerest thanks to the generous people who help with their financial gifts in the training of priests here at the University."

- Fr. Antenor

"Although I have never met you, I pray for you everyday. I am sure that God Almighty will help you abundantly. I use this occasion to thank you wholeheartedly for the assistance you have provided me. I also very humbly beg your valuable prayers. I am from India. My parents are living and I have two sisters. My parents were generous in their upbringing of me, although we did not have much materially. I think of you with the same affection as I think of my own parents. Every day, after I say a small prayer for them, I remember you and pray for your needs. Please pray for me also."

- Fr. Sanjobhavan

"Thank you for the financial assistance you have given me in my studies. Having an opportunity to pursue higher ecclesiastical training is a real blessing. Having the chance to do it here in Rome *sub umbra Petri* is even more marvelous. Thus I am

forever grateful. My first year here in Rome has been challenging. My greatest difficulty is the Italian language, but I am definitely getting better at it. My mentors at Pontificia Università della Santa Croce, while always expecting excellence, are willing to accommodate such difficulties. Consolations abound. Foremost of these is that I have had the chance to kiss the hand of the Holy Father (twice!) during the ad limina visit of the Philippine bishops. This would have been impossible without your help. So, again, I thank you."

- Fr. Ramon Jose

"I am greatly indebted to you for my studies here in Rome. Without your kindness and generosity I am almost sure the wishes of my Bishop would never have been realized. Together with my personal thanks, I would like you to know how grateful my Bishop is as well. Many thanks! As my first academic year is about to end, I am truly grateful for the prayers you offer for me. It is really a privilege to study here at the University. We are so close to the Holy Father and each day I feel blessed because his presence radiates the presence of Christ in our midst. It is my wish to tell you that you are always included in my prayers. God bless you and may He reward your goodness."

- Fr. Renee

"I am very happy to write this letter of thanks for your generous support of my postgraduate studies. I must say that this year in Rome has been a great year. The experience of studying in Rome has given me a broader view of the Church and a greater love for Her. I have been a priest for six years now. Before entering the seminary I was a business administrator. As you can imagine my life has changed radically after my encounter with the Lord and it continues to get better each day."

- Padre Arturo

"On December 27, I will thank my Lord Jesus Christ for having given me the gift of the priesthood for ten years (1994-2004). On that day, I will place you in a special way on the Altar of Christ. Before coming to the University, I was stationed in India. I served my diocese as a parish priest and as the Director of the Diocesan Ministry of Education. I am very glad to convey to you my Bishop's grateful and loving greetings."

- Fr. Sujan





## Remodeling Project Continues

The remodeling of the St. Apollinare building, the main academic facility of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, continues. The project, approximately one-third complete, is expected to take about three years and is the first major remodeling in more than 250 years.

During construction, as is typical in Rome, some archeological ruins were unearthed. While not unusual in this ancient city, it makes the work more challenging since the remains must be preserved.

The project will substantially increase the amount of usable space allowing for more classes to be held at the University. The cleaning of the façade will also improve the look of the building from the exterior. The entire project is slated to be finished by the end of 2006.



## Letters To The University

"I am very far away from Rome now - at a small parish that started three years ago in Balkhash, a city in Kazakhstan. The city was under Soviet rule for so long and during those years the Catholics had no priests. Now there are priests but the Catholics have almost forgotten their faith. We have to look for them one by one and patiently wait for the grace of God to operate in their souls. That is our mission here. I am continuing to build the church my predecessor started. In addition, each week I travel 400 kilometers to go to Karaganda, where I teach philosophy in our seminary. There are not many seminarians, but the ones we have are generous. We need your prayers and it is good to know they will not be lacking."

- Fr. Yevgeniy, former student of the University, Balkhash (Kazakhstan)

"I want to express my immense gratefulness for the generous, selfless help you offer to my seminarians. Thank you for supporting priestly training, preparing them in an excellent way in every aspect. I want to convey to you and to all the benefactors of the University my deepest gratitude, offering my humble prayers. May the Lord pour abundant graces on all of you."

- Bp. Elías Bolaños,  
Bishop of Zacatecoluca (El Salvador)

"My health has worsened recently and I have not been able to get around. A few days ago, I received a packet of brochures from the University and asked myself what can I do in these circumstances? I thought about it and prayed. I decided to take advantage of being homebound and write to my friends and relatives. I wrote them a letter, of which I enclose a copy, and included the materials you sent me, entrusting the recipients to their Guardian Angel and to Bishop Alvaro del Portillo, who opened the doors of the University some 20 years ago. My

specific intention is for the University and its mission of training priests and seminarians for the New Evangelization. What do you think? That is the kind of work I can do sitting down, without moving, and I am hopeful it will bear fruit."

- Msgr. Francesco Angelicchio,  
Verona (Italy)

"I am glad to have been able to comply with the kind request of Msgr. Francesco Angelicchio to collect a contribution for a scholarship, for the training of priests at your University. Among my friends and acquaintances, I have been able to gather 330 Euro. It is only a drop in the bucket, but I hope it can be part of a cascade of funds. As Don Francesco says in his letter, "well-trained priests are a great gift from God to humanity." As far as I'm concerned, whenever possible, I will remember you with gratefulness and appreciation."

- Lucia Vantaggio. Rome (Italy)



# The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross

The University, referred to as *Santa Croce* (Italian for *Holy Cross*), is an institution of research and study in the ecclesiastical sciences established by the Holy See. It includes schools of Theology, Canon Law, Philosophy, and Institutional Social Communications and an Institute for Advanced Religious Studies. The schools grant Bachelor's, Licentiate, and Doctoral degrees. A Bachelor's degree in philosophy and theology satisfies the full academic requirement for priestly ordination. Currently there are over 1,300 students from 64 countries around the world. Since the beginning of its academic activities in 1984, there have been more than 5,000 students who have attended the courses of the four schools.

The University is entrusted to the Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei. It was inspired by the vision of Saint Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei, who desired to develop a university in Rome dedicated to the intense training in the ecclesiastical sciences, at the service of the universal Church.

## The Foundation

The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross Foundation assists the University in its financial needs and grants scholarships to students from poor dioceses wishing to attend the University. In the past 15 years donations from benefactors in various countries have allowed the University to award 2,140 scholarships to priests and seminarians from 95 countries around the world.

Last year, the University awarded 155 scholarships. The goal for the next academic year is more than 200 scholarships. Please consider making an investment in the training of a priest.

For further information, please contact:

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Email: [Info@UniversityHolyCross.org](mailto:Info@UniversityHolyCross.org)

Or visit our website at:  
[www.UniversityHolyCross.org](http://www.UniversityHolyCross.org)

## Friends of the University *continued from front page*

bishops – the University's good influence on the entire Church goes far beyond mere numbers.



At the Boston event, former Ambassador to the Holy See and Mayor of Boston, Raymond Flynn, asked several questions concerning the University's school of Institutional Social Communications. He commented on how important it was to train students in the areas of communications, particularly in responding to the media in the United States. Moreover he encouraged the University

to teach its students well in disseminating the Church's message in a manner that all can understand and appreciate.

More events are being planned for next year to bring the Friends of the University together. For more information about the Friends of the University in your area, please contact:

Boston	Jim Morgan	617-962-6800
New Jersey	Joe Cafasso	201-261-7700
New York	Patrick Finegan	203-984-2442
Pittsburg	Robert Blume	412-488-7934
Washington, D.C.	David Carradini	202-489-6252
Nationally	Tom Rezendes	508-776-1153