



*The Aquinas Center for Theological Renewal  
&  
The Institute of Spirituality at the Angelicum*

*What Would Aquinas Do?  
The Crises of Our Age & the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Birth of Thomas Aquinas*

*January 30 – February 1, 2025  
Ave Maria University  
Ave Maria, Florida*

# Program

## Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

*Mass is offered at 7:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. at Ave Maria Catholic Church.*

*Mass is offered at 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:05 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. in Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel*

12:00 – 8:00 p.m. Registration

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Concurrent Session 1

*Ballroom Section 1: [Moderator: William Horstmann]*

**David Sherwood**, *Ave Maria University*, “Marriage and the Sexes: Mutual Real Relations in the Sacramental Theology of Saint Thomas Aquinas”

**Matthew McKenna**, *Ave Maria University*, “What is a Woman? Applying Thomistic Principles to the Case of Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome”

**Joseph Cunningham**, *University of St. Thomas*, “Rooted in Reality: The Foundation of Morals Underlying Aquinas’ *Liberum Arbitrium*”

*Ballroom Section 2: [Moderator: Aaron Weisel]*

**Ruvianne Dela Cruz Mercado**, *Dominican School of philosophy and Theology*, “St. Thomas Aquinas on Proper Self-Love in the Spiritual Life”

**Alexander Klee**, *Boston College*, “Authentic in Christ: A Social Imaginary for the Modern Church”

**Mary Mansfield**, *Oxford University*, “Of Gods and Men: Nature, Grace, and the Problem of Extrinsicism”

*Ballroom Section 3:* [Moderator: Bridget Fielding]  
**Noah Perez**, *Ave Maria University*, “As souls un bodied, bodies unclothed must be...’ - Contrasting Pornographic and Artistic Representations of the Unclothed Person with St. Thomas”

**Juliana Marchese**, *Ave Maria University*, “To Suggest Both the World and Eternity...’ On the Marriage of Imagination and Reason Using Aquinas and O’Connor”

**Thomas Hudson**, *Belmont Abbey College*, “Healing the Divorce Between Civil Law and Morality: A Thomistic Solution for a Modern Crisis”

*O’ Bryan Performance Hall:* [Moderator: Seth Johnson]  
**Rev. Guy Mansini, O.S.B.**, *Ave Maria University*, “Redeeming the Time”

**Daniel Lendman**, *Ave Maria University*, “The Role of the Lay Theologian in the Midst of the Dereliction in Magisterial Teaching in the Catholic Church”

**Mark Johnson**, *Marquette University*, “Shaking-up Aquinas’s Embryology”

4:45 – 6:00 p.m. Plenary Session 1: [Moderator: Michael Dauphinais]  
*O’ Bryan Performance Hall*

**Matthew Kuhner**, *St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry*, “The Confidence of St. Thomas: Our Crisis of Truth and the Provocative Safety of Divine Love”

**Steven Long**, *Ave Maria University*, “Implications of the Scien tial Achievement of St. Thomas Aquinas”

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Dinner (on your own)

7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Conference Welcome

Keynote Address: [Moderator: Roger Nutt]  
*O'Bryan Performance Hall*

**Francis Beckwith**, *Baylor University*, “How Aquinas Changed My Mind about Religion, Science, and Politics.”

8:15 – 9:00 p.m.      Wine and Cheese Social

## Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

*Mass is offered at 7:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. at Ave Maria Catholic Church.*

*Mass is offered at 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:05 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. in Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel*

8:00 a.m. –              Registration  
5:00 p.m.

8:30 –                      Concurrent Session 2  
10:00 a.m.

*Ballroom Section 1: [Moderator: Kara Johnson]*  
**Andrew Kim**, *Marquette University*, “Aquinas, Addiction, and Attentive Love”  
**Brandon Wanless**, *The Saint Paul Seminary, University of St. Thomas*, “Addiction and the Reception of Holy Communion: Pastoral Guidance Informed by the Theology of St. Thomas Aquinas”  
**Daniel Gordon**, *Ave Maria University*, “The Hierarchy of Sanctification: Thomas Aquinas on the Virtue of Holiness”

*Ballroom Section 2:* [Moderator: Zachary Naccash]  
**Anthony Hernandez**, *Ave Maria University*, “He Gets Us:’ Aquinas on How the Doctrine of the Incarnation Counters the Anthropomorphization of God”

**Sr. Mary Bethany Mansfield, O.P.**, *Ave Maria University*, "Recovering from Practical Deism by Recovering Divine Providence: Applications of Aquinas in Apologetic Theology"

**William Horstmann**, *Ave Maria University*, “Deus est Finis: Nihilism and the Natural Desire for God in Book III of the Summa Contra Gentiles”

*Ballroom Section 3:* [Moderator: John Lanham]

**Tyler Thompson**, *Ave Maria University*, “Happy Those Who Meditate On Wisdom:’ Happiness and *Sacra Doctrina*”

**Anthony Cabrera**, *Ave Maria University*, “The Enduring Relevance of Aquinas and Anscombe on Just War in a World at War”

**Michael Towle**, *Institutional Affiliate*, “Transubstantiation vs. Transgenderism: A Eucharistic Understanding of the Body”

*O’bryan Performance Hall:* [Moderator: Brett Feger]

**Sr. Hyacinth Hayward, O.P.**, *Marin Catholic High School*, “Hope, Desire, and Despair: Aquinas’s Theology of Hope and the Life of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Wayfarer”

**Matthew Ramage**, *Benedictine College*, “What Would Aquinas Say About Creation’s Eschatological Status Today?”

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. Plenary Session 2: [Moderator: Matthew Ramage]  
*O’bryan Performance Hall*

**Janice Breidenbach**, *Ave Maria University*,  
"Thomistic Free Speech? Political Pluralism and the  
Challenge of Democracy"

**Christopher Kaczor**, *University of Notre Dame*,  
"The Thomism of Tomorrow: Learning from  
McCormick, MacIntyre, and McInerney"

12:00 p.m. Conference Mass

12:45 -1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own, Cafeteria suggested)

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Concurrent Session 3

*Ballroom Section 1: [Moderator: Anthony Cabrera]*

**Joseph Diaz**, *Marquette University*, "Quantity for  
God's Glory? The Theological Rationale for Multiplicity  
in the Cosmos"

**Garrett Peters**, *St. Vincent De Paul Regional  
Seminary*, "Thomism is Compatible with the  
Multiverse"

**Benoit Duhamel**, *Ave Maria University*, "Has  
Contemporary Materialism Really Proved That the Soul  
Doesn't Exist? Aquinas Answers Paul Churchland"

*Ballroom Section 2: [Moderator: James Kelly]*

**Michael Proietta**, *Marquette University*, "Thomistic  
Trinitarian Metaphysics as a Resource for the Renewal  
of Catholic Liturgical Music"

**Brady Beckerman**, *Donahue Academy*, "Thomas  
Aquinas, Sacred Silence, and Eucharistic Adoration"

**Maria Theresa Maggio**, *Franciscan University of  
Steubenville*, "The Modern Marian Eclipse: Proposing a  
Thomistic Response"

*Ballroom Section 3: [Moderator: Chad Smith]*

**Alexander Erickson**, *Ave Maria University*,  
"Human Truth, Human Narrative, God's Grace:  
Reflections on Human Knowledge"

**Russel Ward**, *University of Notre Dame*, “What Aquinas Would Do According to Dante”

**Neil Watson**, *Ave Maria University*, “Bed, Bath, and Beyond: Thomistic Remedies in an Increasingly Sorrowful World”

*Honors Lounge (Bob Thomas Student Union):*

[Moderator: Marie-Therese Romanos]

**Emily Dalsky**, *The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity*, “Progress Toward Perfection: A Thomistic Deconstruction of Kant & Hegel's Salvific Claim on Reason”

**Luke Sherman**, *Hillsdale College*, “Aquinas and Hylomorphism”

**John Logan**, *Ave Maria University*, “Scholastic Realism: Thomas' Metaphysics of Creation and Bonaventure's Christocentric Epistemology”

*O'Bryan Performance Hall:* [Moderator: Brandon Wanless]

**John Rziha**, *Benedictine College*, “True Identity in Christ”

**Francis Feingold**, *Kenrick-Glennon Seminary*, “The Ultimate Deathbed Conversion: Can the Separated Soul Still Repent in the First Instant after Death? A Defense of Hell's Eternity”

**Jeffrey Walkey**, *Ave Maria University*, “TBD”

3:30 – 4:45 p.m. Plenary Session 3: [Moderator: T. Adam Van Wart]  
*O'Bryan Performance Hall*

**Gerald Boersma**, *Ave Maria University*, “Prudence as Connatural Knowledge”

**Angela Franks**, *St. John's Seminary*, “Forgotten and Resurgent Being”

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Dinner (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Student Union Building Loft; Ticket Only)

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour and Eucharistic Blessing (Ave Maria Catholic Church)

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Keynote Address: [Moderator: Mark Middendorf]  
*Ave Maria Catholic Church*

**Fr. Michael Sherwin, OP**, *Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas*, “Thomas Aquinas on Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life, Yesterday, Today, and Forever”

## Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

*Mass is offered at 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (vigil) at Ave Maria Catholic Church.*

*Mass is offered at 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 4:00 p.m. (vigil) in Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel*

8:00 a.m. – Registration  
5:00 p.m.

7:00 a.m. Mass  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel*

7:45 a.m. Breakfast (On your own), Light snacks and coffee provided

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Concurrent Session 4

*Ballroom Section 1: [Moderator: Rev. Joseph Lugalambi]*

**John O’Neill**, *Holy Apostles College and Seminary*,  
“A Crisis of Grace and Truth: One Crisis or Many?”

**Jack Norman**, *Australian Catholic University*,  
“David Burrell and Three Isomorphisms: Medieval,



Modern, and Hybridized Accounts of Truth in the Thomistic Tradition” (REMOTE)

**Rev. Mike Johns**, *Diocese of Little Rock*, “Aquinas and Scruton on Sexual Desire”

*Ballroom Section 2:* [Moderator: Kara Johnson]

**Joshua Brotherton**, *St. Thomas University*, “The Nature-Grace Principle and Its Implications”

**Beth Mortensen**, *International Theological Institute*, “Blowing the Nose too Hard: Aquinas’s Argument for Milder Laws”

**Kristin Towle**, *Institutional Affiliate*, “The Law is a Teacher: A Thomistic Answer to the Crisis of Our Modern American Food System”

*Ballroom Section 3:* [Moderator: Elizabeth Shephard]

**Nick Ramirez**, *University of Notre Dame*, “Thomas Aquinas and Today’s Crisis of Frozen Embryos”

**Daniel Sadasivan**, *Ave Maria University*, “Thomism and Evolution: An Example of How Philosophy Could Guide Natural Science”

**Brett Feger**, *Ave Maria University*, “Aquinas on Adam and Eve: Follow the Science”

*Prince Building 115:* [Moderator: Maria Schmidt]

**Lauren Dionne**, *Florence Classical Academy of Art*, “Death as the Key to Good Art”

**Thomas Keith**, *University of Notre Dame*, “Dialectical Synthesis as Evangelism in Aquinas and Newman”

**Freya Gordon**, *Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology*, “Reframing the Crisis of Beauty”

*O’ Bryan Performance Hall:* [Moderator: Jeffrey Walkey]

**Rev. Ryan Connors**, *Our Lady of Providence Seminary*, “A Priest for Every Altar: Aquinas on a Eucharistic Priesthood”

**T. Adam Van Wart**, *Ave Maria University*,  
“Epistemic Holiness: Transubstantiation as a  
Paradigmatic Mystery in Thomas”

**Arielle Harms**, *Augustine Institute*, “Confirmation  
Preparation According to Thomas Aquinas”

10:15 – 11:30 a.m. Plenary Session 4: [Moderator: Rev. Guy Mansini, OSB]  
*O’ Bryan Performance Hall*

**Christopher Malloy**, *University of Dallas*, “Is the  
Church a Madhouse? Dear *Conturbata*”

**Paul Gondreau**, *Providence College*, “What would  
Aquinas Do about 'Toxic Masculinity' and #MeToo?”

11:45 a.m. –  
12:45 p.m. Lunch (Boxed lunches provided, Cafeteria)  
*Please see Megan Hare for any undisclosed dietary  
restrictions*

12:45 p.m. –  
2:15 p.m. Concurrent Session 5

*Ballroom Section 1*: [Moderator: Brooks Jensen]

**Mark Heffley**, *University of Mary*, “Thomas Aquinas  
and Phenomenology: A Study of Thomas in Light of  
Robert Sokolowski”

**James Kelly**, *Ave Maria University*, “What Aquinas  
Would Do: A Doctrinal Assessment of *ST I*, q. 1”

**John Monaco**, *Duquesne University*, “Docere  
Veritatem: Aquinas’ Pedagogy for a Postmodern World”

*Ballroom Section 2*: [Moderator: Justin Corman]

**Rachael and Tommy Killackey**, *Jesuit High School*,  
“Thomas Aquinas and the Technocratic Paradigm”

**David De Salvo**, *University of Arizona*, “What would  
Aquinas Say About Netflix: Aquinas on the Right Use of  
Media”

**Mikyle Schramm**, *Viterbo University*, “Aquinas  
Articulates on Artificial Intelligence: How the Common

Doctor Teaches Us Some Common Sense About Human Thinking"

*Ballroom Section 3: [Moderator: Julianna Rival]*

**E. Tyler Graham**, *Donahue Academy*, "Girardian Thomist Pedagogy: Hermeneutic for the New Evangelization"

**John Copas**, *Catholic University of America*, "The Structure of Aquinas' Moral Theology: A Lesson in Logic and Virtue"

**Gabriel Van Ness**, *Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School*, "The Virtues as Participatory Knowledge: A Thomistic Approach to Education"

*Prince Building 115: [Moderator: Seth Johnson]*

**Elizabeth Kirk**, *Catholic University of America*, "Enfolded in Care: Challenges in Contemporary American Law in Light of Thomistic Thought on the Family"

**Marina Brungardt**, *Newman University, KS*, "They Will Nourish Him in Faith: A Thomistic Response to Modern Failures of Faith Transmission in the Family"

**James Whitaker**, *University of Notre Dame*, "The Reasonable Assent of Faith in Aquinas and Newman"

2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Plenary Session 5: [Moderator: Daniel Lendman]  
*O'Bryan Performance Hall*

**Jeremy Pilch**, *St. Mary's University, Twickenham*, "Reading *Lumen Gentium* in the Light of St Thomas's Teaching on Merit and Grace"

**Michael Dauphinais**, *Ave Maria University*, "Is God Real? Aquinas Responds to the Pseudo-Spirituality of the Later Rahner"

4:00 – 4:45 p.m. Vigil Mass (for travelers)  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel*

- 5:00 – 6:15 p.m.      Closing Keynote: [Moderator: Steven Long]  
*O’ Bryan Performance Hall*
- Rev. Romanus Cessario, O.P., Ave Maria University, “Why Study Aquinas Today?”**
- 6:15 p.m.              Closing of the Conference
- 6:15 p.m.              Dinner (On your own)
- 6:15 p.m.              Alumni Cigar Night – All Are Welcome!  
*Second Floor Student Union Balcony (Cigars Available for Purchase on Site)*

## Sunday, February 2

### Mass Schedule

#### Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel

- 7:30 a.m. (quiet Mass)
- 9:00 a.m. (music)
- 10:30 a.m. (music)
- 12:00 p.m.
- 1:30 p.m.
- 5:00 p.m. (music)
- 9:00 p.m.

#### Ave Maria Catholic Church

- 8:00am
- 10:00am
- 12:30pm (Extraordinary Form)
- 7:30pm

## Special Acknowledgements

**Rev. Michael Sherwin, OP**, *Institute of Spirituality at the Angelicum*, 2024 Veritas Medal Winner

**Rev. Ryan Connors**, *Our Lady of Providence Seminary*, 2023 Charles Cardinal Journet Prize Winner

**Miss Julianna Marchese**, *Ave Maria University*, Undergraduate Essay Contest Winner

**Mr. Thomas Hudson**, *Belmont Abbey College*, Undergraduate Essay Contest Honorable Mention

**Mr. John Logan**, *Ave Maria University*, Undergraduate Essay Contest Honorable Mention

**Miss Marigrace Nilson**, *Christendom College*, Undergraduate Essay Contest Honorable Mention

**Mr. Noah Perez**, *Ave Maria University*, Undergraduate Essay Contest Honorable Mention

## The Aquinas Center

The Aquinas Center is codirected by Michael A. Dauphinais, Ph.D., and Roger W. Nutt, S.T.D. at Ave Maria University. The Center supports the renewal of ecclesial life by building friendships, supporting research, and recognizing excellence in Thomistic thought. It is a community of students, clergy and professors, gathered around the wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas.

St. Thomas Aquinas is one of the greatest minds the Church has ever produced and his indispensable contributions to philosophy, theology, and biblical studies earned him the names the Angelic Doctor and Universal Doctor. The Aquinas Center is proud to bring together a community of thinkers: great philosophers and theologians of our time who exemplify in their life and present in their writings the metaphysical and biblical legacy of Thomistic theology, ever faithful to truth and Divine Wisdom.

## The Institute of Spirituality at the Angelicum

The oldest institute of the Faculty of Theology, the Institute of Spirituality at the Angelicum studies spiritual growth in the Christian life. All Christians are called to grow in holiness: *“living the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, the Christ”* (Ephesians 4.15). The Institute is dedicated to studying the character of this growth.

Working from a holistic vision of sanctification in both the ascetical and mystical aspects of the Christian life, the Institute draws on biblical and patristic sources as developed by the Dominican tradition of spiritual reflection to offer a holistic account of Christian holiness and the call to perfection.

# Notes



*Ave Maria University  
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