

2025 Student CONFERENCE

18th March

Plan of the Conference March 18 – Tuesday / Aula Magna

- 14:00** **Opening**
- 14:15-15:45** “*The Virtus Which Stands in the Middle: Explaining an Effect of Blessing Objects according to St. Thomas Aquinas*” - *Jonathan R. Inman, PUST*
- 14:45-15:15** “*L’educazione alla libertà secondo Romano Guardini*” - *Federico Skodler, PUSC*
- 15:15-15.45** “*The Jewish roots of the Christian Liturgies: Hodayot (1QHa), the Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice (4Q400-407), the Heavenly Liturgy, and the Liturgy of the Hours*” - *Anastasiia Oriekhova, PUST*
- 15:45-16:00** **Break**
- 16:00-16:30** “*The Light of God in Thomas Aquinas: Analogy or Metaphor?*” - *Ramón Alfonso Díaz Perfecto, PUSC*
- 16:30-17:00** “*What is Theology About? Early 20th-Century Saulchoir Dominicans and the Integration of Positive and Speculative Theology*” - *Fr. Anthony Queirós, LC, PUST*
- 17:00** **Closing – Followed by refreshments**



(1)

Jonathan R. Inman

PUST / 3rd cycle / 1st Year / Dogma and Fundamental Theology

Title: *The Virtus Which Stands in the Middle: Explaining an Effect of Blessing Objects according to St. Thomas Aquinas*

Abstract. The desire to prevent a superstitious understanding of blessing objects led to a heavy reformation of *Rituale Romanum: De Benedictionibus* in 1984, wherein blessings were almost never invoked upon objects, but solely upon the persons who utilize them, contrary to the tradition of the Church. This resulted in numerous critiques, both positive and negative. This paper seeks to enter into this discussion by explaining St. Thomas Aquinas' notion that blessings impart an instrumental *virtus* to objects. When joined with the current theology of sacramentals, the notion of an instrumental *virtus* allows for a means to both guard against a superstitious understanding of blessed objects and to respect the previous long-standing tradition of the Church in invoking blessings upon objects. This is because any instrumental *virtus* is only effective when put into motion by a higher agent, in these cases, a person animated with the theological virtue of faith.

BIO. Jonathan Inman is a lay doctoral student at the Angelicum in Rome, specializing in dogma and fundamental theology. He is from Lincoln, Nebraska, in the United States, and is researching on a theological definition and understanding of blessings in the Catholic Church. Academically, he is especially interested in sacramental and liturgical theology. In addition to his academic interests, he enjoys Nebraska Cornhusker football, traveling throughout Europe, cooking, and spending time with friends.



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(2)

Federico Skodler

PUSC / 3rd cycle / 1st year / Moral Theology

Title: L'educazione alla libertà secondo Romano Guardini

Abstract. Si può parlare di una 'Teologia dell'educazione' nelle opere di Romano Guardini? Partendo da alcuni suoi scritti meno noti, collegati all'esperienza del movimento giovanile *Quickborn*, la presente ricerca indaga il nesso fra "libertà" ed "educazione", configurando un'educazione alla libertà secondo una prospettiva teologica. L'obbedienza eleva la libertà da "libertà psicologica" a "libertà morale". L'adorazione, prima e radicale forma di obbedienza, rivela all'uomo la propria identità creaturale, che è quella di un "essere obbediente" nei confronti delle autorità. Tra di esse, solo la Chiesa è pienamente liberante, benché la libertà dovrebbe essere per tutte le autorità inizio e fine del proprio esercizio.

Ispirata all'esistenzialismo, alla fenomenologia e all'ermeneutica - oltre che al pensiero cristiano antico, medievale e moderno - la riflessione pedagogica di Guardini si colloca tra filosofia e teologia. Circa la sua attualità, si studierà l'influsso esercitato dagli scritti di Guardini su don Giussani e sul movimento di CL fondato da quest'ultimo.

BIO. Born in Trieste (Italy) in 1978. He holds master's degree in philosophy at the University of Trieste with a thesis about Knowledge, Reality and Revelation in the last period of Schelling's reflection. Teacher of humanities in Italian secondary schools (2007-2020). He also holds bachelor's degree in theology from the University of Navarra (Pamplona, Spain), earned in 2021, and *licentia docendi* in moral theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, earned in 2024. Publications: *Religioni e allargamento europeo* (editor); *Antonio Rosmini a 150 anni dalla morte in un convegno italo-tedesco* (report); *La contemplazione per le strade in Jacques Maritain* (proceeding).



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(3)

Anastasiia Oriekhova

PUST / 2nd cycle / 2nd year / Ecumenical Theology

Title: The Jewish roots of the Christian Liturgies: *Hodayot* (1QH_a), the Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice (4Q400-407), the Heavenly Liturgy, and the Liturgy of the Hours

Abstract. The discovery of the Qumran documents and the Second Vatican Council gave a strong impetus to the study of the Jewish heritage of Christianity. The liturgical texts of the Qumran community, which outline the Heavenly Liturgy, are a link between the Old Testament idea of the praise of God by the Seraphim in Isa. 6, 3 and the New Testament texts about the Celestial Worship in Heaven (Rev 19, 1-10). We find a sequel of the Jewish tradition of Heavenly Angelic praise in the liturgies of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches, as well as in Rabbinic Judaism and in the mystical tradition of Judaism related to the *Hekhalot* literature. The selected Qumran texts reflect the literary and religious context of the development of idea about Monasticism as an Angelic order in Orthodox tradition.

BIO. Believer of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. She holds S.T.B. (PUST, 2023) and is a graduate of the International Program in Jewish Studies (2023). She teaches Biblical Aramaic and Ancient Hebrew languages in the Certificate Program "From word to Word" of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU, Lviv, Ukraine).



(4)

Ramòn Alfonso Díaz Perfecto

PUSC / 3rd cycle / 1st year / Dogmatic Theology

Title: The Light of God in Thomas Aquinas: Analogy or Metaphor?

Abstract. Twentieth-century studies on the metaphysics of light (*Lichtmetaphysik*) have predominantly examined medieval thinkers influenced by Neoplatonic cosmogonies, notably figures such as Robert Grosseteste and Bonaventure. Thomas Aquinas's discourse on light is often overlooked or dismissed as "merely metaphorical," in contrast to other approaches recognized as genuinely analogical. This presentation explores the reasons behind this interpretation and argues for its inadequacy. We contend, therefore, that Aquinas's philosophy of light rightfully belongs within the broader intellectual tradition of medieval *Lichtmetaphysik*, in which light functions as a fundamental ontological principle.

BIO. A first-year doctoral student in Dogmatic Theology at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, he was ordained a deacon on November 23, 2024. Before pursuing theology, he earned a master's degree in Astrophysics from Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. His current research explores the metaphysics and theology of light in the thought of Thomas Aquinas.

(5)

Fr. Anthony Queirós, LC

PUST / 3rd cycle / 2nd year / Dogmatic Theology

Title: What is Theology About? Early 20th-Century Saulchoir Dominicans and the Integration of Positive and Speculative Theology

Abstract. This paper examines the integration of historical and speculative methods in theology through the contributions of four French Dominicans in the early 20th century: Antoine Lemonnyer, Mannès Jacquin, Marie-Benoît Schwalm, and Ambroise Gardeil. In response to calls for theological reform amid the rise of historical scholarship and the decline of metaphysical claims—pressures central to the Modernist crisis—these theologians at Le Saulchoir advanced proposals that incorporated historical studies while preserving theology’s speculative nature as primarily a speculative supernatural science of God. Their Thomistic commitments—philosophical realism, the unity of truth, and recognition of revelation’s human dimension—enabled a constructive synthesis of history and speculation. This paper argues that their approach represents an early example of Thomistic *Ressourcement* and suggests that retrieving their insights could enrich contemporary efforts to renew Thomistic theology, fostering a deeper interconnection between historical inquiry and speculative reasoning.

BIO. Father Anthony Queirós is a Brazilian priest of the Legionaries of Christ. He earned bachelor’s degrees in philosophy and theology from the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome and later completed a Master’s in dogmatic theology at the Institut Catholique de Paris. Currently, he is pursuing a doctorate at the Angelicum, focusing on the Trinitarian foundation of Yves Congar’s theology of tradition. His research explores the intersection of historical and speculative theology, engaging with Congar and other theologians’ contributions to 20th-century Catholic thought.



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