



THE ANGELICUM ACADEMY MESSENGER

SUMMER 2025

**CLASSES ARE
STARTING SOON**

**REGISTER
NOW!**

FALL SEMESTER CLASSES

Fall Semester classes start in a few weeks! Enroll now and get ready for a fun and educational academic year.

See page 4 for classes offered

See page 5 for Academic Calendar

FIRST DAY OF ONLINE CLASSES: **SEPTEMBER 2ND**

STUDENT NEWS

Angelicum students experience history in Rome!

One of our parents, Dan Wambeke, sent us these beautiful testimonials and photos from their recent trip to Rome. What a grace to be there to see the white smoke and the first ever election of an American-born pope!

See pages 2-3 for more



STUDENTS IN ROME

SUMMER 2025

Angelicum Academy Newsletter



THE ROMAN COLOSSEUM



TREATS IN ROME!



STUNNING VIEWS!

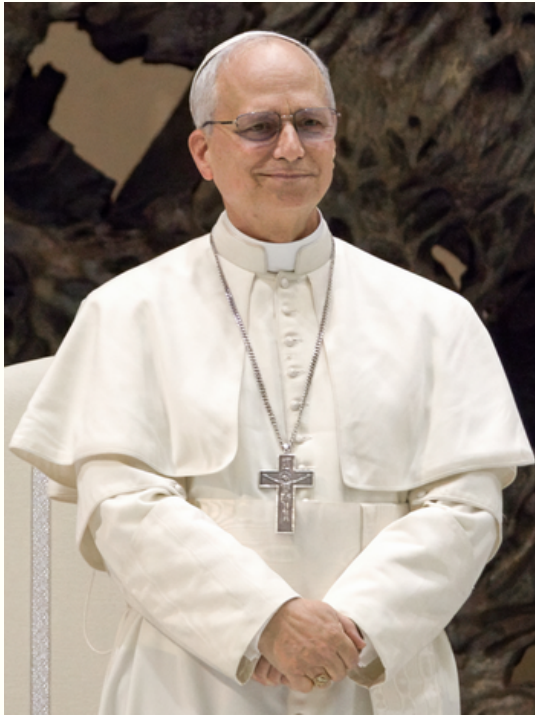
Dan Wambeke:

"We should take a Senior trip to Italy," they said. "Yeah right," I replied. And then I thought, well it is a Jubilee Year, after all, and... it wouldn't hurt to just look at airfare, would it? Well, the rest is history. God provided a way for our merry group to cap off their Great Books experience with an "in-person" experience of the grandeur of Western Civilization in Rome. As if that wasn't enough, Providence had some additional surprises in store as well. As our trip neared, we heard the news of Pope Francis' passing and realized that our pilgrimage was going to be a Very Different Trip from the one we originally intended. The Papal Conclave lined up perfectly, such that, with just a couple of itinerary modifications, we were able to clear our calendar to basically camp out in St. Peter's square with the rest of the faithful assembled in joyful anticipation of the new Holy Father. So there we were, seeing the black smoke with our very own eyes, then black smoke again, and then... white smoke! The roar of the crowd still rings in our ears. Pope Leo's shy first smile is still etched in our memory. We came to better understand history, but we also got to experience History.

STUDENTS IN ROME

SUMMER 2025

Angelicum Academy Newsletter



POPE LEO XIV



ST. PETER'S BASILICA

Several of our students were lucky enough to witness a historic moment in person. The inauguration of our new Pope Leo XIV occurred earlier this year. Pope Leo XIV brings a warm and thoughtful presence to the Vatican as he hopes to inspire a new generation of Catholics around the world. Witnessing his inauguration, especially as the first American pope, was a powerful and moving event for our students.

OUR STUDENTS WITH THE NEW POPE!



Elia Koch:

This spring, me and my classmates, Anastasia Wambeke and Kathryn Hofer, graduated from the Great Books program and our homeschool co-op. To celebrate this we were able to get plane tickets to Rome. A good friend and mentor, Dan Wambeke, graciously organized the flights and the rest of the trip, for which we are all very grateful. As the time before our trip went by, we realized more and more that we might see a funeral or a conclave, as pope Francis' condition became more unstable. Once his death was announced (Eternal rest grant unto him, O lord), we realized that seeing the conclave was within the realm of possibilities. Little did we actually realize that we would be there to see it.

Having gone through the Great books Program at Angelicum brought many things to mind as we went on the trip. Once we were in Rome, it was nothing like what Livy described in the History of Rome, or what Tacitus reported. For one, they now had cars and trains, and used them to their fullest potential. Having grown up in Germany (which is very similar regarding traffic), this was not overly surprising. What was surprising, however, was how the Great Books made what we saw in Rome come alive. Realizing that we were standing above St. Peters grave or by the place where the senators of Rome gathered really put into perspective that the things we read about really happened, the ruins being before our eyes.

When we first walked into St. Peters square, everything seemed regular and in place. The stone pillars simply glared back at us as though everything was supposed to be there, which was slightly surprising to me. The most extraordinary things are typically those that are out of place, since they are irregular. This was not the case with St. Peters, as the square itself seemed as though it had been there for some time. Yet this changed after going inside the many churches, which is when I realized that things that are familiar yet wonderful are perhaps more amazing, especially because they tend to get monotonous. Being part of the online Great Books classes and reading the books is certainly a good way of knowing what took place in the past, but being in these places made us see and feel them, which certainly added to and completed what we learned. For this reason I am very grateful for having taken the Great Books program.

Kathryn Hofer:

Through the Great Books Program, I have gained knowledge that has become the foundation of the way I understand and approach things. This, along with the exploration of various ideas and themes in the Great Books, has enabled me to look at things through different perspectives and to seek the good, true, and beautiful in myself, others, and in the world around me. I am grateful to have gone through the Great Books Program before I went on the pilgrimage to Rome because it definitely helped to shape my experience of Rome. One of my highlights from the trip was my first time in St. Peter's Basilica. The moment I walked into the basilica, I felt at home. I was surrounded by the beauty, truth, and goodness that we searched for and talked about during the Great Books Program. All of the ideas that I had in my head were now present in front of me, and I was able to experience it fully in a place that felt like home.



Anastasia with her father, Dan Wambeke

Anastasia Wambeke:

Our 10 day trip to Rome was an extremely fitting culmination of my four-year journey through the Great Books Program. Walking the ancient streets where Cicero spoke, Caesar ruled, and many other saints and thinkers lived out their convictions truly brought to life the texts that we had studied so intensely. From the Roman Forum and the colosseum to the Vatican and the Appian Way, I was so immersed in the living memory of the ideas, conflicts, and the virtues that ultimately shaped Western civilization. Visiting places like the Pantheon, the Scavi beneath St. Peter's Basilica, as well as the catacombs really reminded me of the long arc of human thought and faith that we traced and touched on in our seminar discussions—from Plato and Aristotle to Augustine and Aquinas. Seeing Raphael's "School of Athens" in person, standing on the stones where St. Peter was martyred, and witnessing a papal conclave unfold before our very eyes made the abstract tangible and the historical immediate. It felt as if the authors and figures that we had come to know were no longer confined to mere pages—they were present in all the architecture, relics, and the traditions still alive throughout the whole city.

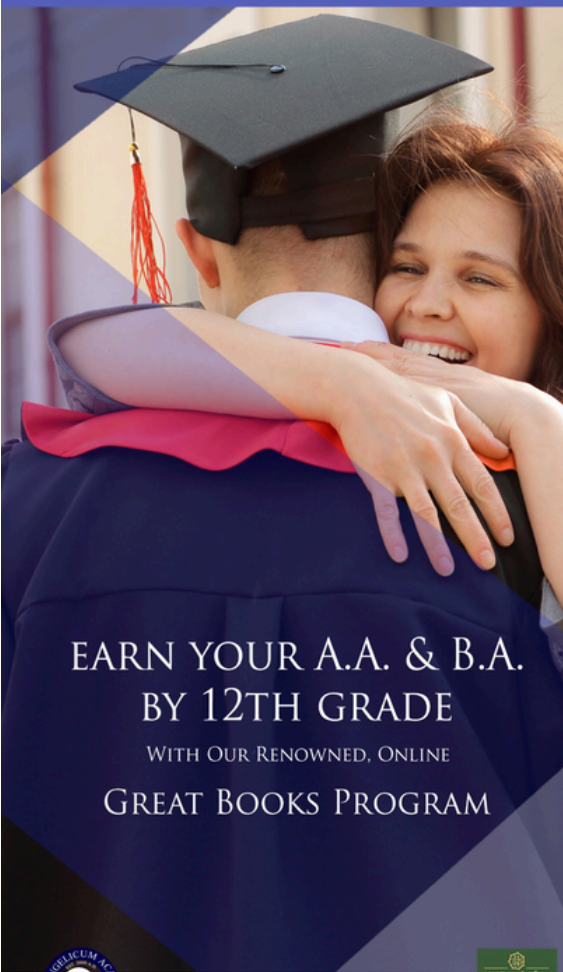
Even the structure of our days in Rome echoed the rhythm of the Great Books Program: thoughtful reflection, exploration as a group, and meaningful conversation. Whether we were walking the Appian way or standing in awe beneath Michelangelo's dome, I found myself recalling specific passages, ideas, and questions that we had wrestled with in class over the years. The trip was not simply a celebration of what we had read—it was a vivid encounter with the ongoing questions and traditions that the Great Books Program has helped me to engage more with deeply: justice, truth, beauty, sacrifice, and the search for the good life. Being there, surrounded by the physical remnants of so many of the authors and heroes we studied, gave me a sense of continuity with the past and a renewed sense of responsibility for the future. Rome was more than a destination—it was a living testament to the enduring ideas that have shaped my education and a powerful reminder of why these great books still matter.

CLASSES OFFERED



SUMMER 2025

Angelicum Academy Newsletter

CATHOLIC • CLASSICAL • COMPLETE



EARN YOUR A.A. & B.A.
BY 12TH GRADE
WITH OUR RENOWNED, ONLINE
GREAT BOOKS PROGRAM

 angelicum.net 

FALL 2025

For the Fall, 2025, the Angelicum offers these unique and important classes:

- **Theology Online Courses with Fr. Joseph Fessio, Th.D.** (Grades 11-12 and up) for 12 college credits.
- **Great Books Program** (Grades 9-12, and up) - our renowned, online 4-year program (with optional 48 hours of college credit), high school track.
- **Socratic Discussions** (Grades 3-8) a forgotten art: dialectics, in the mode of the logical discussion
- **Philosophy for Children** (Grades 3-6) introduces students to philosophical concepts within stories developed for these classes
- **Ethics** (1 year course any grade 7 up to 12th)– Aristotelian ethics using texts by Prof. Jaroszynski of the Catholic U. of Lublin, Poland, noted by his teacher St. John Paul II
- **Socratic Logic** (1 year course, any grade 8th and up to 12th) - this is our formal Logic course using the text by the brilliant Prof. Peter Kreeft.

The Angelicum Academy also offers classes in all the standard courses such as **Math, Science, English Language Arts, History, Greek, Latin and Spanish** (for grades k-12). These subjects may also be taken in the traditional, homeschool manner offline. Our **Greats Honors Program** offers asynchronous classes for grades 9-12 using Great Courses Plus lectures.

Our 9th to 12th grade students can earn up to 48 college credits for our Great Books College tracks (grades 9-12), and up to a total of 120 college credits with our associated colleges and universities. Your accredited associate degree can be earned by completion of 11th or 12th grade, and your bachelor's degree by completion of 12th grade. Adult students are welcome too.

FALL ACADEMIC CALENDER

SUMMER 2025

Angelicum Academy Newsletter

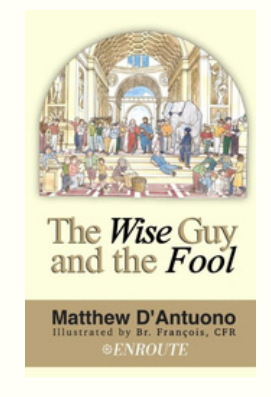
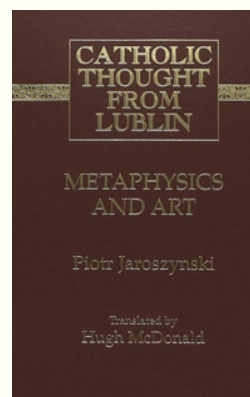
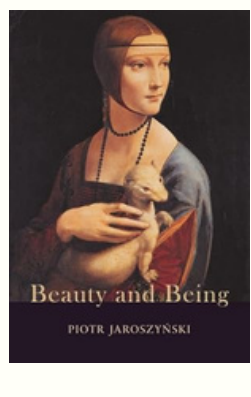
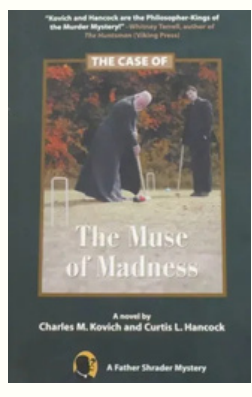
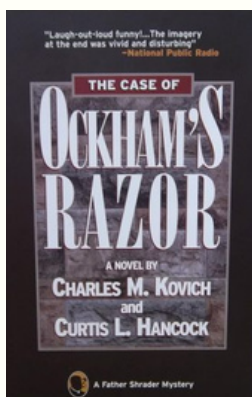
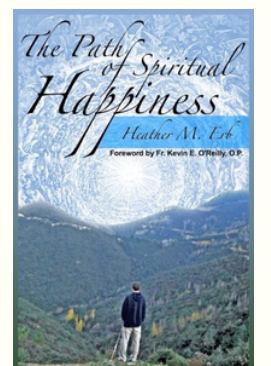
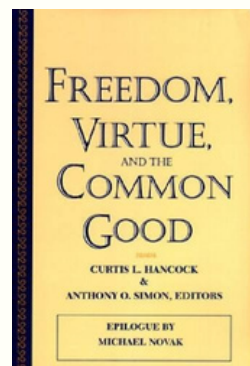
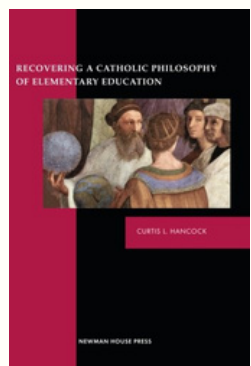
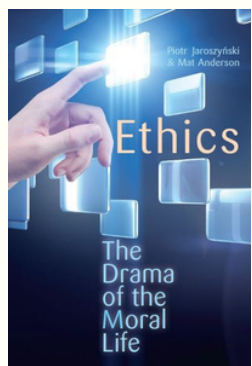
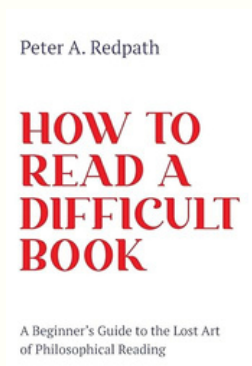
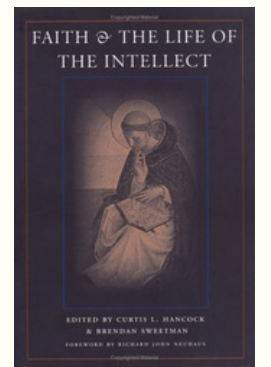
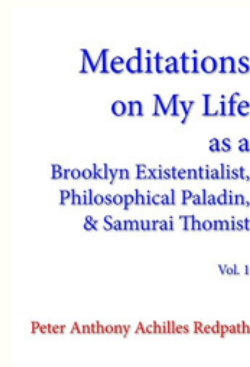
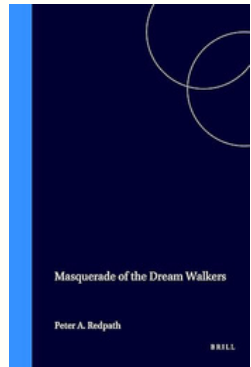
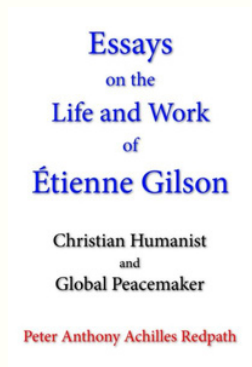
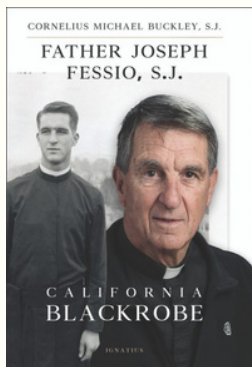
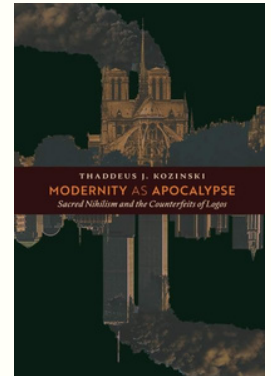
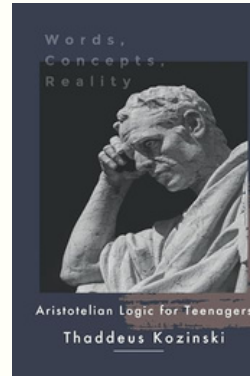
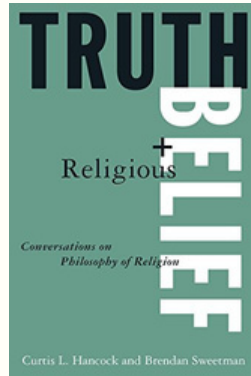
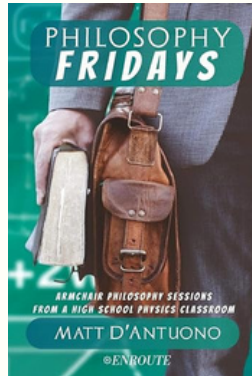
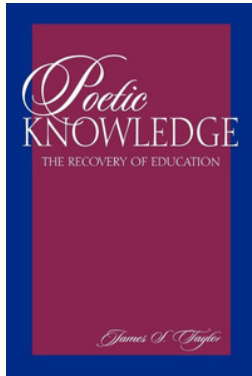
2025 Fall Semester	September 2 - December 19
1st Day of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday sessions for all classes	September 2-5
1st Day of all Monday sessions of all classes (only Monday classes start on Sept. 9)	September 8
Thanksgiving Break Holiday No classes on Tuesday through Friday of Thanksgiving week.	November 25-28
Last day of class for 1st Semester for all sessions of all classes	December 8-12
Great Books Oral Exams, 1st Semester	December 15-19

FACULTY PUBLISHED WORKS

SUMMER 2025

Angelicum Academy Newsletter

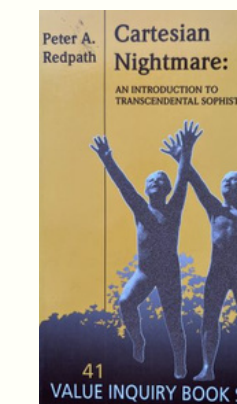
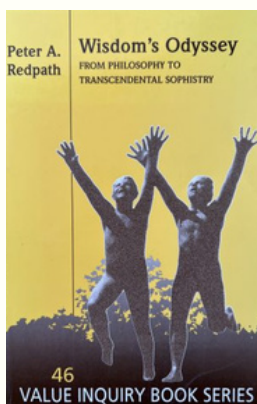
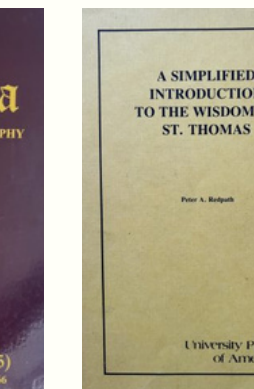
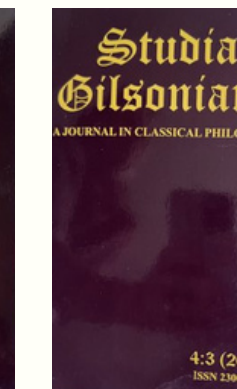
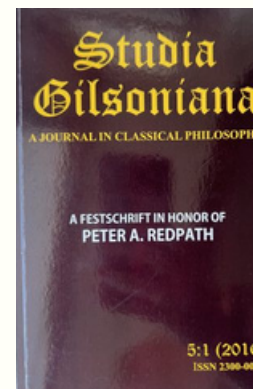
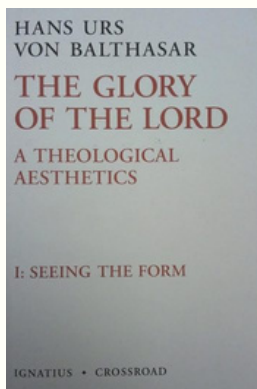
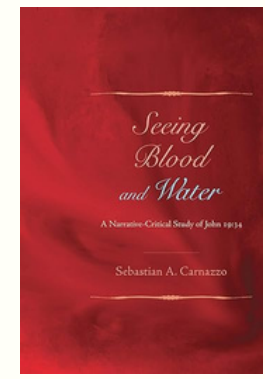
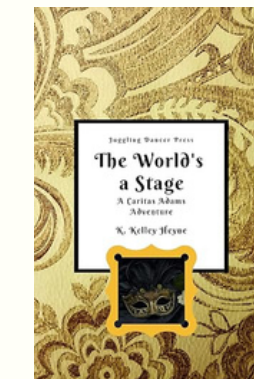
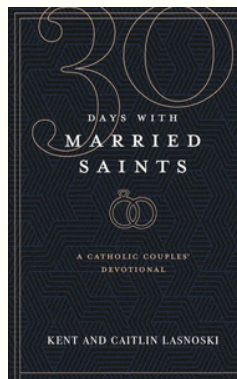
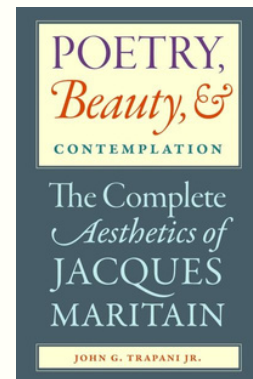
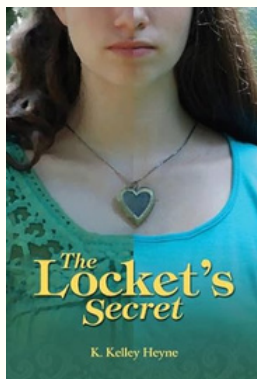
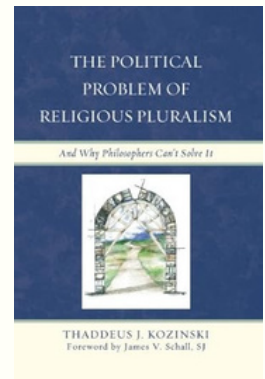
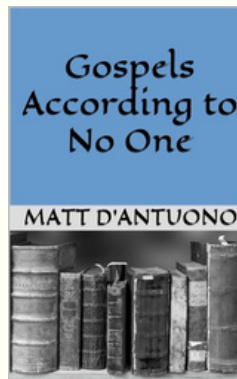
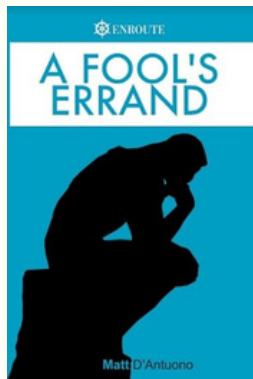
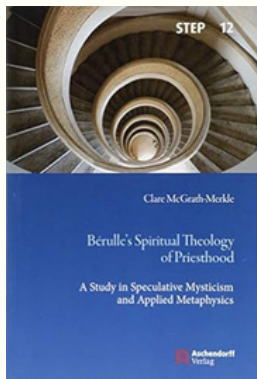
Below and on the next page are some books by Angelicum staff members. We are fortunate to have such an intelligent group of people working alongside us. The moderators truly value classical education and devote so much time to teaching your children each year!



FACULTY PUBLISHED WORKS

SUMMER 2025

Angelicum Academy Newsletter



OBITUARY OF PETER A. REDPATH

By Curtis L. Hancock



Peter A. Redpath entered eternal life on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025. In Heaven, Dr. Redpath will pursue a friendship with Saint Thomas Aquinas since he dedicated decades of his life to working in Saint Thomas' philosophical vineyard. Peter believed that Saint Thomas' philosophy was no museum piece but a living philosophy that contained the principles to remedy many of the world's ills. Peter believed that the best way to study philosophy was in the laboratory of history. In that laboratory, Peter became convinced that Western philosophy divides between the centuries that antedate Saint Thomas, who died in 1274, and the centuries that come afterward. Dr. Redpath devoted 50 years of his life to understanding what philosophy looked like before Saint Thomas and what it has looked like since. Peter's own work has rendered a verdict that the Western world has drifted into crisis from neglect of the wisdom of Saint Thomas. The rationale for this verdict is elaborated in his magisterial trilogy, *Cartesian Nightmare* (1997), *Wisdom's Odyssey* (1997), and *Masquerade of the Dream Walkers* (1998). These books are nothing short of a definitive interpretive history of philosophy, from ancient times to the present.

While the power of his intellect shone brightly, Peter was not loved just for his academic acumen and achievement. Those who knew him well were struck by his humanity. He was a man in full, one measure of which was pride in his family. He loved Lorraine deeply and was devoted to his marriage of 54 years and to his children, Peter, Paul, and Korri, and in turn to his grandchildren. The Redpath family will have lives permanently warmed by memories of Peter. His charisma as *pater familias* also touched other people's lives. People were attracted to him because his heart was available as a potential friend. He was generous with his time. He personally took me on a tour of New York, a fascinating excursion as Peter was a walking encyclopedia of New York legend and lore. He regarded his friends as part of the Redpath extended family. He formed innumerable friendships and motivated his friends to organize in solidarity to bring to fruition Redpathian projects. Those close to Peter knew that he got up each day contemplating how to inspire his friends to pursue common goals. Peter had a remarkable gift for forming a community. He knew how to persuade people to become team players. For this reason, Peter's good friend Tom Michaud called him "Chairman of the Board."

Peter traveled extensively and along the way formed friendships. Peter described himself as a philosophical Paladin, one who travels to motivate others to advance wisdom. His work as a Paladin took him to Poland, where he made many friends and became immersed in the philosophical personalism of Saint John Paul the Great. Saint John Paul teaches that Christianity is about appreciating the immeasurable dignity of the human person. Peter's Christian faith was deepened by the personalism of John Paul. Of course, his affection for John Paul was fortified by the many friendships he formed in Poland, which he visited innumerable times and where he found a spiritual home in its Catholic culture.

OBITUARY OF PETER A. REDPATH

By Curtis L. Hancock

A tribute to Peter Redpath would not be complete without addressing another distinctive feature of his character. In addition to being an admirable intellect, organizational genius, and loyal friend, Peter was endowed with extraordinary willpower. He applied his powerful will to every undertaking. His daily rule of life is expressed in a short poem attributed to Goethe:

To this I hold with firm persistence,
The last report of wisdom says it's true,
He only earns his freedom and existence
Who every day conquers them anew.

Peter engaged every day as something new to conquer. He filled "the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run." He loved life intensely and fought mightily to foster and protect the things and the people he loved.

He conspicuously fought for his health. He developed his own naturopathic regimen, supported by the advice of his daughter, Korri. During a given week he might report that he is keeping his body alkaline, managing lymphatic drainage, scheduling red-light therapy, and undergoing some kind of ionization treatment. Through years of effort, he became a self-taught naturopathic expert. Some people were bemused by his health program, dismissing it as eccentric. He was indifferent to their judgment. "If you have the determination to learn, why not become your own doctor. And when the day arrives that you need professional doctors, they should appreciate your experience and invite your voice into the conversation." It turns out that Peter's doctors were open-minded and encouraged his observations and recommendations about his own healthcare. I dare say that his regular personal health measures and autonomous treatments extended his life by a decade.

Because of his strength of will, Peter was exceedingly patient, and as a rule, tolerant of people who were annoying. But on occasion, his patience could be tested. I was witness, up close and personal, to one such episode. Peter and I arranged a session at a meeting of the National Association of Scholars in New Orleans. I was the chair and moderator of the session. Peter was on the program as principal speaker. There was also a professor (unnamed here) seated next to me, assigned the task of reacting to and commenting on Peter's presentation. Even before Peter spoke, this professor conveyed hostility, which he compounded after Peter's talk. Many issues were discussed in the session, but the subject of Descartes generated a heated exchange. Peter demonstrated, using clear and distinct ideas, that the contentious professor's understanding of Descartes was wrong. The professor became unhinged, and in a fit of emotion overturned the table at which he and I sat, scattering books, papers, and briefcases. Peter stood by remaining calm in the storm. No doubt, his Bouncer's Persona came in handy. Once the commotion settled so that he could be heard, he concisely refuted both the professor and Descartes. I called the session to a close. Later, reflecting on the day's episode, I asked whether we should have any regrets concerning how we handled the event. We agreed that we had no regrets. We put the episode behind us, recalling Henry Kissinger's quip that academics can be violent because the stakes are so small. Peter Redpath left an impression in this world, a legacy of Christian love, wisdom, and team building. We will always remember how he made us feel by loving us.

OBITUARY OF PETER A. REDPATH

By Thomas A. Michaud, Ph.D.

Retired Professor of Philosophy and Dean – School of Professional Studies, West Liberty University, Wheeling, WV
Author of *After Justice: Catholic Challenges to Progressive Culture, Politics, Economics and Education*



TOM MICHAUD, STEVE BERTUCCI AND PETER REDPATH ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA, 2006



PETER AND LORRAINE REDPATH

It is with much sadness that I offer this recollection of Peter A. Redpath. Peter was a longtime friend, whom I admired greatly, and a trusted mentor, who profoundly influenced my philosophical growth. My friendship with Peter began at a conference in Tempe, Arizona in 1996. I came to know him through Curtis Hancock who was often a third traveling partner. Over the years, while attending conferences, lectures, and various other occasions, we developed our friendship through fourteen states and three foreign countries (Spain, Canada, and very many trips to Poland). Peter consistently impressed me as a faithful Roman Catholic, an entirely devoted family man, and a genuine contemporary *spoudaios*, a morally mature person, citizen and patriot, whose conservative politics were securely rooted in his philosophy. There are at least two traits of Peter that are not commonly known. Firstly, he was a practiced DIY handyman. His work with his Staten Island, NYC home was a testimony to his accomplished skills. And, secondly, Peter loved to laugh, which made him a most congenial travel partner. I always felt quite pleased when I would tell a story or snap a relevant quip that would make him laugh heartily.



Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “The only way to have a friend is to be one.” Peter knew how to be a friend. His loyalty, generosity, and focus on higher things brought a nobility to our friendship. I pray that I was being a friend to him as much as he was an exemplary friend to me. Though I had heard many of the stories he recounts in his autobiography about his colorful youth in Brooklyn, reading them in the context of his intellectual meditations enabled deeper insight into his often-unconventional philosophical themes. I believe Goethe once offered words to this effect: The best compliment a student can give a teacher is to tell him that he has become superfluous. I suppose Goethe was implying that when a student becomes an independent learner based on the knowledge the teacher has imparted, the teacher then becomes unnecessary. Contrary to what Goethe claims, however, as a mentor Peter never became superfluous in any way. Peter was a relentless culture warrior. His unconventionality spurred him on to offer an unceasing trove of fresh insights, which exposed and effectively challenged the cultural deformations of our times. In his autobiography, Peter relates that he first learned the uncommon common sense of Brooklyn Existentialism while growing up amid a “rogues gallery” of Cosa Nostra figures, some lovable and some deadly. This Existentialism matured into his culture warrior philosophy as a Paladin – one who battles for an honorable cause – and as a Samuari Thomist, a member of a professional class of noble fighters after the fashion of St. Thomas Aquinas. Peter understood how Thomistic thought provided a solid foundation for criticizing current culture. Some of the unconventional Thomistic themes for criticizing culture that I learned from Peter are as follows. These themes are expressed in my own words and are capsulized, and thereby very much truncated.

- 1) History has become the new metaphysics. The practice of genuine metaphysics is almost entirely gone. The study of history is understood as the study of the first principles of what is, of being, of reality. So, if one aims to change the nature of reality itself, simply change history.
- 2) The wreckage wrought by Enlightenment abstract humanism is the missing individual human person in contemporary culture.
- 3) Prudence is the master virtue, and the true scientist is a prudential knower. There are many more such unconventional themes that I could include, but a final one is a theme that occupied Peter for at least the past decade, namely the paramount importance of the nature of organization in Thomistic thought. Applying Thomistic principles of organization, Peter focused on organizational psychology and leadership aiming to elucidate what is truly good leadership in today’s politicized and “lost” culture. I believe that Peter’s unconventional focus on organizations is an expected result of his being influenced in his youth by “organized” crime. I can imagine Peter laughing in his robust way at this pun. I hope it did make you laugh, Peter, my friend. It always made me feel good and not sad to make you laugh. We all will miss you: our noble, patriotic and hopeful “knight without armor in a savage land.”



**Angelicum offers four quarterly newsletters in
spring, summer, fall, and winter.
We update our social media accounts fairly often.
Please give us a follow!**



@GREATBOOKSPROGRAM

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Continue to be updated on any Angelicum news through our email list! Enter your email at the bottom of the home page on **angelicum.net** to join!

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