



St. Peter's, Rome



CHRISTMAS 2018

Dear Friends of the GUF:

At this holy time of year our hearts are preparing for the coming of the Wonder Counselor, the Prince of Peace, our Lord and Savior. The students of the Gregorian, Biblicum and Oriental are looking forward to the season of light and participating in the many Advent liturgies throughout the city of Rome. Yet, we acknowledge that it has not been a time of joy for all.

When questions and concerns are voiced to me pertaining to our current crisis in the Church, I have attempted to listen carefully and respond with compassion and understanding. Fortunately, I am able to share good news about the important work that continues to be done at the three institutions we serve.

Light penetrates the darkness! There are beacons of hope. Eight years ago the Gregorian University held an international conference on safeguarding minors and the vulnerable at the University. Building on that conference, the psychology department formed the now internationally recognized and respected Centre for Child Protection (CCP). The CCP provides educational resources—both basic training and specialized formation—for anyone working in the field of safeguarding minors and vulnerable adults. A few weeks ago I sent a letter the bishops of the United States to inform them that the CCP services, courses and resources are available to them, and their diocese, parishes, universities and schools.

Here is a brief list of the CCP outreach and services

- This past October, at a conference entitled “Becoming Aware of the Wounds We Dare to Change,” the CCP launched a two-year Licentiate in Safeguarding degree
- Creating content designed to meet the needs of various groups, the CCP organizes online courses that are taught all over the world
- Fr Hans Zollner, SJ, CCP President and Vice Rector of the Gregorian University, has been appointed by Pope Francis to serve as head of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors

- Fr Zollner will give lectures sponsored by the GUF in Washington, DC and New York City in March 2019

If you would like to receive an invitation to Fr Zollner's presentations, simply include your email address on the enclosed reply card or call the GUF office in Washington.

Despite all that we face in our current crisis, I invite you not to lose heart and to help us build the Church through education and a correct understanding of the forces that prevent us from making progress. Please share with your pastor the news about the Centre for Child Protection as he may want to participate in or sponsor a CCP course or program. By spreading the word on this great service, you are able to help the Church in the US or anywhere else that has a need for expert guidance to confront the problems it faces.

In this season of gratitude, I thank you for your continued support of our students at the Gregorian University, the Pontifical Biblical Institute and the Pontifical Oriental Institute. Your generosity is greatly needed and sincerely appreciated as we move forward by focusing on the good and the positive. With Jesus, the lux mundi, guiding our path, I hope that you will see fit to donate to Jesuit higher education in Rome.

Enclosed is the 2019 Project List. Some of them are major, such as an endowed professorship and library roof replacement. Others include the perennial demand for student financial aid for men and women at the institutions or the sponsorship of academic conferences that reach to the four corners of the earth. No matter the size of the project, they are all important to the fulfillment of the goals of the institutions.

Please contact us if you have questions on the projects. No matter the size of your gift, it is most appreciated as we strive to prepare a sharp intellectual and solid academic formation for our very bright future leaders of the universal Church.

As we celebrate Christmas, I pray that the joy and peace of the Incarnate Word, Emmanuel, the God who lives among us, be with you and remain with you throughout the year and always.

Sincerely yours in Christ



Fr Alan J Fogarty SJ

President

PS—Please help to build the Church and, at this most challenging time, join your prayers with ours for the special work of the Centre for Child Protection.



In the Holy Land



Panel discussion



In the library



In front of the Greg



Dear Friends of the GUF,

As a member of the Gregorian University faculty for 18 years, I take this opportunity to tell you how grateful I am for your continued support for the mission of the Gregorian University Foundation.

As a teacher I am delighted to observe the students when they come to Rome and experience the universal Church. Then they learn to set aside any preconceived notions and expand their world and their minds. In the halls and classrooms of the Greg they are exposed to the many different cultures of the world. This affects and enhances their work and preaching when they return to their home countries. It's a true advantage of studying in Rome.

Additionally, it is wonderful to see how Christian doctrine and the Gospel are indeed viewed through the prism of so many cultures and then expressed and taught in a way that it reaches the whole world.

For several years I was director of the Cardinal Bea Centre for Judaic Studies. On behalf of my colleagues, I especially thank you for supporting our 50th Anniversary Lecture Series for this 2018-2019 school year. You should know that the Centre is a catalyst for dynamic interaction, where Catholics and Jews meet in a classroom of a Pontifical University and truly learn together. Imagine how their diverse understanding of the Biblical texts leads to even more open dialogue! Rabbi David Rosen said that the transformation which takes place at the Centre is without parallel in history.

I am also thankful that your support has enabled the Greg to have one of the highest number of female faculty members among the institutions of higher education in Rome. This is beneficial to all our students.

Your generosity has helped to fund so many projects at the Greg. My colleagues and our students join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and promise of prayers.

Sincerely

Fr Philip Renczes SJ
Professor of Theology
Pontifical Gregorian University



I am happy to make a gift to the Gregorian University Foundation to help build the universal Church.

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