

Principal's Report

Renaissance

Dear Friends:

In June, Dr. Daniel Andreae visited Assumption University to present a generous donation to fund scholarships and courses in interreligious dialogue. During his visit, Dr. Andreae noted that Assumption was experiencing a “renaissance.” I reflected on this appellation and concluded that Dr. Andreae is quite correct. We have developed and are developing new academic programs. We have built bridges with new partners. We have increased our profile, attracting much media interest and community support. This success would not be possible without our diligent staff, board, senators, benefactors, and community partners. We are grateful for all their work, particularly as we look forward toward our 167th anniversary next year.

In the Fall 2023 semester, we welcomed our largest cohort yet for the Graduate Diploma in Catholic Studies. We recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Detroit Mercy – the largest Catholic university in Michigan. This agreement will allow students from our graduate diploma to receive advanced standing toward an M.A. in religious studies at the University of Detroit Mercy. This agreement marks our third pathway agreement for our students. The success of the diploma has attracted interest from the Basilian Fathers of Sandwich, who provided a sizable donation. This donation will help us to grow the program by taking it to the next level. We are grateful to Fr. Paul Rennick, CSB and the Basilian Fathers of Sandwich for their generous support of Catholic higher education.

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On that note of expanding our academic programs, I am pleased to welcome Dr. Michael VanZandt Collins (Ph.D., Boston College) and Dr. Gavin Wiens (Ph.D., University of Toronto). Both will join Assumption University as assistant professors beginning in the Winter 2024 term. Dr. VanZandt Collins will be teaching our newest graduate course, Catholicism and Dialogue. Dr. Wiens will teach our signature undergraduate course, the Holocaust. Those interested in taking these courses are encouraged to email registrar@assumptionu.ca for details.

Our focus has always been on our students not only by providing them with opportunities for future advancement, but also with financial support. In October, a delegation from the Polonia Centre of Windsor, including Mrs. Halina Roznawski, Dr. Barbara Niewitecka, and Mr. Stephen Polewski, came to Assumption University to establish a new endowed scholarship. The scholarship will be used to support students taking courses in interreligious dialogue, religious studies, and Holocaust studies among others. We are pleased to have such strong support from community partners like the Polonia Centre. This new scholarship will be made available in the Winter of 2025. It joins the six additional scholarships attached to this diploma, including the Andreae, Cappucci, Comuzzi, Kelly, Minotti, and Wnuk scholarships.

With the Red Mass Society of Windsor, Assumption University celebrated its second annual Red Mass at Assumption Church. Bishop Fabbro presided at the Red Mass and was assisted by six priests. At the Mass, we presented The Chief Justice of Ontario, Michael Tulloch, with the St. Thomas More Gold Medal for outstanding services to the legal profession. The Red Mass witnessed a significant increase in the number of attendees. We also welcomed representatives from several faith traditions, as is one of the customs of this Mass. We are particularly grateful to all those who made donations in honour of the Red Mass and are looking forward to next year's Mass.

We have just launched our Annual Campaign. This campaign will allow us to continue advancing and expanding our important work. I encourage you to help Assumption continue with this momentum by making a donation today. There are many ways you can help support Assumption.

In closing, I wish each of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah and a blessed New Year. May 2024 bring you and your families much joy, health, and prosperity.

Sincerely,

John Cappucci, Ph.D. , Principal

Assumption University Annual Campaign 2023

Assumption University is growing and has become more visible and active in academic and community circles. Help us continue this momentum by making a donation today.

Ways to Give

e-transfer, cheque, Visa, or online through Pllenty (<https://assumption.pllenty.com/#/>)

Legacy Giving

Leave a gift in your will or estate plan to ensure Assumption University's work well into the future.

Endowments

If you have an endowment that you would like to make, please contact the principal directly at 519-973-7033.

Priorities

- New Program Development
- Catholics Studies
- Holocaust Studies
- Campus Ministry
- Other Projects

Donate by December 15, 2023

moira@assumptionu.ca

Charitable Tax Receipts Available

Assumption University in Photos

Winter 2023



Dr. John Cappucci, Bishop Fabbro and Fr. Denis Grecco at the 2023 Bishop's Dinner in support of our sister institution, St. Peter's Seminary.



Dr. John and Fr. Paul Rennick, CSB with the Basilian Fathers of Sandwich donation to Assumption University in support of our Graduate Diploma in Catholic Studies.



Dr. John Cappucci, Dr. Kim Nelson, Director Humanities Research Group (HRG), and Mr. Michael Naicker. Mr. Naicker's presentation was based on his book, African Sons: The Zululander.