



IMPACT REPORT—FALL 2024

We Had Record Enrollment at The St. John Paul II Institute this Fall!

“At one stage or another the false voices of the world will try to exploit your human weakness by telling you that life has no meaning at all for you. The supreme theft in your lives would be if they succeeded in robbing you of hope. They will try, but not succeed if you hold fast to Jesus and his truth. The truth of Jesus is capable of reinforcing all your energies.” -St. John Paul II, Louisiana Superdome, September 12, 1987.

These words ring out today perhaps more than they did then. It is easy to get overwhelmed by all the bad news we see in the media. We are called to the Good News that Jesus Christ has already overcome. His reign is coming for us and for our world despite any events that suggest otherwise.

The most consequential figure of the 20th century and the prophet of the church in the third millennium is still inviting us to hope and to cast off fear!

At the St. John Paul II Institute at the University of St. Thomas-Houston we are dedicated to this hope, studying his life, thought, and witness through an extensive body of teachings.

We are deeply grateful to share how your support is making a difference.

RECORD ENROLLMENT

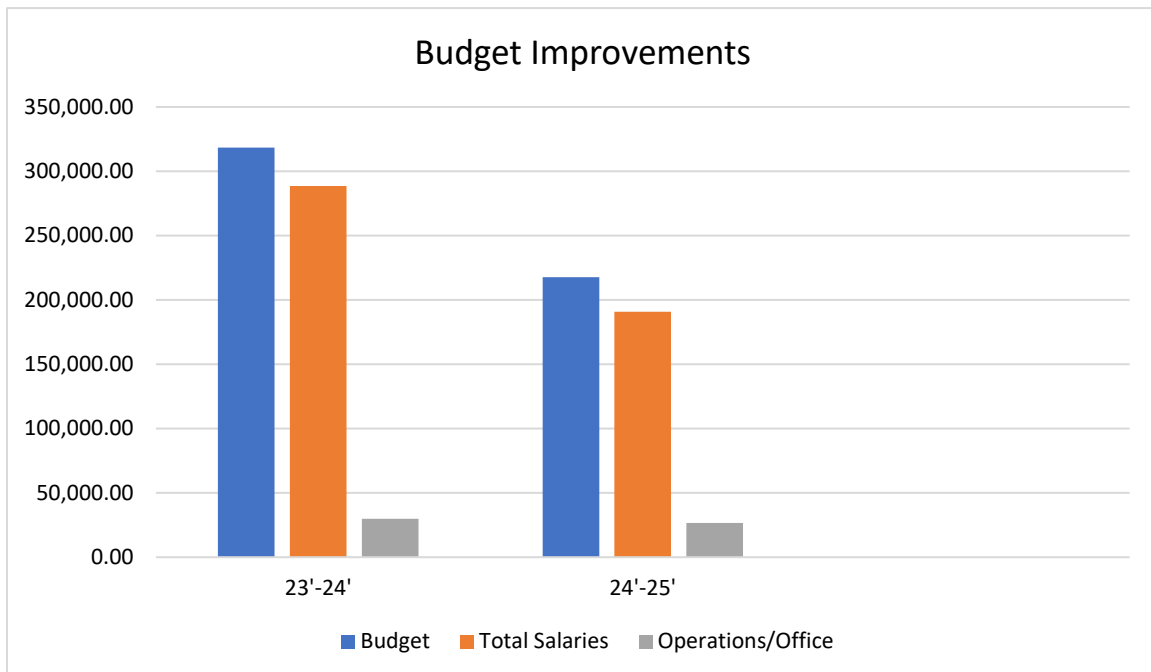
This summer we intensified our focus on advertising and the result was fantastic! We had record enrollment this fall in our program. Students came from all over the country and the world and from a wide variety of backgrounds including a Ph.D., a lawyer/judge, and a marine. In fact, there were several persons from the armed services who are making use of their GI bills to grow their education and their faith at the same time. Many respondents already possessed degrees in Theology. Some were priests and religious. We have numerous other persons already involved in education and/or pursuing personal enrichment in their own walk of life.

NEW CLASS

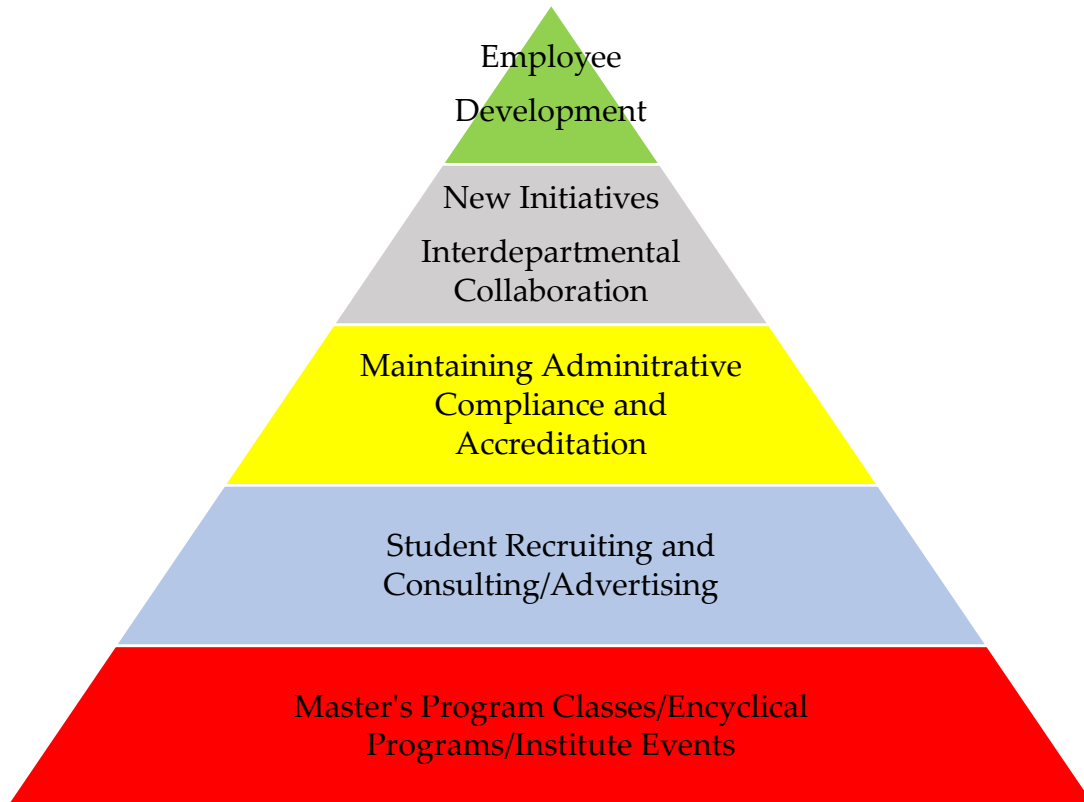
The Philosophy of Wojtyla is a new three credit course we began offering this fall with Sr. Veronica Sabelli, Ph.D. For years now students have been asking us for more information on the philosophy of John Paul II. They felt the lack of exposure to this side of his thinking was affecting their ability to appreciate his many works fully. Several students joined right away and are in the course this fall. The course is also highly anticipated by our new fall class who will see this next semester.

BUDGET IMPROVEMENT MEASURES

30% reduction in costs



ALLOCATION OF TIME AND RESOURCES



GRADUATIONS

Congratulations to our Graduates with their new degrees: M.A. John Paul II Studies; Diane LeVeque, John Rigert, Rosanne Williams, Fr. Herbert Niba, who was featured in our last impact report along with Sr. Evelyn Maria Montes de Oca a religious sister in the Institute of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. That institute was founded by Mother Adela Galindo. At graduation Mother Galindo received an honorary doctorate from UST while our graduate, Sr. Evelyn Maria Montes de Oca has learned Polish and now serves the Church in Poland. She was invited by Bishop Slawomir Oder, St. John Paul II's postulator, to come to Poland to assist his efforts at "re-evangelizing" Poland.

Our dear friend and supporter Larry Massey, President of the Scanlan Foundation graduated with a certificate in John Paul II Studies. James Brady finished his M.A. this summer and is now a graduate.

Please read our students' testimonies under [STUDENTS TESTIMONIES](#) here:



TUITION ASSISTANCE

Two-thirds of our students need our help paying tuition, with the average grant around 50%. Thanks to our generous donors we continue to support those students in need and hope to do so in the future. If you would like to sponsor a student or become a part of tuition assistance, please contact us. You may also make a credited or anonymous donation by going to the GiveCampus website:

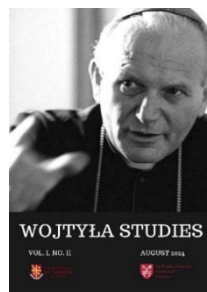


FOR ENCYCLICAL PROGRAMS, POLISH STUDIES PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SEE OUR WEBSITE you can also scan the following QR code:



ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

The John Paul II Institute publishes *Wojtyla Studies*. The journal just released its second edition. It is a peer-review periodical dedicated to the investigation of the philosophical and theological thought of Karol Wojtyła, which he developed before his election as Pope John Paul II. The journal comes out twice a year online; as a common enterprise between the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow (Poland) and The University of St. Thomas in Houston (USA).



In this second issue our Founder Dr. John Hittinger and Fr. Thomas Schaeffgen wrote an article entitled: “Things, Persons, and God” and the full meaning of “Auto-teleology” according to Karol Wojtyła.”

While, in the first issue our Director Dr. John Corrigan wrote “The Meaning of “Witness” in Wojtyła’s Works.”

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

On June 18th, 2024, the President of the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Dr. Ludwick hosted a luncheon with the Rector of the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, Rev. Prof. Dr. hab. Mirosław Kalinowski to pursue collaborative efforts between our two universities. Dr. Hans Stockton, Associate Vice President, International Relations & Engagement and Dr. John Corrigan, Director of The John Paul II Institute shared in the discussion.



LOOKING AHEAD

Personal Profile and Vision of our new Director, Dr. John Corrigan

After obtaining a B.A. at Christendom College focusing on Thomistic Studies, the new director spent many years studying the early thought of John Paul II under friends of that Pope at The International Academy of Philosophy in Liechtenstein and The Pontifical Catholic University of Santiago, Chile.

He recently expressed his vision for the Institute:

“Building on the magnificent work of our founder Dr. Hittinger, I want to build out and up from what I call: the ‘disruptive agency’ of the Philosophy of Karol Wojtyla. Everyone who encounters his thought sees him either as the catalyst to their growth or the sign of contradiction to their agenda. We can become a powerhouse of this disruptive agency if we communicate the unique value of this Institute and set realistic goals.

The John Paul II Institute Offers a Unique Value Proposition:

1. The only all online master's degree in the thought of John Paul II.
2. We have an exclusive relationship with one of the JP II archives in Poland. This year we are hosting a breakout session at the American Catholic Philosophical Association featuring newly released discoveries from those archives.
3. Arguably, the premier academic journal on the early philosophy of John Paul II *Wojtyla Studies*.
4. Highly trained, specialized, expert pool of professors.
5. Collaborative Final Projects that get students impacting their field BEFORE they are out the door.

Our goals for this year:

- Build the endowment/contributions. After this year's cutbacks our current annual budget is under 220,000 but this also limits the impact of our experts and the reach of our programs.
- Increase student enrollment.
- Expand the impact of our fully online master's in the thought of John Paul II, the only such existing degree.
- Increase our conferences/collaborations with sister universities and institutes.
- Add more Academic Publications



Become a Partner

To become a partner of the John Paul II Institute as a corporate sponsor, individual sponsor, or endowing institution please contact the Director of the Institute John Corrigan at john.corrigan@stthom.edu cell: 484-787-9510

You may also visit the donor website to make a dedicated or anonymous gift:



This semester we hope to launch our Partner Program. Partner corporations and individuals will be able to receive unique benefits including exclusive access to our pool of interns who help you apply the thought of John Paul II in an industry specific manner.

Please help us to continue to build a premier program in the thought of John Paul II and to make our resources available to a growing audience.

Thank you for all your prayers and financial support!

St. John Paul II, pray for us!



Dr. John Corrigan
Director



Dr. John Hittinger
Founder



Dr. Piotr Przybylski
Polish Studies



Mrs. Emilia Piechota
Administrative Assistant

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

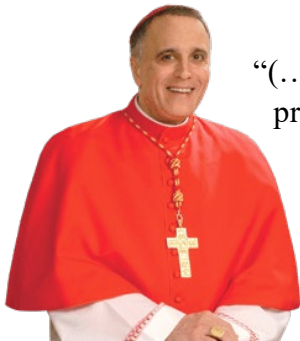
The Institute's goal is to facilitate the understanding of the life and work of St. John Paul II in the context of Polish history and culture. We aim at deepening and enriching the faith of our students through study and prayer and thereby contributing to the renewal of the Church and society.

With students from all over the United States and the world, our graduate program in St. John Paul II studies is the only one of its kind – a comprehensive study of the thought of St. John Paul II, including all 14 encyclicals and a capstone pilgrimage to Poland.



“I'm happy to endorse this Institute for the study of Saint John Paul II, at a time when his message concerning the dignity of the person, rooted in the redemption of Christ, is more needed than ever. Throughout his work we find a depth of faith and the vigor of reason in a perfect combination for a full and authentic education. The Saint John Paul II Institute at the University of St Thomas in Houston, Texas, promises a great opportunity for such an education.” **Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput** *Order of Friars*

Minor Capuchin Archbishop of Philadelphia



“(…) Your (…) program provides a wonderful opportunity to study the providential achievement of Saint John Paul II in a comprehensive way and to get to the philosophical and theological roots of authentic renewal. I applaud the University of St. Thomas for establishing this Saint John Paul II Institute and I give it my enthusiastic support.”

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

Please visit: stthom.edu/johnpaul, or scan:



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Saint John Paul II Institute

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