

Collection 00005  
Center for Thomistic Studies

The University of St. Thomas  
Houston, Texas

Processed by  
Nancy Vesey

24 June 2009

**Size:** 8.9 ft

**Inclusive Date Range:** 1966-2009

**Bulk Dates:** 1980-1989

**Restrictions:** Access by permission of the Archivist only.

**Processed by:** Nancy Vesey

### **Historical Note**

Rev. Victor Brezik, C.S.B., stretched the imaginations of many when he teamed up with Houston Philanthropist Hugh Roy Marshall in 1975 to revive the teachings of the medieval philosopher Thomas Aquinas, at the University of St. Thomas by establishing the Center for Thomistic Studies.

Marshall, who graduated from UST in 1974 with a philosophy degree, thought the Thomistic philosophy he had studied “made sense” in a way nothing else had. Together he and Father Brezik established the only Ph.D. program in the fall of 1980. After that accomplishment Fr. Brezik and Hugh Roy Marshall convinced Dr. Anton C. Pegis, a distinguished philosopher and president emeritus of the Pontifical Institute in Toronto, to become the first director of the Center in 1975. He was responsible for designing the program, acquiring a suitable faculty and supervising the accumulation of library resources. After Dr. Pegis’s sudden death in 1978, Professor Vernon J. Bourke accepted the position of Interim Director from 1978-1980.

In October 1979, the University held a symposium honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Aeterni Patris*, [of the eternal father] the papal encyclical, which launched the revival of Thomistic philosophy in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This highly successful event, generously funded by the Strake Foundation, and attended by philosophers from all over North America, staked out the Center’s claim to leadership in the field. The following fall the first classes in the new program were held. Houston had become the latest destination in a 750-year intellectual journey that had also passed through Paris, Rome and Toronto.

The Graduate Philosophy Library, located in Doherty Library, was named after its chief benefactor, Hugh Roy Marshall. The library was opened around 1980 and currently has approximately 11,000 volumes. It remains in operation and will continue to grow.

### **Biographical Note**

Fr. Victor Brezik, C.S.B., was born in Hallettsville, Texas on May 2, 1913. He attended St. Thomas High School in Houston and entered the Basilian Novitiate located in Toronto, Canada in 1931, being ordained as a priest in 1940. He studied at the Pontifical Institute, center of the North American renaissance in Thomistic philosophy in Toronto and received his Licentiate in Mediaeval Studies in 1943 and his Ph.D. in 1944. He studied under two great Thomists of this century, Jacques Maritain, and Etienne Gilson, who was a speaker at UST in 1956. Fr. Brezik came back to Houston in 1954 as a member of the faculty at the new University of St. Thomas.

The Rev. Victor Brezik, CSB, Endowed Scholarship for graduate students in Philosophy at the Center was established on March 26, 1999 by the Basilian Fathers of Toronto. The scholarship/fellowship is awarded to students at UST who are accepted for regular admission into the graduate program of the Center and who meet all academic scholarship requirements.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection of the Center for Thomistic Studies covers the period from 1966 to 2009 and is a continuing collection. Subjects include:

- Preparation and opening of the Center
- Affiliations and associations
- Advisory Board Members
- Correspondence of the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Director of the Center, Fr. Victor Brezik, Dean of Arts and Science and Dr. Etienne Gilson
- Faculty from the Center and the Department of Philosophy, Visiting Professors and Pontifical Faculty
- Budgets and financials
- Marshall, Hugh Roy, Major Donor
- Pegis, Anton, First Director of the Center
- SACS approval of the Center
- Statutes of the Center
- Majors in Philosophy
- Faculty Senate, Faculty Council, Graduate Council, Arts and Sciences Council, Undergraduate Council, Board of Directors meetings and minutes
- Student courses, grades, housing, honor society, financial aid, admissions, senior night awards, library acquisitions, bookstore, grades
- Seminars, symposiums, lectures, bioethics seminar, visiting professors
- Newsletters, brochures, catalogs, publicity
- Notre Dame Press, Lumen Christi Press and Regenery Publishing Company

### **Arrangement Note**

The Center for Thomistic Studies opened in the fall of 1980. Included are files of faculty members and donors who opened the Center, and the department of philosophy which was in existence when the University opened in 1947. The files are arranged by series which are described below and in alphabetical order within each series.

### **Acquisition Information**

The files were obtained from the Center for Thomistic Studies.

## **Physical Condition**

Most of the files are in good condition. Some of the papers have a small amount of rust on them from the fasteners that were used. Others are somewhat acidic which have turned the papers brown. No conservation work is planned.

## **Organization of the Collection**

### **Subject Terms:**

In this space are subject terms that describe the contents.

#### **People:**

Aquinas, Thomas  
Brezik, Fr. Victor  
Gilson, Etienne  
Maritain, Jacques  
Marshall, Hugh Roy  
Pegis, Dr. Anton C.

#### **Names of Organizations:**

American Philosophical Association  
Center for Thomistic Studies  
Congregation of St. Basil  
CSB  
Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Inc.  
International Council of Universities of St. Thomas Aquinas  
Maritain Association  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
University of St. Thomas  
UST

#### **Location:**

Houston (Tex.)

#### **Subjects:**

Philosophy

## **Series Description**

**Series I:** Faculty files are listed alphabetically and include credentials, research papers, speeches, correspondence, reports of chairs, faculty, faculty senate meetings and minutes. Pontifical faculty and visiting professors are included.

**Series II:** The administrative series is divided into sub-series and includes graduate and undergraduate budgets, advisory board members, meeting minutes, reports of the graduate

council; academic advising, admissions, financial aid, graduate council meeting and minutes, correspondence of the President, Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Directors of the Center and Fr. Victor Brezik, CSB.

**Series III:** The fund raising series lists the major donors to the Center, and a dinner and Mass of thanksgiving honoring benefactors.

**Series IV:** This includes public relations material consisting of brochures, catalogs, the *Cauldron*, a student newspaper and *Dimensions*, a university newsletter, faculty newsletters, press releases and newspaper clippings.

**Series V:** The course related series includes graduate and undergraduate course offerings, book prizes, a reading exam, major in philosophy, graduation and senior night, critical thinking reading, and course bibliographies compiled by Anton Pegis.

**Series VI:** The student series includes correspondence and student listings.

**Series VII:** The Phi Sigma Tau Honor Society series includes correspondence, financials, a short history of Phi Sigma Tau newsletters, memberships, booklets and pamphlets.

**Series VIII:** The Academic Activities series consists of a list of friends, speakers, papers, brochures and correspondence from Aeterni Patris Symposium, Aquinas lectures, a Bioethics seminar, Christian Faith and Culture meetings, newsletters, brochures, meetings and correspondence, and Colloquia.

**Series IX:** The publications series includes Center publications, Handbooks for Faculty, Administrators and Adjunct Faculty, correspondence of Lumen Christi Press, Notre Dame Press and the Regenery Publishing Company.

**Series X:** The affiliations and associations series includes the American Catholic Philosophical Association (ACPA), American Philosophical Association (APA), International Academy of Philosophy, Intercollegiate Studies Institution, Inc., International Council of Universities of St. Thomas Aquinas (ICUSTA), Maritain Association, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

**Series XI:** The restricted file contains confidential material that cannot be accessed.

### Inventory:

**Series I: Faculty, 1977-2009**

Box	Folder	
1	1	Founding Years Faculty List, 2009
	2	Boyle, Joseph, 1980-1987
	3	Brown, Oscar, 1980-1987
	4	Elders, Leo, SVD, 1980-1984
	5	Elders, Leo, SVD, 1985-1988
	6	Koterski, Joseph, 1980-1990

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
	7	Lee, Patrick, Correspondence, Credentials, 1980-1991
2	1	Lee, Patrick, Research Papers, 1981-1989
	2	Liccione, Michael J., 1988-1993
	3	Macierowski, Edward M., 1977-1983
	4	Marculescu, Ileana, 1979-1984
	5	Marler, Jack C., 1981-1986
	6	Mullady, Brian T., 1986-1987
2	7	Royal, E. Peter, CSB, 1978
	8	Pontifical Faculty, 1984-1986
	9	Bourke, Vernon J., Visiting Professor, 1980-1985
	10	Kovach, Francis J., Visiting Professor, 1983-1985
	11	Wilhelmsen, Frederick D., Visiting Professor, 1984-1985
	12	Faculty Council Minutes; 1986-1994
	13	Faculty Notices; 1996-1997
	14	Faculty Senate Meetings & Minutes; 1983-1991
3	1	Faculty Senate Meetings & Minutes; 1992-1995
	2	Graduate Faculty Meetings & Minutes; 1980-1985
	3	Senior Faculty Committee; 1981-1987
	4	Undergraduate Faculty Meetings, Minutes, Agendas; 1983-1987
	5	Visiting Professors for the Center, Others, 1981-1982
	6	Visiting Professors for the Center, Others, 1983-1986
<b>Series II:</b>		<b>Administrative, 1966-1999</b>
<b>Series IIa:</b>		<b>Undergraduate Budgets, 1966-1998</b>
3	7	Budgets, July 1981-September 1985
	8	Budgets, October 1985-December 1988
4	1	Budgets, July 1989-December 1991
	2	Budgets, 1992
	3	Budgets, 1993
	4	Budgets, 1994
5	1	Budgets, 1995
	2	Budgets, 1996
	3	Budgets, January 1997-June 1997
	4	Budget Preparations, 1989-1998
	5	Departmental Expenditures & Budgets, 1966-1981
<b>Series IIb:</b>		<b>Graduate Budgets, 1982-1998</b>
5	6	Budgets, 1982-1983
	7	Budgets, 1984
6	1	Budgets, 1985
	2	Budgets, 1986
	3	Budgets, 1987
	4	Budgets, February 1988-December 1989
	5	Budgets, January 1990-December 1991
	6	Budgets, 1992
	7	Annual Reports for the Center, 1991-1995
7	1	Budgets, 1993
	2	Budgets, 1994

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
	3	Budgets, 1995
	4	Budgets, January 1996-November 1996
	5	Budgets, January 1997-June 1997
	6	Budgets, General, 1982-1985
8	1	Budget Preparations, 1991-1998
<b>Series IIc:</b>		<b>Advisory Board, 1974-1999</b>
8	2	Reports, meetings, luncheon, correspondence; 1980-1985
	3	Members list; 1978
	4	Bourke, Vernon J.; 1986-1988
	5	Boyle, Leonard E., OP; 1980-1987
	6	Clark, Mary T., RSCJ; 1981-1985
	7	Dougherty, Jude P.; 1982-1995
	8	Fabro, Cornelio, CSS; 1980-1981
	9	Fitzgerald, Desmond J.; 1983-1989
	10	Gallagher, Donald; 1983-1985
	11	Henle, Robert J., SJ.; 1980-1985
	12	Langan, Thomas; 1985
	13	Lawler, Ronald D., OFM.; 1983-1993
	14	Lescoe, Rev. Francis; 1980-1987
	15	Maurer, Armand A.; CSB; 1981-1987
	16	McInerny, Ralph; 1981-1991
	17	Owens, Joseph, CSsR.; 1983-1987
	18	Reichman, James B., SJ.; 1982-1984
	19	Robb, James H.; 1979
	20	Sweeney, Leo, SJ.; 1979-1988
	21	Synan, Edward A.; 1981-1986
9	1	Veatch, Henry B.; 1974-1999
	2	Wallace, William A.; OP., 1984
	3	Weisheipl, James A.; OP., 1981-1985
	4	Zedler, Beatrice H.; 1982
<b>Series IID:</b>		<b>Correspondence, 1975-2003</b>
9	5	Arts & Sciences, Dean; 1989-1997
	6	Business Office; 1981-1997
	7	Brezik, Fr. Victor, CSB; 1975-1994
	8	Kennedy, Fr. Leonard; 1981-1987
	9	Lawler, Fr. Ronald D.; 1980-1984
	10	General; 1984-1997
10	1	Academic Affairs, Vice President for; 1983-1993
	2	Brezik/Bourke; 1977-1978
	3	Brezik/Bourke; 1979
	4	Brezik/Bourke; 1980-1998
	5	Brezik/Lawler; 1979-1993
	6	Brezik/Marshall; 1974-1984
	7	Brezik, Marshall; 1985-1996
	8	Brezik/Marshall; 1997-2003

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
11	1	Brezik/Pegis and Pegis Family; 1975-1985
	2	Brezik/Strake; 1967-2001
	3	President's Office/H.R. Marshall; 1974-2002
<b>Series IIe:</b>	<b>General; 1980-1998</b>	
11	4	Academic Advising; 1993
	5	Admissions; 1984-1986
	6	Alumni; 2008
	7	Arts & Sciences Council Agendas, Meetings, Minutes; 1991-1992
	8	Board of Director Meetings for Center; 1981-1987
	9	Bookstore; 1987-1992
	10	Divisional Chairs Meetings & Reports; 1989-1991
	11	Events of the Center; 1981-1982
	12	Formal Opening of the Center; 1980
	13	Graduate Council Meetings; 1993-1995
12	1	History of the Graduate Philosophy Program by Fr. Brezik; n.d.
	2	Housing; 1981-1985
	3	Hugh Roy Marshall Graduate Library; 1976-1984
	4	Language Exam Committee; 1981-1985
	5	Library Acquisitions; 1976-1985
	6	President's Reports and Correspondence; 1980-1985
	7	Proposal for the Graduate Program by Anton Pegis; 1976
	8	Registrar; 1981-1983
	9	Registrar; 1984
	10	Registrar; 1985-1986
13	1	Reflections Regarding Center Meeting Held September 3, 1985; 1985
	2	Statutes of the Center; 1979-1990
	3	Students: Financial Aid; 1980-1982
	4	Students: Financial Aid; 1983-1985
	5	Students: Financial Aid; 1986-1996
	6	Search for New Director; 1996-1998
<b>Series III:</b>	<b>Fund Raising, 1973-2009</b>	
<b>Series IIIa:</b>	<b>Donors, 1978-2009</b>	
13	7	Founding Donors; 2009
	8	Bredeweg/Kennedy Negotiations for Center Funds; 1985
	9	Burkitt Foundation; 1982-1986
	10	Family, Crooker, John H.; 1979
	11	Cullen Chair in Philosophy; 1979-1984
	12	DeRance, Inc.; 1979-1985
	13	Donovan, Dr. & Mrs. Michael M.; 1973-1991
14	1	Hotze, Ernest G., Ceco Compressor Engineering Corp.; 1981-1992
	2	Mitchell, Dolores Charitable Annuity Trust; 1981-1983
	3	Marshall, Hugh Roy; 1978-1984
	4	Quintana Petroleum Co.; 1983-1991
	5	Scanlan Foundation, Endowment of Bishop Nold Chair in Philosophy; 1981-1985
	6	Strake Foundation; 1989-1991

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
	7	Veatch, Henry B.; 1981-1986
	8	Webre, Lloyd P.; 1981
	9	Others; 1979-1997
<b>Series IIIb:</b>		<b>General, 1981-1987</b>
14	10	Dinner Honoring Benefactors of the Center; 1981-1987
	11	Mass of Thanksgiving for Center Benefactors; 1982
<b>Series IV:</b>		<b>Publicity, 1975-2003</b>
14	12	Brochures and Miscellaneous Items; 1979-1984
	13	Catalogs for the Center; 1982-2002
	14	The <i>Cauldron</i> , Student Newspaper; 1979-1984
	15	<i>Dimensions</i> , University Newsletter; 1975-1980
	16	Faculty Newsletters; 1980-1986
	17	Press Releases and Newspaper Clippings; 1975-2003
<b>Series V:</b>		<b>Students, 1969-1984</b>
15	1	Correspondence, 1969-1986
	2	Lists, 1983-1984
<b>Series VI:</b>		<b>Course Related, 1975-1996</b>
16	1	Book Prizes Presented to Students; 1982-1986
	2	Course Bibliographies Compiled by Anton C. Pegis; 1975
	3	Course Offerings, Graduate; 1980-1986
	4	Course Offerings, Undergraduate; 1981-1986
	5	Course Offerings, Undergraduate; 1992-1996
	6	Critical Thinking Readings; 1996
	7	Graduation and Senior Awards Night; 1984-1986
	8	Major in Philosophy; 1969-1986
	9	PhD Dissertation Defenses; 1988-1993
	10	Prospectus of Graduate Program Leading to MA and PhD Degrees; 1981
	11	Reading Exam, M.A.; 1979-1985
<b>Series VII:</b>		<b>Phi Sigma Tau Honor Society, 1984-1997</b>
17	1	Booklets and Pamphlets; 1984-1995
	2	Correspondence; 1985-1986
	3	Correspondence; 1987-1995
	4	Correspondence; 1996-1997
	5	Financials; 1984-1993
	6	Memberships; 1986-1987
	7	Short History & Newsletters; 1984-1987
<b>Series VIII:</b>		<b>Academic Activities, 1978-2009</b>
17	8	Aeterni Patris Symposium, Correspondence and Memos; 1978-1979
	9	Aeterni Patris Symposium, Dinner and Friends List; 1979-1980
18	1	Aeterni Patris Symposium, Speakers, Papers, Brochures; 1979
	2	Aquinas Lecture; 1981-1996
	3	Bioethics Seminar; 1983-1984
	4	Christian Faith & Culture, Brochures, Newsletters, Pamphlets; 1981-1986
	5	Christian Faith & Culture, Meetings and Correspondence; 1983-1986
	6	Colloquia; 1987-1995
	7	Lectures, Lecturers and Symposiums; 1981-2009

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
<b>Series IX: Publications, 1980-1992</b>		
18	8	Academic Publications of the Center; 1983-1987
	9	Graduate Bulletin for Center; 1987-1988; 1989-1991
	10	Handbook for Faculty, Administrators and Adjunct Faculty; 1980-1992
	11	Correspondence, Lumen Christi Press; 1983-1987
19	1	Correspondence, Notre Dame Press; 1983-1984
	2	Correspondence, Notre Dame Press; 1985
	3	Correspondence, Notre Dame Press; 1986-1991
	4	Correspondence, Regenery Publishing Co.; 1983
	5	Notre Dame Press, Brochures, Pamphlets; 1984-1986
<b>Series X: Affiliations and Associations, 1978-1997</b>		
19	6	American Catholic Philosophical Association; 1980-1984
	7	American Catholic Philosophical Association; 1985
	8	American Catholic Philosophical Association; 1986
	9	American Philosophical Association; 1979-1997
	10	International Academy of Philosophy; 1980-1983
20	1	Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Inc., 1983-1986
	2	International Council of Universities of St. Thomas Aquinas; 1995-1996
	3	Maritain Association; 1980-1986
	4	National Endowment for the Humanities; 1986-1993
	5	Proposal of MA Program Submitted to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; 1979
	6	Correspondence, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Approval of Center; 1980-1982
	7	Correspondence, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; 1981-1982
	8	Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Criteria for Accreditation; 1989
	9	Correspondence, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Self-study; 1982-1988
<b>Series XI: Restricted, 1971-1981</b>		
21	1	Researchers may not access this material.

**Separation Note:**

A folder containing correspondence between Victor Brezik, while in college, and Dr. Etienne Gilson has been transferred to the Fr. Victor Brezik, UST Collection.