

# LUMEN CHRISTI INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT & PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024–2025

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Senior Fellow	Kenneth Woodward
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## IN MEMORIAM

Most Rev. Francis Cardinal George, OMI †	Thomas Levergood †
Archbishop of Chicago (1997–2014)	Founder & Executive Director (1997–2021)



# A YEAR AT LUMEN CHRISTI

IN 2024-2025, LUMEN CHRISTI HOSTED 218 EVENTS ...

<i>University Program</i>	<i>Cultural Forum</i>	<i>Catholic Scholars</i>
170	23	25

WITH 4119 ATTENDEES

<i>University Program</i>	<i>Cultural Forum</i>	<i>Catholic Scholars</i>
1789	1367	963

INCLUDING STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS OF ALL RANKS

<i>Undergraduate</i>	<i>MA/Professional</i>	<i>PhD</i>	<i>Faculty &amp; Scholars</i>	<i>Other</i>
22%	20%	32%	14%	12%

REPRESENTING 107 INSTITUTIONS

<i>Universities</i>	<i>Indep. Institutes</i>	<i>Gov't Entities</i>	<i>Other</i>
88	8	5	6

... TO PROMOTE THE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL TRADITION.





# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends of the Lumen Christi Institute,

Early in the fifteenth century, Thomas à Kempis wrote *The Imitation of Christ*, which became a classic handbook of Christian spirituality. Some have called it the most widely read book in the history of Christianity, second only to the Bible. In the first pages, he offers some insight on the relationship of the intellectual life and the Christian faith:

*What can knowledge do for us, without the fear of God? Give me a plain, unpretentious farm-hand, content to serve God; there is more to be made of him than of some conceited University professor who forgets that he has a soul to save, because he is so busy watching the stars. To know yourself – that means feeling your own worthlessness, losing all taste for human praise. If my knowledge embraced the whole of creation, what good would it do me in God's sight?*

For Thomas à Kempis, the search for knowledge must be characterized by humility, with a sense of awe for God's majesty. Professors and scholars must prioritize the salvation of souls, for the sake of their students and themselves. True knowledge leads not to pride but to a deeper sense of one's own limitations.

In 2025 we began a new initiative for the formation of professors: our postdoctoral fellowship in the Catholic intellectual tradition. From a talented pool of almost 70 applicants,

we chose two extraordinary scholars—Cassandra Sever and Eric DeVilliers—to join Lumen Christi as our inaugural postdoctoral fellows. Cass and Eric have a two-year appointment with us, during which they will advance their research and also participate in Lumen Christi programs.

In August, Cass and Eric—along with 12 other young scholars—took part in a week-long seminar on “the Vocation of the Catholic Scholar.” Led by Fr. Stephen Fields, S.J., these men and women discussed the work of St. John Henry Newman as a way to reflect on their callings as scholars. I think that each seminar participant is the kind of scholar that Thomas à Kempis would have prized: pursuing knowledge as a way of loving and serving God.

As we begin a new academic year, I am proud to share with you our annual report for the academic year 2024-2025. You and your loved ones are in my prayers every day at Gavin House. Please keep our students and professors in yours.

Yours in Christ,



Daniel Wasserman-Soler  
Executive Director, The Lumen Christi Institute

# WHO WE ARE

*What Do We Mean by “Catholic Intellectual Tradition”?*



## CATHOLIC

**AFFIRM** the intellectual life as good in itself, confronting the professionalization of education.

**RECLAIM** learning as leisure, challenging our culture's emphasis on work.

**EXEMPLIFY** how the life of the mind thrives in a religious context.



## TRADITION

**ASK** questions relevant to Catholics and all thoughtful people.

**PRIORITIZE** formation for the laity, in line with the Church's magisterium.

**TRANSCEND** ideological divisions and engage the universal Church.



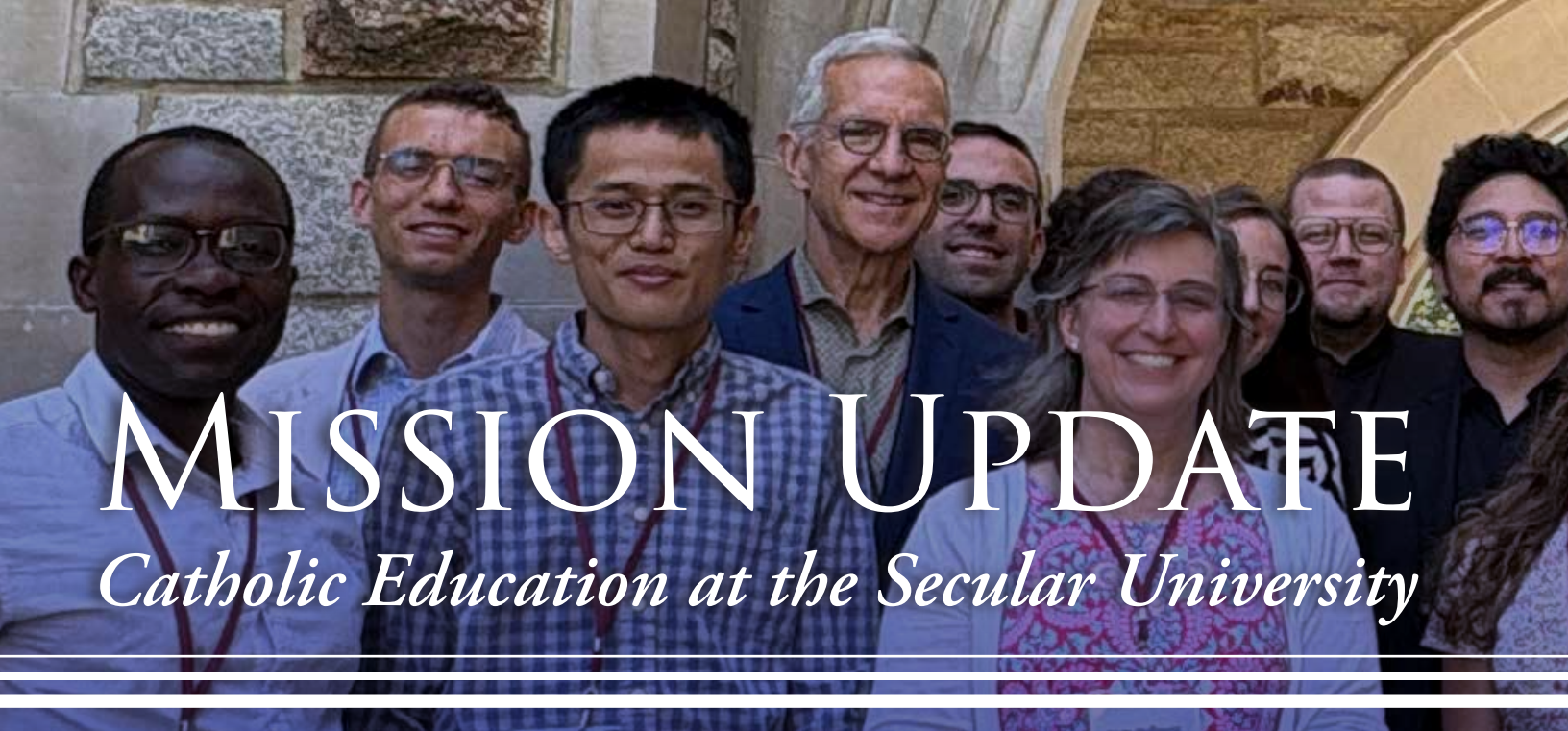
## INTELLECTUAL

**EMBOLDEN** all people to think of themselves as stewards of the Church's intellectual tradition, responsible for sharing it, and—in doing so—strengthening the social fabric.

**SHARE** the sources—past and present—of the Catholic Church as wisdom for today.

**NURTURE** friendships, to support the pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness.



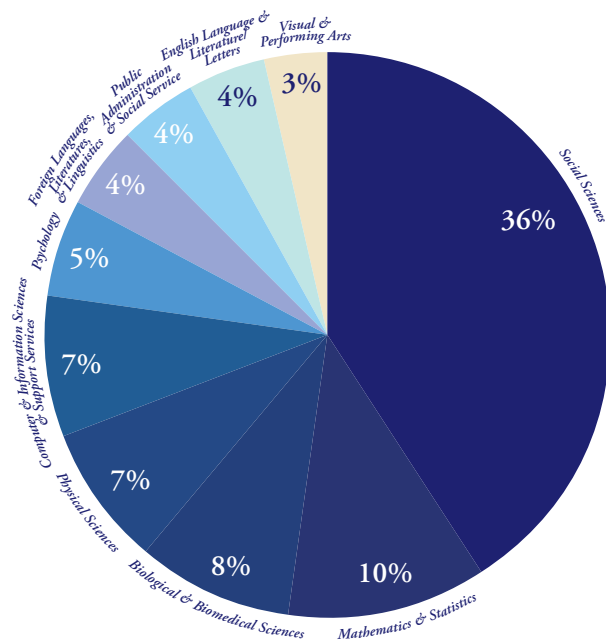


# MISSION UPDATE

## *Catholic Education at the Secular University*

### WE ARE ENCOUNTERING UNIQUE CHALLENGES ...

#### MARGINALIZATION OF HUMANITIES



Among 2023 graduates of UChicago, fewer than **one quarter** received a humanities-based degree.<sup>1</sup>

#### FRAGMENTED ATTENTION SPANS & LACK OF MEDIA LITERACY

**4.8**  
hours

time an average teen spends on social media per day as of 2023.<sup>2</sup>

**47**  
seconds

average attention span of a teenager on a screen in 2023, down from 2.5 minutes in 2004.<sup>4</sup>

**38**  
percent

students who reported learning how to analyze media messages critically in school.<sup>5</sup>

#### SOURCES

<sup>1</sup> University of Chicago. "University of Chicago Academics & Majors - US News Best Colleges," n.d. <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/university-of-chicago-1774/academics>.

<sup>2</sup> Rothwell, Jonathan. "Teens Spend Average of 4.8 Hours on Social Media per Day." *Gallup.Com*, October 13, 2023. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/512576/teens-spend-average-hours-social-media-per-day.aspx#:~:text=Wellbeing,October%2013%2C%202023>.

<sup>3</sup> Jiang, Jingjing, and Jingjing Jiang. "How Teens and Parents Navigate Screen Time and Device Distractions." Pew Research Center, April 14, 2024. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2018/08/22/how-teens-and-parents-navigate-screen-time-and-device-distractions/>.

<sup>4</sup> American Psychological Association. "Speaking of Psychology: Why Our Attention Spans Are Shrinking, With Gloria Mark, PhD," February 2023. Accessed July 22, 2025. <https://www.apa.org/news/podcasts/speaking-of-psychology/attention-spans>.

<sup>5</sup> Smith, Jennifer. "Research | Media Literacy Now." Media Literacy Now | Advocating for Media Literacy Education, September 15, 2023. <https://medialiteracynow.org/challenge/research/>.

<sup>6</sup> Pew Research Center. "8. Partisan Animosity, Personal Politics, Views of Trump," April 14, 2024. <https://www.pewresearch.org/>

<sup>7</sup> Nadeem, Reem. "8 In 10 Americans Say Religion Is Losing Influence in Public Life." Pew Research Center, July 21, 2025. <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2024/03/15/8-in-10-americans-say-religion-is-losing-influence-in-public-life/>.

<sup>8</sup> Atske, Sara. "For a Lot of American Teens, Religion Is a Regular Part of the Public School Day." Pew Research Center, April 14, 2024. <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2019/10/03/for-a-lot-of-american-teens-religion-is-a-regular-part-of-the-public-school-day/>.



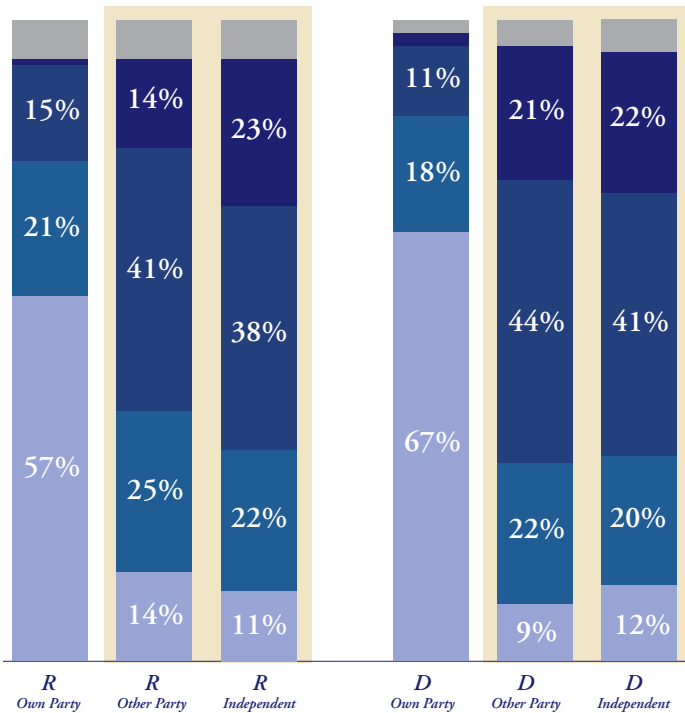
## POLITICAL POLARIZATION

81  
percent

U.S. party members who have an **"unfavorable"** opinion of the other party, with ~45% having a "very unfavorable" opinion.<sup>6</sup>

When asked "How many of your close friends are [in the opposing party], responses indicated ...

■ A lot ■ Some ■ Just a few ■ None ■ Don't know



More and more people are **unwilling to associate** with people whose political views differ from their own.<sup>6</sup>

## SECULARIZATION

80  
percent

Americans who believe **religion is losing influence** in U.S. public life.<sup>7</sup>

48  
percent

Americans who believe their **religion places them at odds** with "the mainstream."<sup>7</sup>

41  
percent

Americans who believe they **should not discuss religion** at all if there is disagreement.<sup>7</sup>

82  
percent

American teens who **do not have any religious support** or prayer groups at their school.<sup>8</sup>

“

*Today's campus is deprived of Christian wisdom, the life of the mind, and friendship.*

(LCI Strategic Plan, 2025 – 2030)

”

... AND OUR MISSION IS AS IMPORTANT AS EVER.



# HOW DOES LUMEN CHRISTI MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Founded in 1997, our mission to make the Catholic intellectual tradition a vital part of the secular university and the broader culture has never been more timely.

## PROMOTING CATHOLIC THOUGHT

“Catholic,” in its original sense, means “concerning the whole.” For the Lumen Christi Institute, this means serving Catholic students and working alongside Catholic organizations like Calvert House. Further, it also means living the evangelical mission by making it possible for students of any background to encounter the wealth of the Church’s wisdom in her teaching and also in the treasure of the many holy men and women who have contributed to the storehouse of the tradition. Finally, it means bringing a Catholic approach to any topics that preoccupy our non-Catholic and non-religious brothers and sisters.

### ENGAGEMENT

88

unique programs

4.6

average number of events  
attended per student

126

scholars who led programs



### SOCIAL MEDIA

27

new lectures  
uploaded to YouTube

54

new lectures uploaded  
to SoundCloud

95.7k

YouTube views

2.9k

Facebook followers

12.6k

YouTube subscribers

2.6k

X (Twitter) followers





The Institute takes a distinctive view of the intellectual life. It operates outside the credit and degree requirements of the university, enabling conversations to be broad-ranging, unrestricted by course objectives or administrative benchmarks. By providing opportunities to pursue the life of the mind—transcending any specific discipline or profession—we nurture the natural desire to know and to make time for learning as leisure. Lastly, we believe that the intellectual must include the spiritual and create a space where students can pursue these naturally yoked values in an integrated way.

## CULTIVATING THE INTELLECTUAL LIFE



The life of the mind is nourished within a community, and thus intellectual friendship is central to the Institute's mission. "Christian scripture underscores the close association between learning and friendship: 'I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you' (Jn. 15:15). The Institute has described itself as a "teacher of teachers" for some time, training future professors in the Catholic intellectual tradition. Beyond our ongoing commitment to the formation of tomorrow's university faculty, we also commit to our programs having clear relevance to future professionals in every field.

## BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS & COMMUNITY



*WANT TO HEAR ABOUT MORE EVENTS AT LCI?*  
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST.







# UNIVERSITY PROGRAM



Since its inception, the Lumen Christi Institute has accepted the realities of human finitude. As believers and lovers of truth, we want to change the world. As finite creatures, we are bound to a time and place. Yet, we also believe we have been placed by our Creator where we are for a reason. The University Program has been the centerpiece of the Institute for nearly three decades, and dedicates itself to the idea that as humans the most significant impact we can have is on the person right in front of us.

The Institute was born at the University of Chicago and, in the past two years, it has renewed its fidelity to this mission by focusing resources on intensive formation of students. These students come to the University of Chicago sincerely seeking truth, and present themselves at the Institute programming, asking for more. This renewed commitment prioritizes smaller groups for sustained formation, through programming like reading groups, non-credit courses, master classes, and seminars.







**The Cultural Forum** expands the reach of the Institute's mission beyond the University of Chicago, to the people God has placed before us in the greater Chicago area. It intends especially to make available the richness of the Church's intellectual tradition to those who are no longer students vocationally, but who still hunger for the Church's wisdom in their lives.

Cultural Forum programming emphasizes the intersection between Catholic intellectual principles and the application of perennial wisdom to the concrete problems of human life, our moment in history, and the society in which God has placed us. The Cultural Forum hosts events across Chicagoland including downtown author interviews, monthly Great Books seminars, and dinner lectures in the West suburbs.



# CULTURAL FORUM





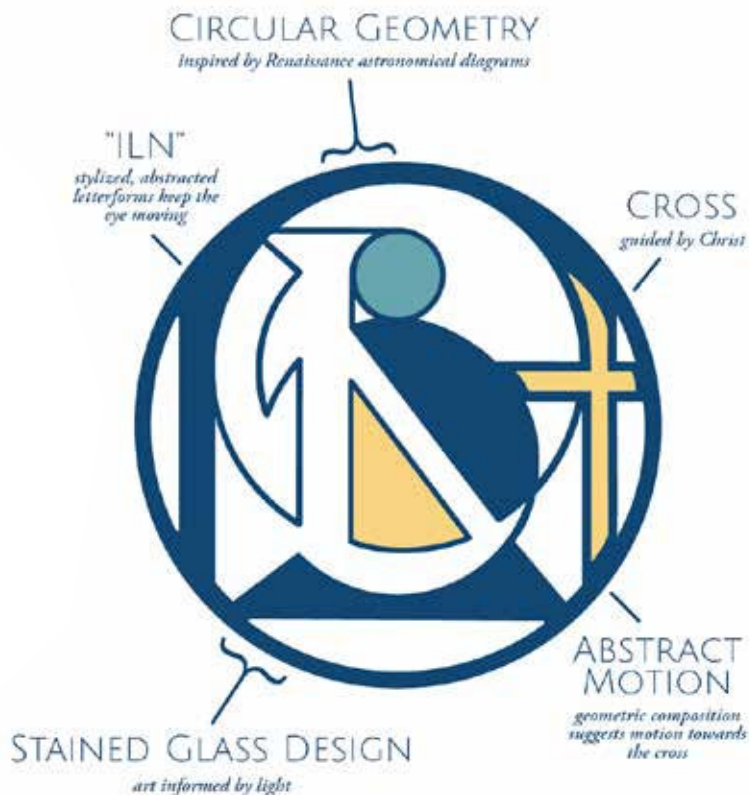
# CATHOLIC SCHOLARS

The Catholic Scholars Program expands the Institute's mission beyond Chicagoland to embrace a national, and sometimes an international, audience. By its nature, the Institute's work brings together scholars and students from universities near and far. Without this work, these diverse faculty and faculty-to-be would otherwise never have met, and through the Institute they are able to enrich one another with their unique insights and support one another in the vocation of the Catholic scholar.

The program seeks both to make the intellectual tradition available to audiences beyond the Institute's in-person reach and to build a network of scholars nationally and internationally who encourage one another in their research, and in teaching at the secular university and beyond. The program has launched an outreach called The In Lumine Network, which is a formal network of sister institutes at secular universities across the country. The institute's long-running summer seminars are another key feature of the Catholic Scholars programming, as well as online lectures, faculty book colloquia, and the Catholic Criminal Justice Reform Network.







The six founding members of the network include the Lumen Christi Institute at the University of Chicago, the Nova Forum at the University of Southern California, the Saint Anselm Institute at the University of Virginia, COLLIS at Cornell University, the Collegium Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, and the Harvard Catholic Forum at Harvard University. Now including 13 institutes, the network collaborates on public programs, convenes annual summits to share best practices, refines on-campus offerings, and organizes summer seminars for students from across the nation.



Born from the efforts of the Catholic Scholars Program and the support of the John Templeton Foundation, the In Lumine Network is a growing national movement, which provides essential resources and a forum for collaboration to selected Catholic institutes at non-Catholic colleges and universities across the country.

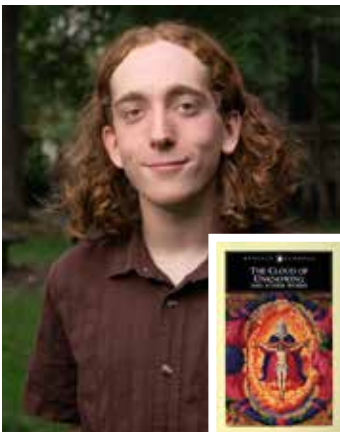


# IN LUMINE NETWORK

# PRAY FOR OUR NICKLIN FELLOWS

The Nicklin Fellowship is a competitive fellowship that grants undergraduate students exclusive access to research grant funds to pursue their own intellectual projects. The fellowship supports students in the pursuit of their personal academic interests—especially those related to existential questions of being—and cultivates robust intellectual friendships rooted in a common love of truth, beauty, and goodness.

Please pray for our Nicklin Fellows as they continue their intellectual formation with the Lumen Christi Institute. We ask for special prayers for the special, exciting fall initiatives featured below:



**Brady Santoro**

will lead a reading group on  
*The Cloud of Unknowing*.



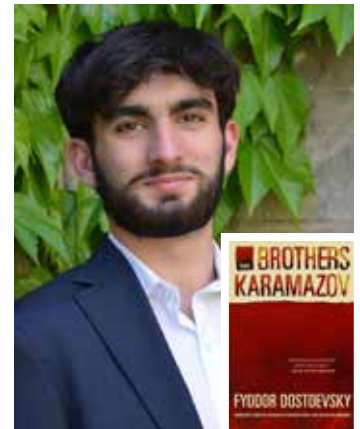
**Alex Hu**

will coordinate a  
University of Chicago  
faculty-led seminar  
on Hannah Arendt's  
*The Human Condition*.



**Yixin Chen**

will lead a student  
reading group on  
Michael Bulgakov's  
*Master and Margarita*.



**Jacob Neplokh**

will write an article for  
an online journal about  
his experience leading a  
reading group on  
*The Brothers Karamazov*.

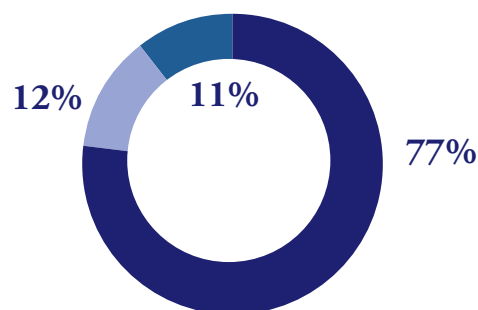


# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

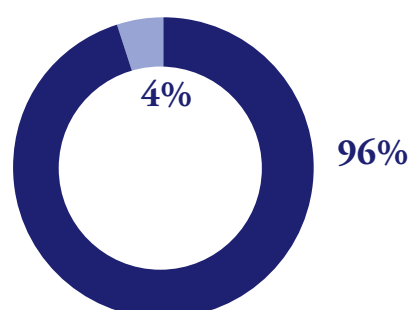
REVENUES	Current Year	Prior Year
Contributions and Grants	\$4,857,497	\$4,309,384
Program Fees and Other Income	\$194,786	\$224,596
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$5,052,283</b>	<b>\$4,533,980</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<i>Education Programs</i>		
Cultural Forum	\$445,493	\$502,330
Catholic Scholars	\$1,042,975	\$916,648
University Program	\$477,063	\$428,046
Residence	\$253,224	\$284,928
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,218,755</b>	<b>\$2,131,952</b>
<i>Supporting Services</i>		
Management and General	\$302,809	\$178,067
Fundraising and Development	\$356,472	\$370,176
<b>Total Supporting Services Expenses</b>	<b>\$659,281</b>	<b>\$548,243</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,878,036</b>	<b>\$2,680,195</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b> .....	<b>\$2,174,247</b>	<b>\$1,853,785</b>

\* Numbers for the current year are unaudited. Audit is in progress.



## FY25 OPERATING EXPENSES

Educational Programs .....	\$2,218,755
Fundraising & Development .....	\$356,472
Management & General .....	\$302,809



## FY25 OPERATING REVENUE

Contributions & Grants .....	\$4,857,497
Program Fees & Other Income .....	\$194,786

# HONOR ROLL

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

## FOUNDER'S SOCIETY

*In grateful recognition of annual contributions of \$1,000 or more*

## ST. AUGUSTINE CIRCLE (\$25,000+)

Anonymous  
Mr. Erwin Aulis and Ms. Nancy Aulis  
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Cusack  
Imitatio  
James and Zita Gavin Foundation  
John Templeton Foundation  
Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund  
Kraemer Charitable Fund

Mr. and Mrs. F. Oliver Nicklin, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. James N. Perry, Jr.  
The Hon. J. Peter Ricketts and  
Mrs. Susanne Shore  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark and  
Eleanor Schneider

## LEGACY

*In special recognition of those who have included the Lumen Christi Institute in their estate plans.*

Anonymous (5)  
Mr. Patrick J. and  
Mrs. Maureen Molloy†

Ms. Alietia Caughron  
Mr. Sean and Prof. Cecilia Fielor  
First Analysis  
Mr. and Mrs. Noel  
John Francisco  
Helen Brach Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. John and Lisa Iberle  
The Kellogg Institute for  
International Studies  
Koch Foundation, Inc.  
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Michael L. and Rosalind C. Keiser  
Charitable Trust  
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Family Foundation  
Mr. Patrick J. and  
Mrs. Maureen Molloy†  
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Barbara Perry  
Mrs. Christine Rademacher and  
Mr. John Rademacher  
Mr. Joseph O. Rubinelli, Jr.  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Starshak  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Turicchi  
Mrs. Anne Warnke  
W.P. and H.B. White Foundation



**Charlie Robinson**  
*Pepperdine University '25*

"I wanted to participate in the [Girard] seminar because I had previously been a part of USC's Nova Forum within the In Lumine Network. I had so much enjoyed discussing significant Catholic thinkers at Nova that I was eager to apply to the Girard seminar to continue enriching dialogues.

The best part of the seminar was by far the people. I have found that intellectual life is something far too difficult to do alone and the opportunity to talk with my peers and professors who were humble and curious made the week a real joy.

Mr. Michael Mariani  
Mazza Foundation  
Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky  
Institute Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Noel and  
Michele Moore  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles and  
Ellen Mulaney, Jr.

Mrs. Anne Warnke  
Prof. John and Mrs. Elaine  
Wickstrom

## ST. EDITH STEIN CIRCLE (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Mr. Rocco Armocida

## ST. BENEDICT CIRCLE (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

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Edward J. Calkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Carver  
Catholic University of America  
The Charles W. & Patricia S. Bidwill  
Charitable Foundation  
de Nicola Center for Ethics  
and Culture  
James and Catherine Denny  
Foundation  
Dr. Scholl Foundation  
Jim and Susan Neuberger Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Korajczyk  
Loyola Academy  
Mendoza College of Business  
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Noell, Jr.



John and Maria Scott  
Dr. and Mrs. Philip Taffet  
Ms. Kirsten Tollefson  
University of St. Thomas  
The Witherspoon Institute

### ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CIRCLE (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Anonymous (2)  
Jonathan and Betsy Bohlen  
Mr. Thomas P. Brown  
Dr. and Mrs. Sam and  
Erin Caughron  
Chicago Sunday Evening Club  
Douglas Cipriano  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Coughlin  
Mr. and Mrs. William Cromie  
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Dykstra  
D.J. and Mary Kathryn Gorman  
The Hank Center at  
Loyola University Chicago  
Institute for Scholarship  
in the Liberal Arts  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Thomas E. Knauff  
Dr. Eileen Q. Knight, Ph.D.  
Mr. Thomas Lanctot  
Louise M. Davies Foundation  
Mr. Daniel Mansueto and  
Mrs. Susan Sakai  
Mr. and Mrs. John T. McEnroe  
Prof. and Mrs. Bernard McGinn  
Mr. and Mrs. James Sweany  
Christopher and Melanie Thomas  
Katherine and Daniel  
Wasserman-Soler  
Mark and Min Wyman

### ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CIRCLE (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

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Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Booth  
Col. and Mrs. Ronald Bordenaro  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Borders  
Prof. Michael Brennan  
Mr. John Buchmann  
Mr. Bruce Christian  
Mr. Donald Christl  
Richard A. Ciccarone

Mr. Frederic H. Clark  
The Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane  
Diocese of Venice in Florida  
Mrs. James Dowdle  
Drum Foundation  
Mr. David F. Dury  
Samuel Fifer  
Mr. Varghese George and  
Mrs. Rani George  
Prof. Hanna H. Gray

Ms. Joan Levergood and  
Mr. Doug Johnson  
Yuhan Liu  
Loyola University Chicago School  
of Law  
Maria Macia  
Carrie McNally and Rick Maechling  
Ms. Elizabeth Mariani  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mikkelsen Jr.  
Michael Minieka



“I think the length of the seminar really generates a sense of immersion in the corpus that is hard to replicate in a semester-long seminar. It also helps that everyone at these seminars really desires to be there, which promotes interesting and stimulating discussion. Plus, I think the fact that all the students have set apart those 5 days to this seminar results in the discussion overflowing into other times—breakfast, lunch, dinner, etc.—and encourages deeper contemplation and reflection on the readings. Having three professors lead the seminar is also a great benefit. It’s a joy to watch them discuss the material among themselves, and it is contagious among the students as well.”

Mr. and Mrs. Edward and  
Alice Grayson  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and  
Christine Guzior  
Thomas and Suzanne James  
Dr. Onsi W. Kamel, MD  
Kathleen and David  
Kennedy Foundation  
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Mr. Mark Potosnak  
Vincent and Patricia Kolber  
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Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Olson  
Mark S. Ouweleen and  
Sarah K. Harding  
Drs. Ivan and Swat Pacold  
Ms. Christine Pluta and  
Mr. Robert Pluta  
Portsmouth Abbey

Gerard J. Quinn  
 Prof. Valerie Ramey  
 Lawrence D. and Elizabeth Ryan  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul and  
 Kathleen Savard  
 Mr. Michael Shipley  
 Mr. George Spera and  
 Mrs. Jane C. Ginsburg  
 Prof. Astrida Tantillo  
 Mr. Peter Tarsney and  
 Mrs. Preya Tarsney

Mr. Steven Lord  
 Dr. Joan Mankowski  
 Alejandro Morles  
 The Most Rev. William Murphy  
 Daniel R. Murray  
 Mr. James B. Murray  
 Ms. Mary Nelson  
 Mr. Nathan Phillips  
 Russell R. Reno  
 Prof. Elisa Rubbo  
 Dr. Brandon D. Sanders

Carlos de Quesada  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Devitt  
 Mr. and Ms. James Dunlop  
 Mr. Jon Wesley and  
 Mrs. Rebecca S. Foreman  
 Ms. Crystal Holmes  
 The Most Rev. Alfred Hughes  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hughes  
 Hyde Park Institute  
 Ms. Mary Jawor  
 Mr. and Mrs. James and  
 Mary Kearney  
 Mr. John Kobza  
 Mr. Theodore Kubala and Mrs.  
 Suzanne Kubala  
 Prof. and Mrs. Matthew Levering  
 The Most Rev. John LeVoir  
 Prof. Stephen Lewis, Jr.  
 Profs. Anthony and Mary Mahowald  
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“In addition to the intellectual output of the seminar, it also has great success in creating fellowship among the students, and of the students with the professors. I am very grateful to the Lumen Christi Institute for putting together these events, which so successfully connect students of diverse backgrounds and fields, who all share one common concern for the Catholic intellectual tradition. In an increasingly fragmented academia, the importance of this service cannot be overstated.”

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"It's hard to overestimate the impact LCI has had on my life. At a place like UChicago it can be easy to feel like you are seen for the work you produce, rather than for who you are. The LCI staff always made me feel seen and welcomed. Through attending and eventually leading a reading group at LCI, I was able to form a community with other graduate students—Catholic and non-Catholic alike. When I graduated, I knew that LCI was a place that I wanted to work if I ever got the opportunity. It is very rare to find somewhere where the people truly live the mission in their day-to-day lives, and where a Catholic intellectual community is fostered so well both formally and informally."

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*January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025*



“An LCI summer seminar reveals that intensive study is a good in itself. I am continually amazed at how quickly students form and maintain friendships in their brief but intensive time together. Teaching this seminar has been one of the great blessings of my academic life. Students in these seminars see how intellectual and faith life belong together, and how the Catholic intellectual tradition has been incarnated in particular figures and movements.”

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“At the heart of Lonergan’s seminal work *Insight*, is the concept of self-appropriation and self-knowledge. Lonergan presents a framework relevant to human phenomenology and existentialism. In particular, it seems to me that he speaks to a research interest I have related to the theology of priesthood and seminary formation. At the heart of the formation of priests is the formation of self-knowledge.

“The [seminar] presenters knew their content well, and their ability to answer questions and be available for further discussion outside of class was important. Their ability to connect the subject matter and real-life examples made Lonergan relevant.”



“No other course I teach gives me a week of intense study and camaraderie building with the same students over five to six days. It’s a unique teaching experience that can be full of insights in pedagogy and in content, even if it leaves you a little breathless!

“I was surprised by the breadth of questions provoked in students on account of their diverse backgrounds and interests. This made communicating Lonergan and his ideas more challenging but also far more rewarding.”

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“I was speaking with a younger scholar recently who was expressing some disappointment about her first year of graduate education at an elite institution. Where were genuine curiosity and wonder? Where was the discipline to see parts within a whole, to pursue wisdom, and to delight in this pursuit with others? She asked if I had found any of this in my own program. Upon reflection, I realized that I could resoundingly answer in the affirmative: in the course of my graduate studies, I have found all of these things in abundance, and Lumen Christi has played a key role in helping me find them. Through reading groups, summer seminars, and lectures—even impromptu conversations in the Gavin House kitchen over leftovers!—I’ve become part of a community extending well beyond the University of Chicago. This community is where we live the Catholic intellectual tradition, and for this I am grateful.”



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