



## PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE HOLY CROSS FOUNDATION

### Information on the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross

1. The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross provides higher education to seminarians and priests from over 90 countries, its formative work reaching thus the whole Church.
2. Because of its prestige the University is often consulted by Dicasteries of the Vatican on different matters. It has thus the opportunity of advising those who govern the Church.
3. St. Josemaria made major contributions to theology which are of great consequence for the Church. Through the work of the University they are being made known little by little throughout the world.
4. The Grand Chancellor of the University is Mgr. Fernando Ocariz, Prelate of Opus Dei and former Professor of Theology.
5. Pope Saint John Paul II prompted Bishop Álvaro del Portillo to start an ecclesiastical University in Rome. This was also a project designed by St. Josemaría but could not be initiated during his life.
6. Don Álvaro realised that the only possible way to start the University in 1984 was to establish an Academic Roman Centre as a campus of the Ecclesiastical Faculties of the University of Navarre. At that time the Centre had only 41 students.
7. In 1998, having developed four Faculties (Theology, Philosophy, Canon Law and Church Communications) and one Institute, and having attracted 1,236 students from 65 countries, Pope John Paul II raised the Centre to a Pontifical University.
8. Three Saints are thus linked to the origin of this university (St. John Paul II, St. Josemaría and Blessed Álvaro del Portillo).
9. The main building of the University, called Palazzo Apollinare was built in the centre of Rome, bordering on Piazza Navona, in the XVIII century. In the past it was used as the major seminary of the diocese of Rome. Popes Pius XII and John XXIII studied in it. In 2004 it was remodelled and enlarged.
10. At present it has about 1,400 students. A portion of these students are from developing countries and can study in Rome only if given financial support.
11. A century ago, Pope Pius XI was sending missionaries to some of these countries. At present these countries are being evangelised by their own clergy who, helped with a scholarship, can go to Rome to be formed and then return to their country to serve the Church there.
12. Most of the academic staff of the University have a PhD from a civil university and a PhD from an ecclesiastical one, which facilitates the relationships of this University with civil institutions and the secular world.
13. The University has two residences for priests (Tiburtino and Altomonte) and one for seminarians (Sedes Sapientiae).
14. Over 70 graduates of the University have been made Bishops; one of them, Rev Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney. Two of them have been made Cardinals, in Germany and in Nigeria.
15. It is very beneficial to study in Rome. Students in the capital of Christianity have top professors, live close to the Holy Father, mix with students from over 100 countries, are deeply immersed in the millennial Catholic culture, and acquire a universal view of the Church. About 90% of all bishops in

the Church have received advanced training in Rome. Popes Pius XI, Pius XII, St John XXIII, Saint Paul VI, and Saint John Paul II studied in Rome.

## The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross Foundation

The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross Foundation was started in 1999 to support the University financially. Most of the help the University has been asking of the Foundation over the years is to fund scholarships.

Many Bishops from developing countries ask the University for economic help for seminarians or priests of their dioceses. The University cannot fund all of them and asks Foundations to help. So far, this Foundation has funded 55 scholarships for students from five continents.

For the academic year 2023-2024 the University asked the Foundation to fund five scholarships for a total of nearly \$A80,000

### Points to emphasise

**The importance of the work of the University for the Church**, as shown by the following quotations:

Pope **Saint John Paul II**, *"the formation of future priests ...is considered by the Church as one of the most demanding and important tasks for the future of the evangelisation of humanity."* (Pastores dabo vobis)

Pope **Benedict XVI**: *"Without well-prepared priests the New Evangelisation will be just a slogan."* (Castel Gandolfo 19 August 2009)

Pope **Francis**: *"Priestly formation is decisive for the mission of the church: the renewal of the faith are possible only if we have well-formed priests."* (address in a Vatican conference on priestly formation sponsored by the Congregation for the Clergy, 7 October 2017).

**St Pius X**: "As the priests are, so the faithful will be."

**St Vincent de Paul**: "We shall always discover ourselves unable to contribute to anything greater than to the making of good priests."

### How to help

- a. Asking a potential donor to donate or to leave a bequest to this Foundation, giving to her/him the envelope (or part of it) you received in the annual course.
- b. Handing out amply the Foundation leaflet "Please Support the Education of Priests in Rome" and placing copies, if the Parish Priests approves it, on a board or counter of your parish.
- c. Praying for the service the University provides to the Church.

(The account of the Foundation is in the Commonwealth Bank, BSB: 062 173, Acc. Number: 2800 8038)

Roseville, NSW, October 2023