



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

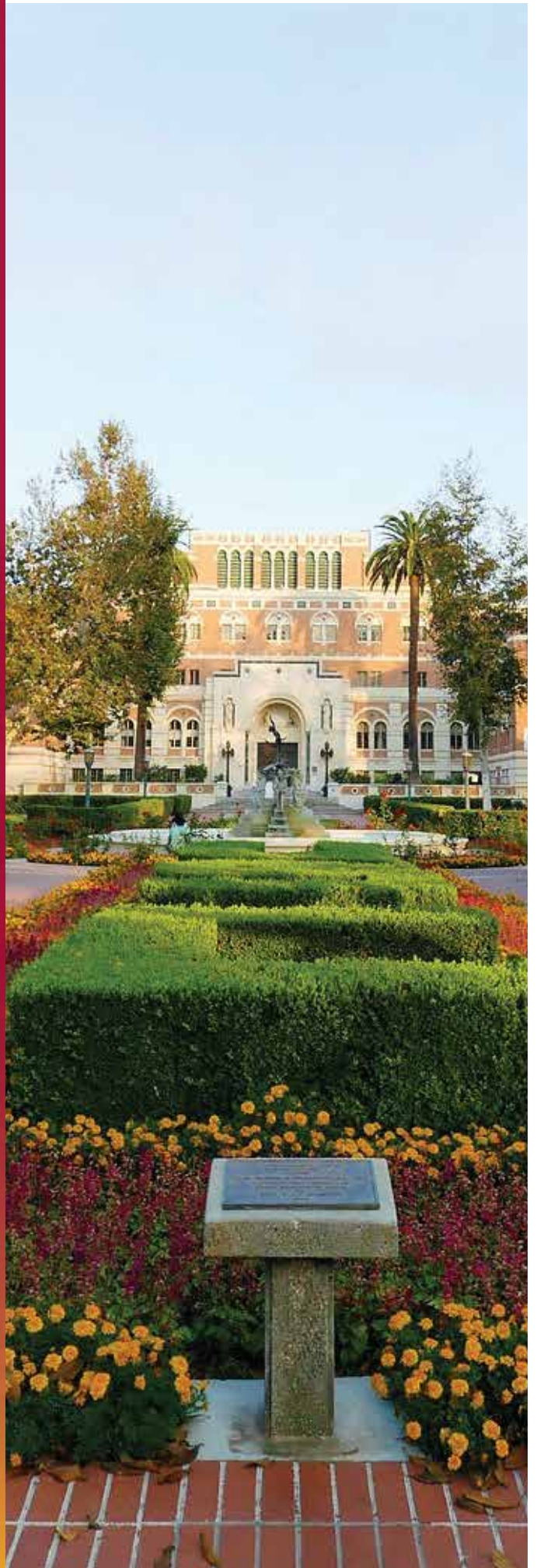




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LETTER FROM THE IACS PRESIDENT

Friends,

These days feel like an inflection point in history: A nation fractured by differences of culture, race and class. A deeply damaged democracy. A world consumed by armed conflict, political instability and economic insecurity. A mounting ecological crisis. Our lives, meanwhile, are immersed in digital technology that brings many of us prosperity, entertainment and convenience, yet also divides, isolates and destroys.

Yet here, amid these towering challenges, lies profound opportunity. Our society needs new ideas, research and writing that will inspire people to engage in meaningful dialogue and constructive action to shape a shared future. Those new ideas will come from many sources, including from our deepest traditions embraced in new ways. As our society seeks solutions to today's critical questions, we can be nourished by the beauty of Catholic liturgy, art, and music; and inspired by the wisdom of the best Catholic intellectual resources.

Our society needs the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC.

As I begin my tenure as IACS president, I'm excited for our future. We are launching ambitious initiatives focused on bringing people together to better understand the role of Catholicism in our world and the Catholic intellectual insight to bear on our crucial problems.

These initiatives include:

- Researching the role Catholicism and other religions serve in deepening democracy and strengthening democratic civil society — both in the U.S. and across the globe.
- Exploring the ethical and regulatory frameworks needed to guide new and emerging digital technology — including artificial intelligence and social media — to ensure they will have a positive impact on democracy and contemporary society.
- Engaging in high-level dialogue between Catholic bishops, ethicists and national leaders regarding nuclear deterrence and nuclear disarmament.
- Supporting new collaborative networks of scholars around the world to examine how Catholicism and other religions are confronting social conflict, and how theological insights from the global South and other marginalized settings are helping construct a more truly universal Catholicism.
- Seeking to better understand the role of beauty and aesthetics in constructing humane workplaces in which we all can thrive.

That's just the start. We're forming new partnerships, launching new programs and planning new events. We've set our goals high and our plans for the future are ambitious.

But we can't get there alone.

Richard L. Wood, Ph.D.

Our Institute relies on its supporters to carry out its mission: strengthening the Catholic intellectual tradition and its ability to contribute to today's important questions.

Your generosity has a direct, tangible impact that supports world-class scholarship and propels our Institute to carry out its important mission in a way that empowers, uplifts and drives people to create meaningful solutions.

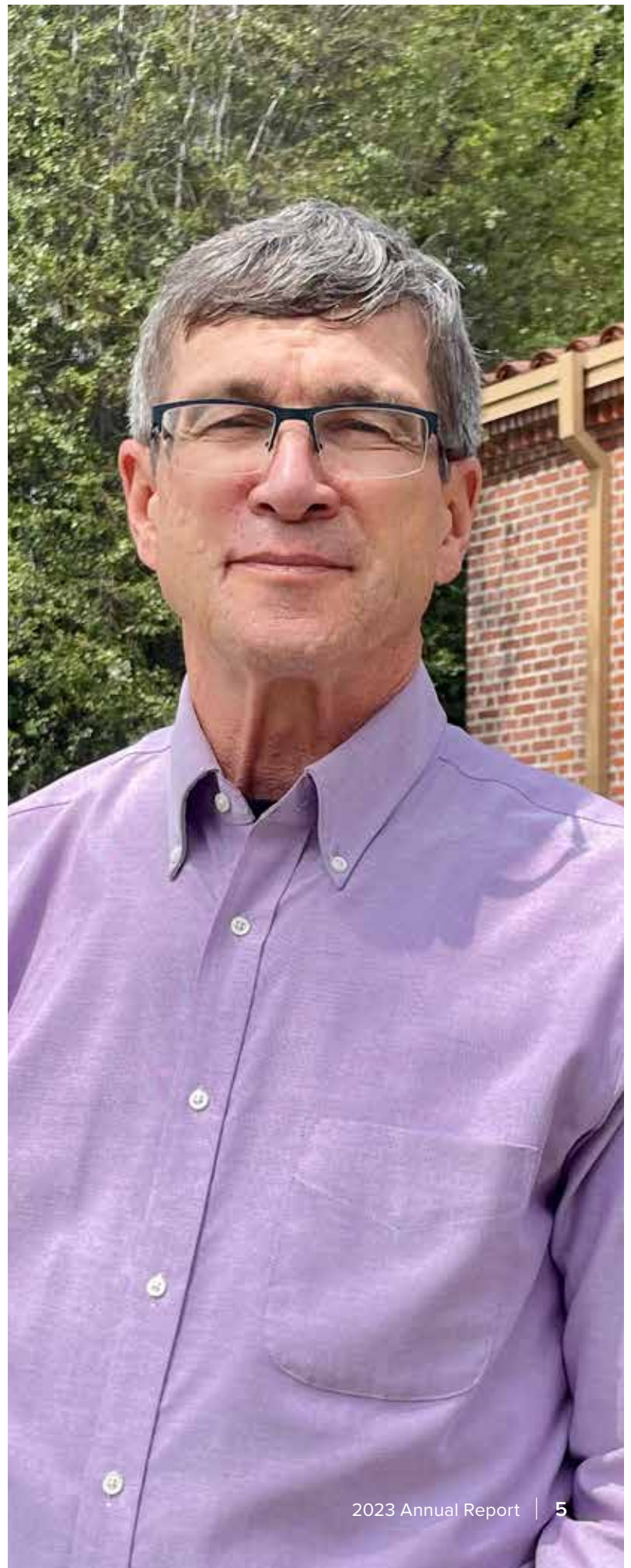
As we embark on a new chapter at IACS, we are in perfect position to address some of society's most pressing issues in a powerful and impactful way. Our search for answers will require new ideas rooted in deep traditions from people of goodwill working collaboratively to bridge divisions, uplift others and restore our faith in the promise of a better tomorrow in which all can share.

There is much work to do. We welcome your partnership on this journey.

In gratitude,



Richard L. Wood, Ph.D.
President
Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC



LETTER FROM THE IACS CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report from the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC, an independent global research center dedicated to furthering the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Located in the academic heart of a world-class secular university, our Institute serves an important role advancing the Catholic intellectual tradition by supporting high-level scholarship and hosting programs that explore the role of faith and spirituality in a world confronted with a series of profound challenges.

This past year has been one of transition, growth and exploring new opportunities.

We were honored to welcome Richard L. Wood, Ph.D., in July as he began his role as the new IACS president. Under his leadership, our Institute will launch groundbreaking initiatives and further cement its reputation as a leading Catholic research center. We are forming new ties with a broad range of scholars and top academic institutions. Dr. Wood comes to us from a career as a faculty member, faculty president, and interim provost at the University of New Mexico. He brings to IACS an extensive network of leading thinkers across a variety of disciplines.

As the University Professor of Law and Religion at Villanova University and chair of the IACS Board of Trustees, I am well aware of the important role our Institute serves in fostering Catholic thought in higher education. I'm proud of our Institute's history, along with the many contributions it has made to the fields of theology, sociology, economics, art and history, among many other disciplines.

IACS is led by a board composed of highly-qualified trustees who have a diverse set of skills, experiences and perspectives. Each of us is deeply committed to the Institute's mission.

I am pleased to report that our Institute's programs are in a strong position financially — thanks to the generosity of our donors and the responsible financial stewardship of our executive team. We are grateful for the support we've received for our exceptional programs, including *Generations in Dialogue*, *Guadalupe — At the Break of Dawn* and *Humanizing Networks: Human Fraternity in the Digital Age*. Each of these programs supports the kind of scholarship that will strengthen the Catholic witness in the world in parishes and religious congregations, Catholic universities and schools, and families and individuals as they seek to live faithfully in a divided world.

But there is much work to do — and your support is needed more than ever. Our core operating budget, separate from programmatic initiatives, has been severely challenged since the pandemic.

In the upcoming year, we will prioritize building an operating endowment, upon which all of our initiatives depend, and reaching out to new donors who share our vision. Meanwhile, we will actively work to strengthen our ties with leaders and key faculty members at USC while at the same time broadening our reach to scholars in other universities — both here in the U.S. and across the globe. For example, our *Humanizing Networks* initiative,

Michael P. Moreland, J.D., Ph.D.

although in its early stages, already gathers leading thinkers from Stanford, Oxford, Harvard, IACS, and the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. With your support, we will continue to build that kind of leading-edge thinking to address real-world problems.

As an independent 501(c)(3) organization, IACS relies on the generosity of its supporters to carry out its mission of strengthening the Catholic tradition and bringing it to bear on the key challenges facing modern society.

Your support is critical to maintaining our Institute's momentum and continuing its rich tradition of producing important scholarly work and innovative programs that inform, challenge and educate. Through your generosity, you are ensuring that the Catholic intellectual tradition remains strong, vibrant and relevant in an increasingly secular world.

To learn how you can support IACS, visit dornsife.usc.edu/iacs/support or contact IACS Executive Director Becky King Cerling, Ph.D., at **626.798.0793** and rcerling@usc.edu

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Moreland, J.D., Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees
Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC



AREAS OF ACTION

Across all walks of life, the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC promotes understanding between academic disciplines through Areas of Action that further the study and application of the long and rich Catholic intellectual tradition — a tradition that includes insights from many fields, including theology, philosophy, science, the social sciences, history, architecture, art and music.

Our world-class events, programs and initiatives aim to **educate, inform and nourish.**

EVENTS

Connecting and Collaborating



Enlarging the Space of our Tent



Caring For Our Common Home

FELLOWSHIPS

Scholarship and Research



IACS DePaul Fellow Leo Guardado, Ph.D.



IACS Hancock Fellow Brandon Vaidyanathan, Ph.D.

PROGRAMS

Informing and Educating



Humanizing Networks Symposium



Generations in Dialogue



Discussing Humanizing Networks at St. Monica Catholic Church

COMMUNITY

Engaging and Empowering



Guadalupe: Holy Art in the Streets



Collaborations in History, Art, Religion and Music

EVENTS

**Connecting and
Collaborating**



Enlarging the Space of our Tent

In February, IACS hosted Vatican journalist and papal biographer Austen Ivereigh for events at Holy Family Church in South Pasadena and on campus at the University of Southern California.

At Holy Family, Ivereigh led an in-depth discussion on the Synod on Synodality, a landmark initiative launched by Pope Francis that seeks to generate feedback from Catholics across the globe and chart the future direction of the Catholic Church.

At a time when divisions run deep within Catholicism and across society, Ivereigh said the synod serves an important role in bringing viewpoints and ideas together to unify Catholics.

“Catholics are divided into tribes, just like the whole of our society seems to be divided into tribes,” Ivereigh said. “Maybe what needs to happen is that we need to listen and hold together our disagreements and not try to resolve them. It’s not about being right or wrong, but being able to be honest about how we feel and see things, and speak from our experience.”



Caring for our Common Home

At USC, Austen Ivereigh joined IACS Executive Director Becky King Cerling, Ph.D., and Mick Dalrymple, the university’s chief sustainability officer, for “Caring for our Common Home,” an in-depth conversation on ecology, sustainability and faith.

Their discussion focused on USC’s sustainability efforts and the work to strengthen environmental stewardship among the public, along with the impact of climate change on urban communities and the role of religion in the global movement to protect the natural world.

Laudato si’ the 2015 encyclical written by Pope Francis, spotlights the impacts of climate change and other ecological problems while imploring all people to take action to protect the environment.

“Caring for our common home is an invitation to come together around environmental issues,” Dr. Cerling said during the event. “Whether we have faith or not, we all live on this planet together.”



Beauty at Work International Symposium

In June, IACS co-sponsored the Beauty at Work International Symposium in Washington, D.C., an event that featured researchers, journalists, thought leaders and business professionals from across the globe exploring the role beauty serves in shaping work and society.

The symposium was hosted by IACS Hancock Fellow Brandon Vaidyanathan, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociology at The Catholic University of America,

and was part of his groundbreaking Beauty at Work project, which examines how beauty shapes human experience.

During the symposium, researchers shared results of the world's first international empirical study of the role of beauty in science, which found that beauty matters immensely to scientists and profoundly shapes their work.

IACS hosted "Educating for Beauty and the Built Environment," a panel featuring Executive Director Becky King Cerling, Ph.D., in discussion with David Judson of Judson Studios, Christina Butler, a professor at the American College of Buildings Arts who teaches courses in historic preservation and architectural history, and Alessandro Mele, CEO of Cometa Network, a social enterprise dealing with fostering, education, social inclusion and youth employment. The panel was moderated by Lee Cerling, Ph.D., an IACS Affiliated Scholar and associate professor of Clinical Business Communication at the USC Marshall School of Business.



Beauty at Work Retreat

IACS hosted the Beauty at Work Retreat in October 2023. Led by Dr. Vaidyanathan, the retreat at Laity Lodge in the Texas hill country brought together a group of professionals, including IACS President Richard L. Wood, Ph.D., from diverse professional and faith backgrounds to reflect on the meaning and role of beauty in their work.

The retreat included time for experiencing the natural beauty of nature, silent meditation and reflection, facilitated discussions,

an art workshop, and a musical concert. For the participants, it was a revitalizing experience and a much-needed opportunity for reflection and connection.



Gustavo Gutiérrez: Between Memory and Prophecy

In a lecture hosted by IACS in November 2023 at USC, IACS DePaul Fellow Leo Guardado, Ph.D., assessed the past fifty years of Gustavo Gutiérrez' theological contributions, the global impact and reception of a commitment to doing theology from the perspective of the poor and insignificant, and the ongoing challenges liberation theology presents for a global Catholic Church.

PROGRAMS **Informing and Educating**

IACS programs and initiatives serve as the **foundation of its mission** to strengthen Catholic thought and imagination, and their ability to **contribute** to our society's most important questions.

Generations in Dialogue



The Fr. James L. Heft, SM Generations in Dialogue Program creates a multi-generational community of scholars that allows participants, following the example set by the traditions of the Catholic Church, to explore how faith informs scholarship and scholarship informs faith.

Through **Generations in Dialogue**, early-career scholars are given the opportunity to meet with, listen to and learn from some of the finest and most experienced minds in their fields. In turn, these mentors have the opportunity to pass on their accumulated wisdom and experience to a generation of scholars at the dawn of their professions.

Humanizing Networks: Human Fraternity in the Digital Age



IACS proudly launched a new initiative this year exploring the role of the Catholic intellectual tradition in guiding the ethics of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence and social media.

A collaboration between the IACS and the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University under the patronage of Cardinal Peter Turkson, chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Science and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, with the support of the Laudato si' Challenge Foundation, **Humanizing Networks** brings together technology experts, academics, public officials, spiritual leaders and business executives from across the globe.

An initial gathering was held in June at the Vatican, where participants explored the idea of connectivity and its impact on our society — along with the need for a set of ethical guidelines and practical regulatory frameworks surrounding artificial intelligence, spatial computing, social media and other digital technologies.

Rethinking Justice in Catholic Social Thought



The Institute's multi-year project **Rethinking Justice in Catholic Social Thought** brings together a diverse group of world-class scholars to explore justice and its relation to moral issues, including the environment, social media, religious freedom, gender and racism.

The project aims to develop a Catholic view of justice that is faithful to the tradition, responsive to the best of contemporary insight and capable of confronting the pressing injustices of our world.

In July, this group of scholars met at Daylesford Abbey outside of Philadelphia.

The group included: Project leader and IACS Trustee Daniel K. Finn, Ph.D.; Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator, S.J., dean of the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University; David Cloutier, professor of theology at The Catholic University of America; Lisa Sowle Cahill, professor of theology at Boston College; Alexandre Martins, assistant professor of theology at Marquette University; Christine Firer Hinze, professor of theology at Fordham University; George Kodithottam, S.J., Gujarat Vidya Deep Regional Seminary, Vadodara, India; Maria Inês de Castro Millen, professor at Centro de Ensino Superior, Juiz de Fora, Brazil; Stephen Pope, professor of theology at Boston College; Francis Fiorenza, Charles Chauncey Stillman Research Professor of Roman Catholic Theology at Harvard Divinity School; Fr. James L. Heft, S.M., IACS president emeritus; Jean Porter, John A. O'Brien Professor of Theology at University of Notre Dame; and Julie Clague, professor of Christian theology and ethics at the University of Glasgow.

Guadalupe – At the Break of Dawn



A groundbreaking collaborative project with Nancy Pineda-Madrid, Ph.D., the T. Marie Chilton Chair in Catholic Theology at Loyola Marymount University, **Guadalupe – At the Break of Dawn** brings scholars and artists from different disciplines and cultural backgrounds to discuss the historical, religious and cultural impact of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The project will result in a book from a leading academic publishing house.

True Wealth of Nations

The **True Wealth of Nations** project explores the intersection of economics, ethics and Catholic Social Thought.

Under the leadership of IACS Trustee Daniel K. Finn, Ph.D., the project arises from the conviction that implementing a morally adequate vision of the economy will generate sustainable prosperity for all.

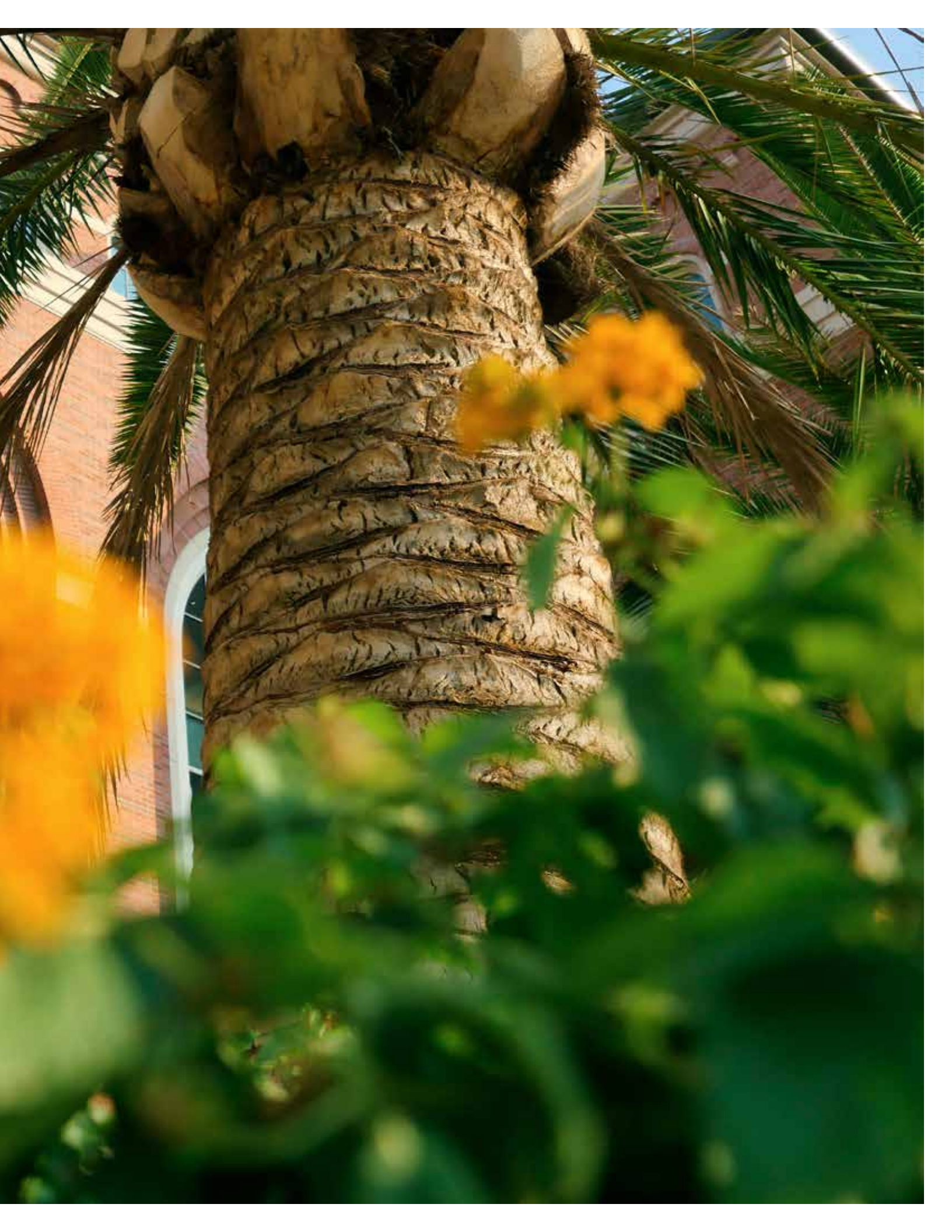
Published volumes include: *The Moral Dynamics of Economic Life: An Extension and Critique of Caritas in Veritate*; *Distant Markets, Distant Harms: Economic Complicity and Christian Ethics*, and *Empirical Foundations of the Common Good*.

The project's conference "Agency, Self-Interest, and the Moral Legitimacy of Business in Catholic Social Thought" convened in June 2018.

The resulting volume, *Business Ethics and Catholic Social Thought*, was published in 2021 by Georgetown University Press.







HUMANIZING NETWORKS:

Human Fraternity in the Digital Age

Q&A with IACS Trustee Kyle Ballarta

In collaboration with IACS, the Laudato si' Challenge Foundation and the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University, under the patronage of Cardinal Peter Turkson, chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, *Humanizing Networks: Human Fraternity in the Digital Age* is a new initiative exploring the role of the Catholic Church in guiding social ethics around the development and use of digital technologies that are transforming our society, including artificial intelligence.

The initiative included a symposium in June 2023 at the Vatican that brought together technology experts, academics, public officials, spiritual leaders and business executives from across the globe.

The initiative is a partnership between IACS and the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University and occurs under the patronage of Cardinal Peter Turkson, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Science, and is led by IACS Trustee Kyle Ballarta, a noted philanthropist and accomplished entrepreneur.

In the Q&A below, he discusses the initiative's impact on the Catholic Church and secular society.

Q IACS: Why was the initiative developed?

A **KB:** *Humanizing Networks* was inspired by Pope Francis' social encyclicals, *Laudato si'* and *Fratelli tutti*, which call us to acknowledge that we are connected to each other as a human family and commit ourselves to uplifting this human fraternity. Technology and innovation have always played a role in the way we've developed relationships — in states, institutions and cultural communities as well as in social networks and individual relations. The challenges and the ethical questions posed by technological innovation are even more significant in the digital age, where emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, are advancing at rates faster than ethical discernment.

The *Humanizing Networks* symposium was developed to convene experts and leaders from diverse fields such as technology, civil society, academia and religion to call ourselves to collective discernment and exploration of the challenges of our digital age and to promote peace in the spirit of solidarity and fraternity. Our objective is to develop seminal insights inspired by the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, and develop a process of collective discernment that can enable the broader international community to pursue a common good in the digital age.

“In an age when digital technologies can learn behaviors and mimic likenesses, there is an ethical dilemma related to what users perceive as authentic.”

Q IACS: What are your major takeaways from the symposium?

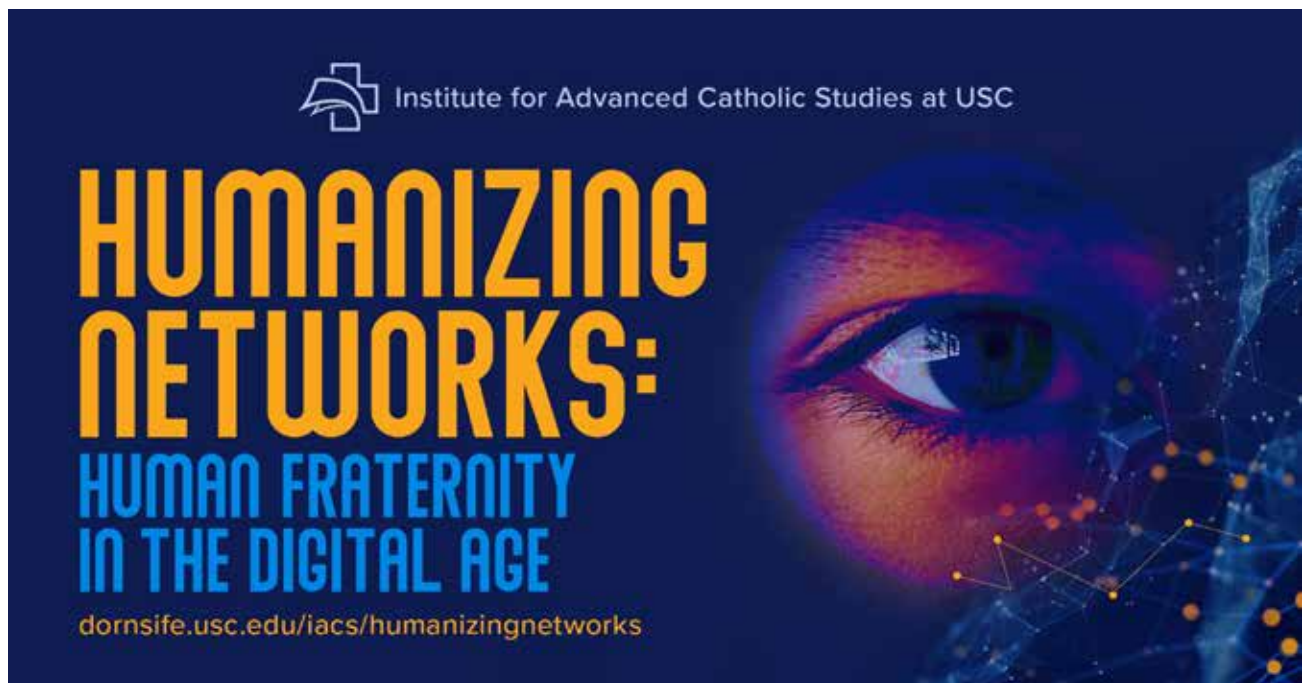
A KB: We are at the advent of generative AI and large language models (LLMs) where we are now asking ourselves whether these digital technologies are our tools, or have we become the tools of the technology. There are deep philosophical questions, such as when we believe these technologies will become sentient, but one of my biggest takeaways is that it is more pragmatic for us to approach the question of artificial intelligence from the perspective of its impact on human dignity and the common good.

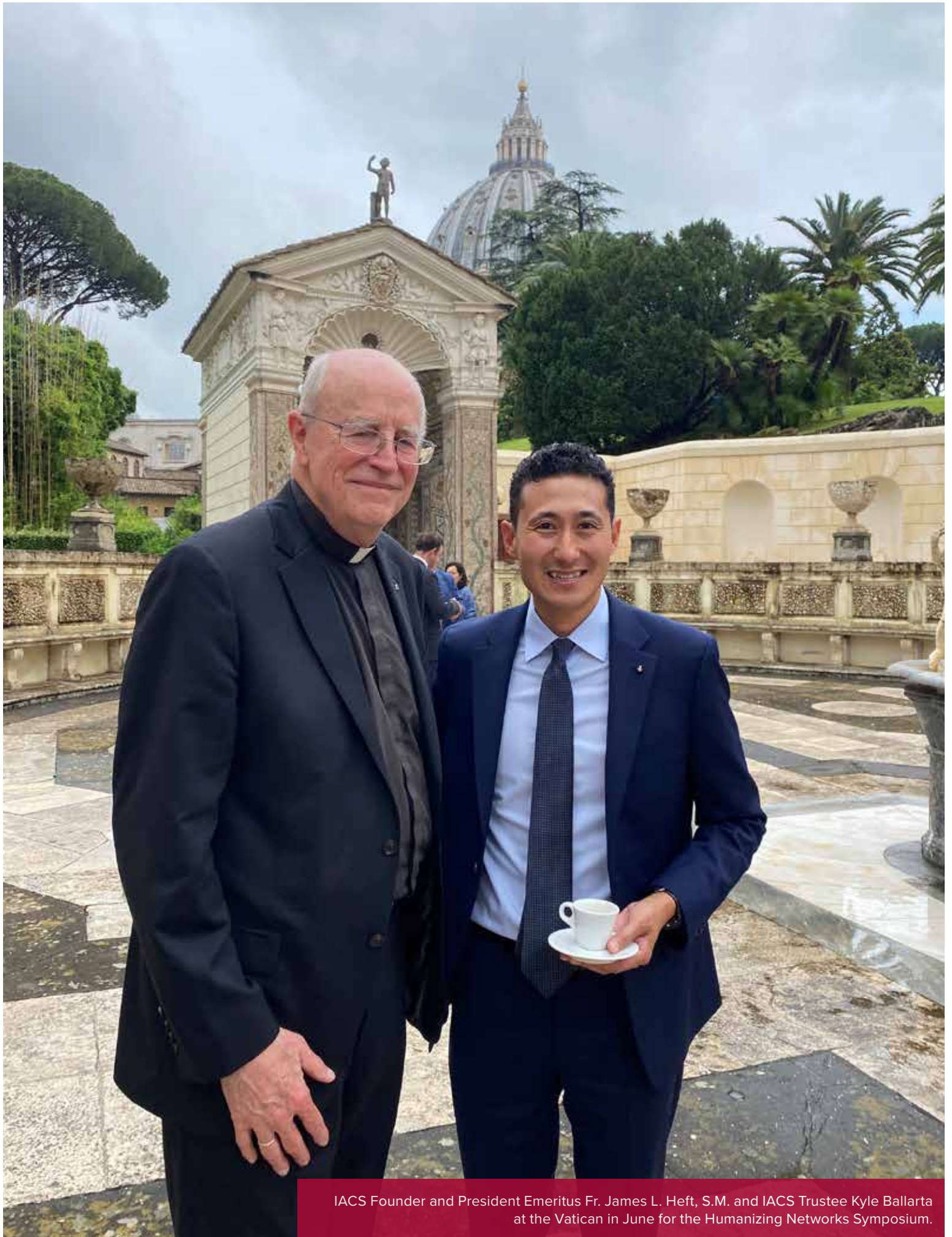
Q IACS: From your perspective, what are some of the most pressing ethical issues surrounding new and emerging digital technology?

A KB: In connection with the common good of society, one of the ethical issues is related to authenticity and truth. In an age when digital technologies can learn behaviors and mimic likenesses, there is an ethical dilemma related to what users perceive as authentic. There is growing difficulty in discerning between content that is authentic and truthful and disinformation. This has tremendous implications on the human family as it can deepen divides and increase social isolation. This pursuit of truth will be an important component to giving a positive direction to the development of these technologies. Pope John Paul II stated in *Fides et ratio* that “faith and reason are like the two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth.” This affirms the necessity of truth as a cornerstone to numerous ethical questions, and further supports the need for the Church’s involvement in these discussions to reconcile faith (religion) and reason (science and technology) in pursuit of this truth.

Q IACS: What role do the Catholic Church and Catholic Social Teaching (CST) have in digital technology ethics?

A KB: I believe the Catholic Church and its intellectual tradition can play important roles in ethical questions about technology even more so now in the digital age. The Church has promoted integral human





IACS Founder and President Emeritus Fr. James L. Heft, S.M. and IACS Trustee Kyle Ballarta at the Vatican in June for the Humanizing Networks Symposium.

development in social encyclicals ranging from Pope Paul VI's *Populorum progressio* to Pope Francis' *Laudato si'* and *Fratelli tutti*. Elevating human dignity through integral human development acknowledges the whole of the person beyond just economic development. This is an important contribution to the discussion of emerging digital technologies because it allows us to extend our questions not just to the gift of self, but also to the gift of others, and the gift of the commons. That is an important guide when discerning the ethical questions, and the practical applications, as we navigate the complex and interdependent relationships of ourselves with others and the commons. In the digital age, our commons are no longer constrained to the ecological commons alone but have now extended in the cyber and digital commons. We will have to discern the questions related to issues such as real asset infrastructure that is shared in cyberspace, data privacy and rights, as well as authenticity of information in the digital commons. The Church's pursuit of integral human development provides not only a framework to pose these ethical and moral questions for the whole of the person, but also a practical lens for navigating the complexities of an interconnected digital age.

Q IACS: There's a growing body of research detailing the direct harm social media has on young adults and children. How can the Catholic Church effectively guide the ethical discussion on technologies and social platforms that are so ubiquitous in our society?

A KB: We have to acknowledge that in the complexities of the digital age, there are more questions than there are answers. We anticipate there will be many ways the Church can help navigate the complexities in ways that contribute to a pursuit of the common good and human dignity. I believe one way the Church can provide guidance is by reintroducing the cardinal virtues into ethical discussions related to social platforms. In an age where technology is rapidly accelerating, the foundation of cardinal virtues has been pushed to the side in pursuit of maximizing transactional efficiencies. Because we can instantly deliver content, surreptitiously change content like music or streaming video, reduce relationships to statistical abundance on dating apps, engage in inflammatory discourse in cyber forums, etc. does not necessarily mean that acting upon these abilities is in the best service of ourselves, others, or our common lives. The cardinal virtues of temperance, prudence, justice, and courage are foundational pieces of the Church's teachings that can help develop a culture where our social platforms can strengthen relationships in the real-world, rather than deepen the digital divide or social isolation.

Q IACS: Now that the symposium is completed, what happens next?

A KB: With the important questions raised by *Humanizing Networks*, it has been important to not simply develop a symposium with an immediate finality upon its conclusion. It has been our constant endeavor to dedicate ourselves to a process of collective discernment that includes diverse lay and religious experts addressing this subject with scholarly rigor. Prior to the symposium in June, we held two virtual sessions with key experts, gleaned their perspectives and insights. At the symposium, we had deeper discussions in plenary sessions. Our Research Committee is now organizing a research proposal that will commit us to the next stage of this scholarly process. We have also continued expanding our Scientific Advisory Council, along with developing a new Practitioners Council. We believe that scholarly contributions to this study will help us develop seminal insights uniquely inspired by the Catholic Intellectual Tradition that will translate into practice for the Church and for the broader international community. In June 2024 we will hold a new symposium at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences at the Vatican.

FELLOWSHIPS

The IACS Hancock and DePaul Fellowships were created to support scholars conducting cutting-edge research across different academic disciplines that contributes to Catholic thinking.



Inaugural Hancock Fellow Brandon Vaidyanathan, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociology at The Catholic University of America.

As the IACS Hancock Fellow, Dr. Vaidyanathan’s research examines how culture shapes human flourishing across a variety of fields including business, religion and science. He has been published widely in peer-reviewed journals, and his research has been funded by grants from the John Templeton Foundation, Templeton Religion Trust and the Lilly Endowment.

His recent published research includes “Aesthetic Experiences and Flourishing in Science: A Four-Country Study” in *Frontiers in Psychology*, “Faith Leaders’ Views on Collaboration with Mental Health Professionals” in *Community Mental Health Journal* and “Beauty in Biology: An Empirical Assessment” in the *Journal of Biosciences*.

As the 2023 IACS Hancock Fellow, Dr. Vaidyanathan’s work includes:

- Expanding *beautyatwork.net* — a multimedia platform that includes a YouTube channel and podcast series exploring the role of beauty in our lives and in our work.
- Organizing interdisciplinary events that bring together researchers, faculty, journalists, entrepreneurs, scientists, public policy experts and thought leaders to explore the role of beauty in a variety of disciplines. These events included the Beauty at Work International Symposium, held in May in Washington, D.C.; and the Beauty at Work Retreat, held in October at the Laity Lodge in Leakey, Texas.



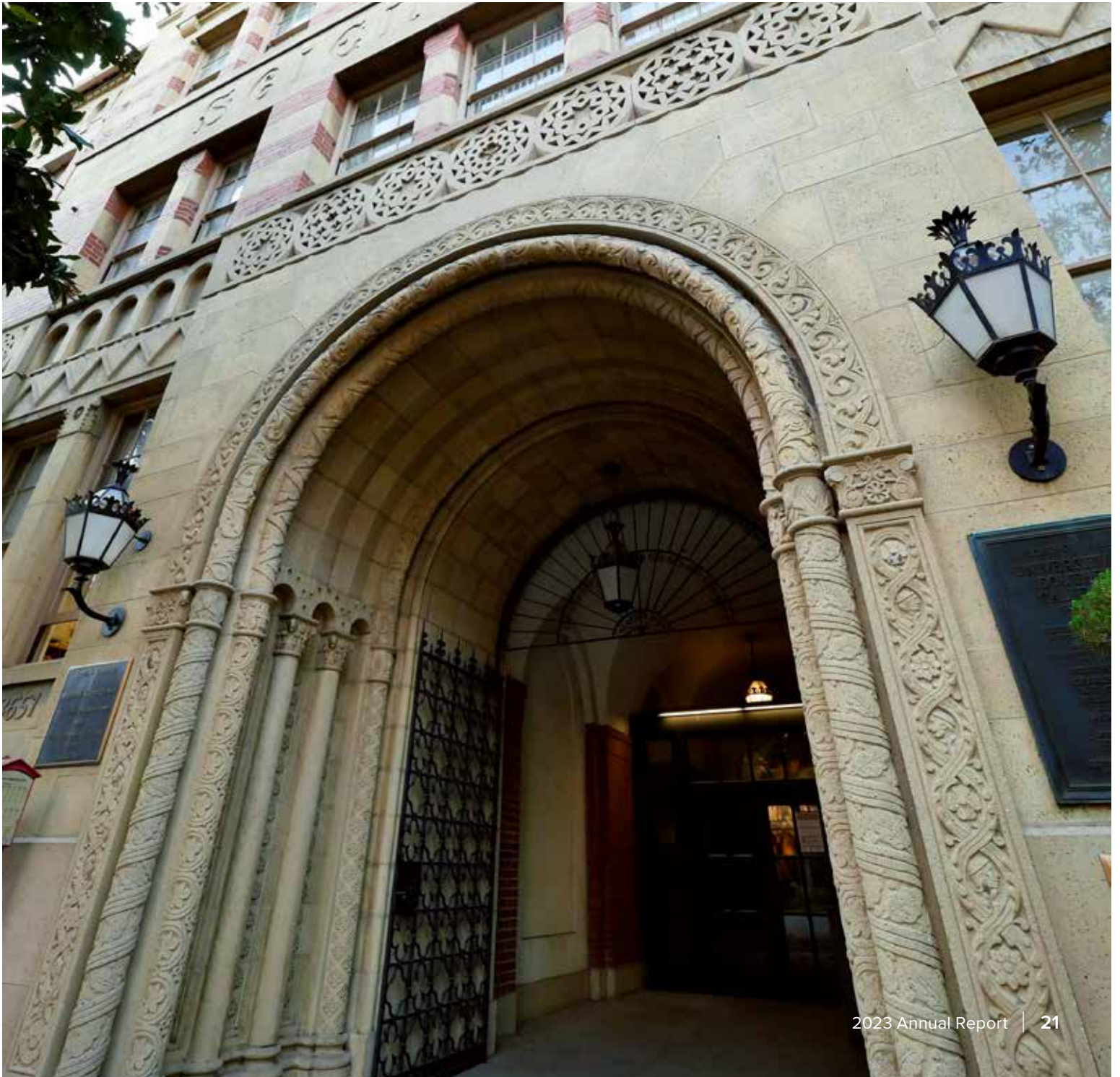
Inaugural DePaul Fellow Leo Guardado, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Theology at Fordham University.

Born in El Salvador, Dr. Guardado immigrated to the U.S. with his mother when he was a child, settling in the Highland Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. His research focuses on theological responses to the violence of forced displacement, focusing specifically on the tradition of church sanctuary. Dr. Guardado also conducts research on how migrant communities in New York City turn to indigenous healing practices and rituals to address personal and communal wounds.

His recent published research includes “Theologians in the Field: ‘Dices que eres un teólogo, ¿cuál es tu practica?’” in the *Journal of Moral Theology*.

As the 2023 IACS DePaul Fellow, Dr. Guardado's work includes:

- Collaborating with Rev. Gustavo Gutiérrez, O.P., on a final book from the noted theologian about Liberation Theology.
- Researching and writing *Church as Sanctuary: Reconstructing Refugee in an Age of Displacement*, his new book that was released in December 2023 by Orbis Books.
- Delivering "Gustavo Gutiérrez: Between Memory and Prophecy," a lecture on the USC campus where he discussed Gutiérrez' theological contributions and the ongoing challenges liberation theology presents for a global Catholic Church.



COMMUNITY

Engaging and Empowering



OUR PARTNERS

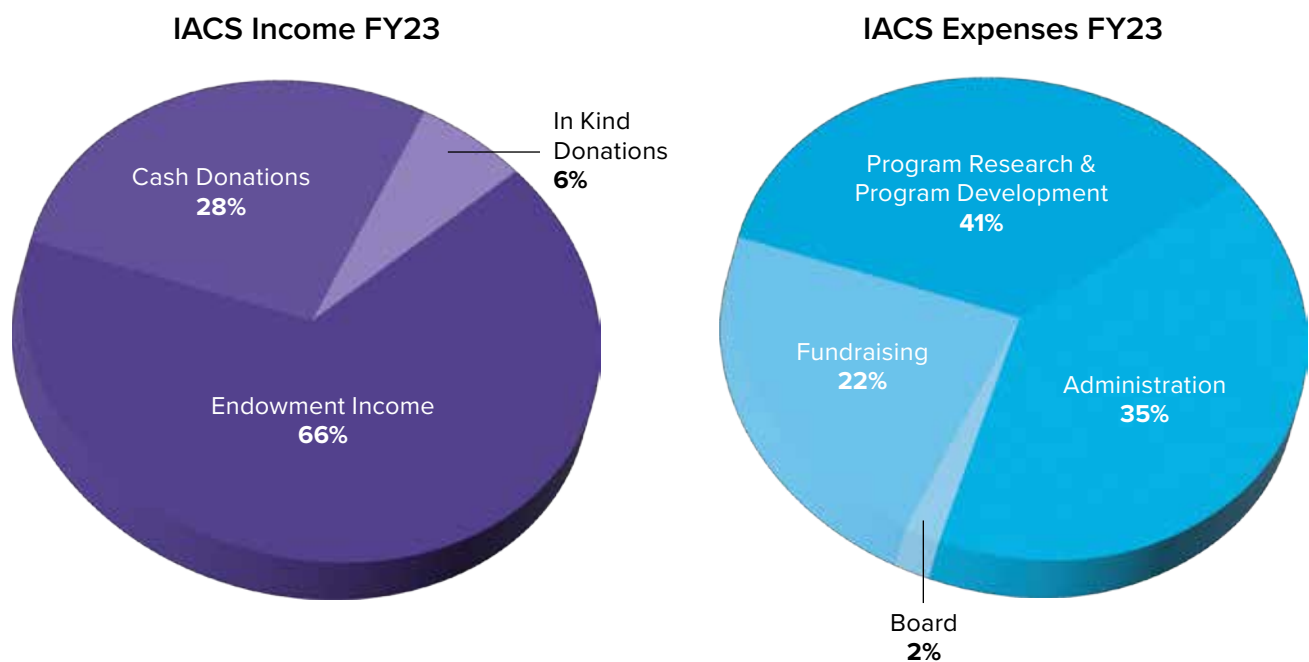


...and **more coming** at USC, around the U.S. and across the globe.

FINANCIALS

Thanks to endowment revenue, careful expense management and our **generous supporters**, IACS ended the year with a positive net income. The Institute remains well-funded programmatically.

However, in order to continue to fund current and anticipated future research, programs and conferences, the Institute **needs to increase revenue for operations**. Fundraising for both program and operations is a priority in FY24.



Your gift will make a difference and help the Institute fulfill its important mission.

Support IACS by **texting IACS to 71777** from your phone or visiting **dornsife.usc.edu/iacs/impact-of-support**

ABOUT IACS

The **Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies** is a global research center located at the USC Dana and David Dornsife College for Letters, Arts and Sciences.

IACS draws from an international pool of scholars from diverse disciplines and religious traditions to further innovative research, create dialogue and spark ideas on Catholic thought, creative imagination and lived experience. We support scholars and artists, produce books, host academic conferences and cultural events, and further the intellectual work of the Catholic Church.

Our Vision

The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC works to ensure that the rich and evolving tradition of Catholic thinking will thrive among future generations through the research and teaching of scholars and intellectuals.

Our Mission

We are committed to strengthening Catholic thought and imagination and their ability to contribute to the important questions of the day.

Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC

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iacs.usc.edu

THE IACS IMPACT

211 scholars supported with more than **\$400,000 in direct funding**

20 books with leading academic publishers

40 academic conferences and cultural events in the U.S. and Europe

Preparing a new generation of leaders, educators and scholars



“With IACS and especially the Generations in Dialogue Program coming into my life at the moment I needed but couldn’t have known about, I was ready to respond to a moment in history I had been preparing for more than twenty years.”

— Tia Noelle Pratt, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Mission Engagement and Strategic Initiatives, Villanova University, IACS Generations in Dialogue Scholar

Fostering dialogue and finding solutions



“IACS has an extensive record of finding solutions that tackle our world’s most pressing challenges.”

— Kyle Ballarta, IACS Trustee, founder and CEO, Falcon Ventures



“In my first months at IACS, I had inspiring contact with new generations of Catholics thinking about the way the faith can shape their lives and our society, including one on AI and Catholic ethics with more than 100 smart, dynamic and diverse young adults in-person and online at Saint Monica Church.”

— IACS President Richard L. Wood, Ph.D.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC

The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC is led by trustees who are leaders in the worlds of business, tech, philanthropy, arts, academia and religion. IACS trustees provide governance and oversight while working collaboratively to further our mission of advancing the exploration of Catholic thought, imagination and experience. IACS trustees also serve as ambassadors, helping communicate the Institute's initiatives, programs and goals within their networks and among the public.



Kyle Ballarta
Founder and CEO, Falcon Ventures



John Bessolo III
CPA, PFS, Vice Chair of the Board, partner, Eide Bailly LLP



Thomas J. Condon
Philanthropist



Dominic F. Doyle, Ph.D.
Associate professor of theology, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry



Rev. Michael Engh, S.J.
Chancellor, Loyola Marymount University



Daniel Finn, Ph.D.
Professor of Theology and Clemens Professor of Economics at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict



Rich Grimes
Managing principal, Tournament Wireless Strategies LLC



Rev. Bryan Hehir
Parker Gilbert Montgomery Professor of the Practice of Religion and Public Life, Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and Secretariat for Health and Social Services, Archdiocese of Boston



Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M.
President, Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities



Julie McAndrews Mork
Retired managing director, ECA Foundation, a private, corporate foundation based in Denver with a focus on youth and education.



Michael P. Moreland, J.D., Ph.D.
Chair of the Board, University Professor of Law and Religion and Director of the Eleanor H. McCullen Center for Law, Religion and Public Policy at Villanova University



Patrick Pascal
President and chief executive officer, Chelsea Management Co.



Bro. Bernard Ploeger, Ph.D.
Assistant provincial for the Marianist Province of the United States



Maureen Shea
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