

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



HONORING:

Emil Frei & Associates

Liturgical Design Studio
St. Louis, Missouri

AND

Fr. Paul Murray, OP

Writer, Poet, Professor
Rome, Italy

Thursday, November 13, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Hilton St. Louis Frontenac

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The Great Preacher Award

WHAT:

Established in 1995, the Great Preacher Award is presented to persons who embody the “Holy Preaching” which Dominicans understand as a comprehensive and dynamic response to God’s presence in our lives and in the world. We honor preachers who proclaim, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the coming and presence of the reign of God.

WHY:

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Aquinas Scholarship Fund which enables Aquinas Institute to offer financial aid to future preachers, teachers, and Church leaders, many of whom would be otherwise unable to pursue theological studies.

WHEN:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025

Cocktails and Dinner
and the Presentation of the Great Preacher Award

WHERE:

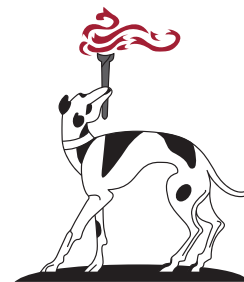
The event will be held at Hilton St. Louis Frontenac
1335 S Lindbergh Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63131

Why a Dog with a Torch in his Mouth?

A LITTLE DOMINICAN HAGIOGRAPHY

A dog with a burning torch in his mouth has long been associated with St. Dominic, the founder of the Order of Preachers. The story linking St. Dominic to a dog with a burning torch was first told in *The Golden Legend* (1260), a popular and widely read medieval text on the lives of the saints. In his account of the life of St. Dominic, Dominican friar Jacobus de Voragine tells us that Juana of Aza, the mother of St. Dominic, had a dream about her unborn child. In her dream, Juana “carried in her womb a little dog which held a lighted torch in his mouth, and when the dog came forth from her womb, he set fire to the world.” In time, this dream would come to be interpreted as a sign of St. Dominic’s call to set the world on fire preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yet another interpretation arose with a play on words between the Latin word for Dominican friar, *Dominicanus* and *domini canis*, translated in Latin as “dog of the Lord,” hence, the Dominicans are sometimes referred to as “dogs or hounds of the Lord barking out the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of souls.” Throughout the 800-years history of the Order of Preachers, a dog, often with black and white markings, like the black and white habit of the friars, can be seen holding a burning torch in his mouth, a clever and even humorous symbol of St. Dominic and his friars.



The Honorees

Emil Frei & Associates

Liturgical Design Studio
St. Louis, Missouri

For more than 125 years, Emil Frei, Inc. has been shaping the prayerful spaces of churches across the United States and beyond through stained glass, mosaics, and liturgical design. Founded in 1898 by Bavarian immigrant Emil Frei, Sr., the studio began in St. Louis and quickly earned a reputation for excellence, winning international recognition for its Munich-style stained glass at the 1904 World's Fair. From the beginning, Frei windows were known for their luminous color, extraordinary detail, and theological depth—works of art that lifted the eyes and hearts of worshippers toward God.



The firm's influence expanded in the 1920s when Emil Frei, Sr. and his collaborators undertook the monumental mosaics of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, now the largest collection of mosaics under one roof in the world. Under his son, Emil Frei, Jr., the studio pioneered modern liturgical art, introducing bold symbolism, rich jewel tones, and innovative designs that moved beyond what critics decried as a poor imitation of the past. Their work at St. Francis Xavier College Church remains one of the most celebrated examples of 20th-century stained glass in America.

Across generations, Frei artists—among them Bob Harmon, Robert Frei, Francis Deck, Milton Frenzel, Charles Eames, Will Shickel, Rodney Winfield, Russell Krauss, Br. Martin Erspamer, O.S.B., and many others—brought their own distinctive voices, ensuring that each parish received windows uniquely suited to its community and theology. From Munich pictorial realism to contemporary abstraction, the studio has embodied both fidelity to tradition and openness to innovation.

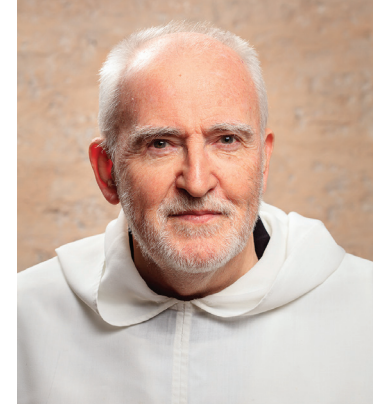
Now led by fifth-generation president Aaron Frei, the firm continues to serve the Church with a dedicated team of artists, glaziers, designers, and theological consultants, including four members of the Frei family. Their work includes not only new commissions but also the careful restoration and preservation of historic treasures, blending craftsmanship with technical expertise. Recent years have seen a renewed focus on mosaics and comprehensive liturgical design, reflecting the studio's holistic vision of worship spaces that inspire beauty, prayer, and encounter with the divine.

Through wars, cultural shifts, and ecclesial renewal, Emil Frei & Associates has remained steadfast in its mission: to create sacred art that endures, uplifts, and proclaims the Gospel in light and color.

Fr. Paul Murray, OP

Writer, Poet, Professor
Rome, Italy

Paul Murray, OP is an Irish Dominican, professor emeritus of the Angelicum University. He was born at Newcastle, Co. Down, in the North of Ireland and joined the Dominican Order in 1966. After studies in Dublin and Rome, he completed in 1984 a doctorate thesis T.S. Eliot and Mysticism, at University College Dublin. In 1994 he was invited to teach at the Angelicum and was appointed Spiritual Director at the *Convitto Internazionale San Tommaso*.



In 2000-2001, Father Murray occupied the Paluch Chair of Theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary, Chicago. From the period 2001 to 2005 he was Vice Rector of the Angelicum University, and in 2007 he was elected President of the Institute of Spirituality at the same university and re-elected in 2009. In 2010 he was invited to give a lecture on Christian Contemplation at The House of Lords, London. On 17 January 2012 he was conferred with the STM (Master in Sacred Theology) by the Dominican Order. He has published over 20 books, including *Aquinas at Prayer: The Bible, Mysticism, and Poetry (2013)* and *God's Spies: Michelangelo, Shakespeare and Other Poets of Vision*.

Past Recipients

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|------|--|
| 1995 | Reverend James Cormack, C.M. | 2010 | Francis Cardinal George, OMI † |
| 1996 | Joseph Cardinal Bernardin † | 2011 | Reverend Mr. Dennis Chitwood |
| 1997 | Monsignor James T. Telthorst † | 2012 | Most Reverend J. Terry Steib, SVD |
| 1998 | Reverend John F. Kavanaugh, SJ † | 2013 | Monsignor Michael E. Turek, VF |
| 1999 | Most Reverend Paul A. Zipfel † | 2014 | Bishop Emeritus Robert J. Shaheen † |
| 2000 | Reverend Gary Braun | 2015 | Most Reverend Robert Barron |
| 2001 | Sister Joan Delaplane, OP | 2016 | Monsignor William J. Hitpas and Reverend John Rogers Vien |
| 2002 | Wilton Cardinal Gregory | 2017 | Reverend Edward Stanger and Reverend Jeffrey H. Goeckner |
| 2003 | Reverend Donald R. Wester | 2018 | Monsignor John Costello and Reverend Matthew O'Toole |
| 2004 | Reverend Joseph Kempf | 2019 | Very Reverend Charles E. Bouchard, OP and Reverend Craig Holway |
| 2005 | Monsignor William A. Drennan † | 2020 | Reverend Harry Byrne, OP † and Reverend Jude Siciliano, OP |
| 2006 | Reverend Dale Wunderlich | 2021 | Sister Mary Catherine Hilkert, OP and Reverend Ralph Siefert, SM † |
| 2007 | Reverend James Krings † | 2022 | Monsignor James Ramacciotti and Reverend Edward Foley, OFM Cap |
| 2008 | Monsignor Patrick Hambrough | 2023 | Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski and Reverend Paul Whittington, OP |
| 2009 | Monsignor Vincent Bommarito | 2024 | Very Reverend Chris Martin, VE, DMin and St. Margaret of Scotland Music Ministry |

Great Preacher Award Sponsorship Opportunities

Friends of Thomas Aquinas Presenting Sponsor – \$25,000

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FRIENDS OF DOMINIC – \$10,000

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TABLE SPONSORSHIP – \$2,500

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INDIVIDUAL TICKETS – \$200



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PROGRAM ADVERTISING:

ARTWORK SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 14TH

Email all materials to Erin Hammond at hammond@ai.edu

For ad design services, email content no later than October 10th

For Congratulations Wall messages, email copy no later than October 14th

Program Trim Size: 7" x 9"

Ad Size	Width	Height	Cost
Full Page	7" x	9"	\$500
Half Page (vertical)	3.125" x	8.5"	\$300
Half Page (horizontal)	6.5" x	4.125"	\$300
Quarter Page	3.125" x	4.125"	\$150
Congratulations Wall Message (<i>thirty word limit</i>)			\$50

Full Page Bleed Ads: Extend bleed .125" past trim on all sides. Keep all live matter .25" away from trim edges.

Digital Specifications: High resolution, press-optimized PDF files with crop marks required. Fonts must be embedded. Convert all colors to CMYK, minimum 300 dpi.

Ad Design Service: Email copy, logo and/or photos. Logos should be provided in vector format or high resolution jpg. Logos and images should CMYK and a minimum of 300 dpi.

SPONSOR ADVERTISING:

FRIENDS OF THOMAS AQUINAS

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Includes full page color ad and other benefits listed on page 5.

FRIENDS OF DOMINIC – \$10,000

Includes full page color ad and other benefits listed on page 5.

FRIENDS OF CATHERINE OF SIENA – \$5,000

Includes half page color ad and other benefits listed on page 5.

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THE AQUINAS WAY

Founded in 1925, Aquinas Institute of Theology is a Catholic graduate school of theology. Sponsored by the Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great, we are firmly rooted in the rich intellectual tradition of the 800-year old Order of Preachers.

At the heart of all our programs is the unique Dominican approach to education that holds as its primary purpose a search for Veritas, the One who is Truth himself, our Lord Jesus, whom we seek to encounter in all our programs, coursework and campus life.

Aquinas Institute is a Center for Institutional Studies, designated by the Order of Preachers to form Dominican friars in order to carry out its mission of preaching the gospel for the salvation of every person. We serve two distinct, complementary constituencies: Dominican student brothers preparing for ordination to the priesthood and pastoral ministry, as well as priests, religious sisters, and lay men and women preparing for careers in service to the Christian community or advanced academic studies. We welcome diversity and those of other faith traditions. We offer multiple graduate degrees and certificate programs in a variety of formats to accommodate the needs of our students, and we are known for our signature programs in Health Care Mission and our Doctor of Ministry in Preaching.

Our life at Aquinas Institute is organized around what Dominicans call the “Holy Preaching.” We place our theological study at the service of the ministry of preaching, which is understood in a very broad sense, not as a discrete experience confined to a few minutes from the pulpit, but rather as an expression of our shared life where as a community, we seek to make a comprehensive and dynamic response to God’s presence in our lives and in the world. Aquinas is a close-knit community, where professors and students learn from one another and we seek God, engage in dialogue, and share life together; all leading towards our primary goal of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and in deed.

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