



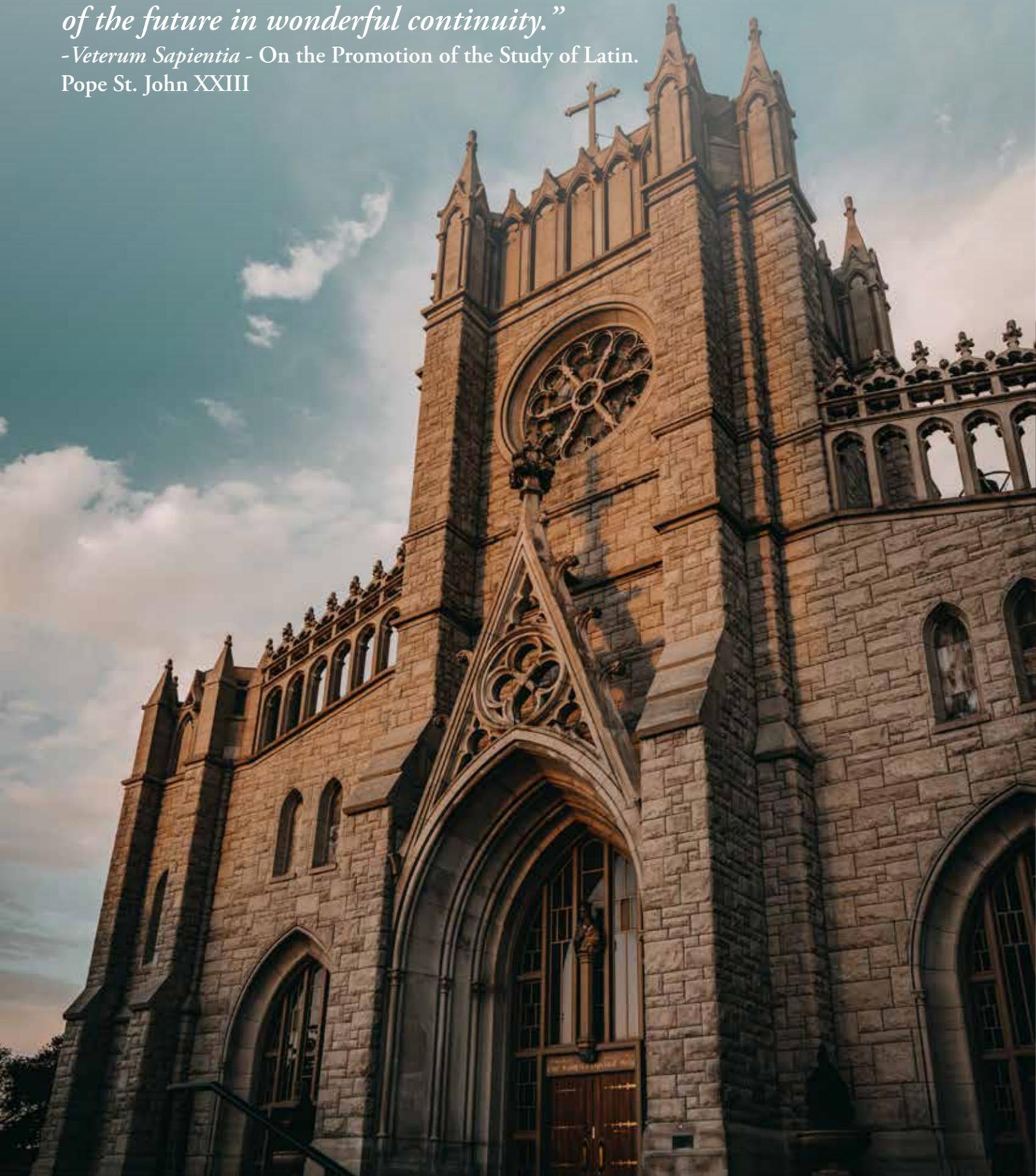
VETERUM
SAPIENTIA
INSTITUTUM

Our case
for *support*



“[Latin] is ... a most effective bond, binding the Church of today with that of the past and of the future in wonderful continuity.”

-Veterum Sapientia - On the Promotion of the Study of Latin.
Pope St. John XXIII

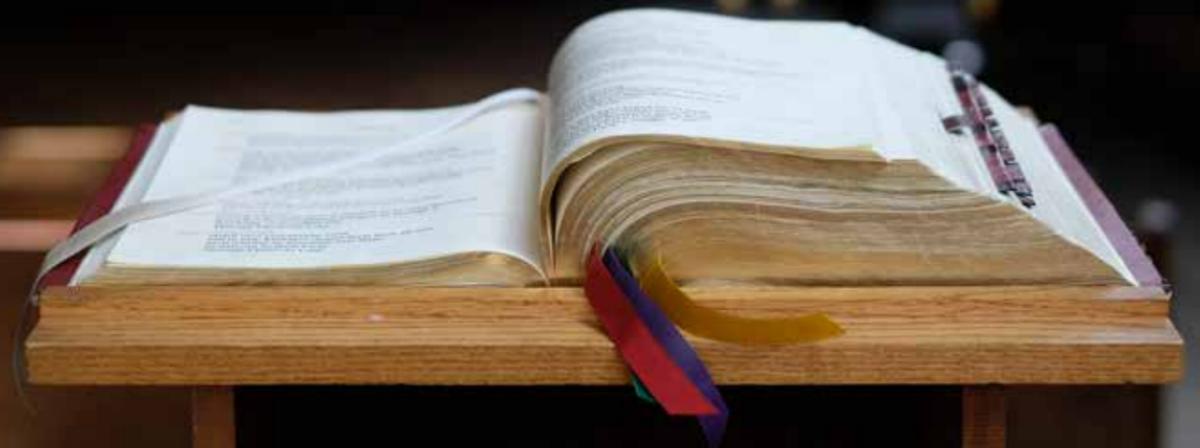


Renewal founded on *wisdom*.

VSI works to revitalize the study of living Latin and Greek, following the principles laid down by Pope St. John XXIII in the Apostolic Constitution *Veterum Sapientia*.

We have undertaken this work because we share the vision which the pope outlines in this document: the Latin and Greek writings of both pagan and Christian authors contain timeless wisdom which is valuable in every age.

We are the only institution in the world that has dared to implement the late pope's bold vision for renewal of Catholic culture through Latin, and we want to make these treasures available to everyone.



At Veterum Sapientia Institute, we honor the wisdom of the ancients and unlock the doors to the vast patrimony of the Faith.

We provide Vatican-accredited certificate and diploma programs, along with online courses and in-person workshops, to enrich the learner's understanding of Latin, Greek, and the Catholic Faith.



A *message* from our CEO.

Veterum Sapientia Institute (VSI) was born out of the conviction that the renewal of Catholic culture must begin with immersion in our Catholic tradition. Owing largely to a barrier of language, we have been cut off from the treasures of wisdom that tradition contains. This makes the study of Latin among Catholics - especially our clergy - an essential task for renewal in the life of the Church. Pope St. John XXIII's Apostolic Constitution, *Veterum Sapientia*, left us a clear mandate in 1962: Latin must be brought to a new life that endures through the 21st century and beyond.

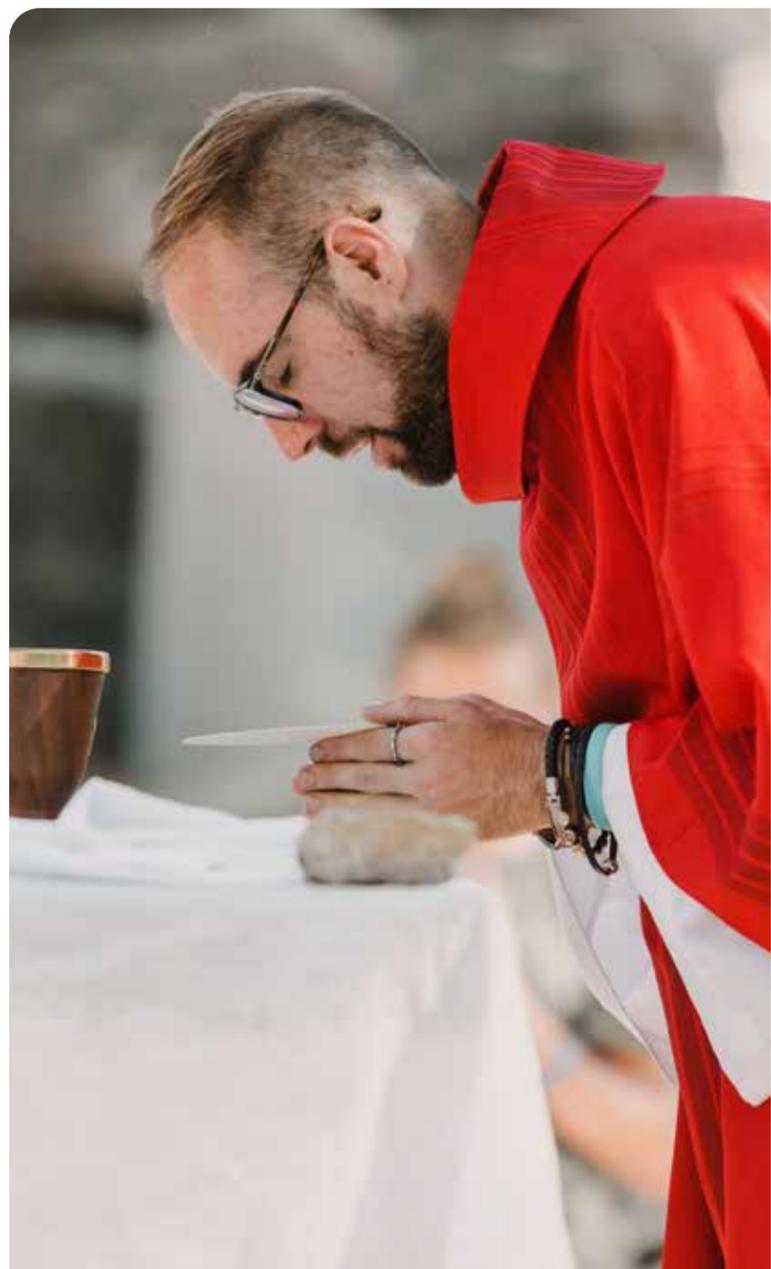
VSI stands as a global leader in living Latin education within the context of Catholic culture. Our founders and our faculty represent the very best of a received tradition which treats Latin as a living means of communicating ideas. Our proven approach fosters fluent reading and speaking in individuals, helping them to think with the mind of the Church in the language of their Catholic heritage.



Throughout history, Catholics have led the way in shaping thought and driving intellectual and cultural renewal. We invite you to join us in this mission: together, we can empower the faithful – clergy and lay alike – to impact profoundly the cultural landscape of both the Church and the world.

In cordibus Iesu et Mariae,

Christopher Owens, STM
Chief Executive Officer



“And We also, impelled by the weightiest of reasons — the same as those which prompted Our Predecessors and provincial synods — are fully determined to restore this language to its position of honor, and to do all. We can to promote its study and use.”

-Veterum Sapientia, Pope St. John XXIII

What we do.

The urgency is real—modern Catholics are losing contact with the language that helps them “to think with the Church” (*sentire cum ecclesia*).

We believe that it is our cultural and spiritual birthright as Catholics to be formed in the Church's living languages: Latin and Greek.



Our mission

Veterum Sapientia Institute exists to **form Catholics in their cultural and spiritual birthright** by teaching living Latin and Greek language. We are committed to becoming the premier institute for this purpose, and to setting the standard for pedagogy in Latin and Greek.



Our vision

To **ignite passion for the Latin and Greek languages** and for the Church's history in individuals worldwide, facilitating a richer understanding of our Catholic heritage. When it is fully realized, VSI's approach will underpin Catholic language learning in seminaries and school communities around the world.

Our approach

Learning to **speak conversationally** using words that we encounter on a daily (or hourly) basis lays the foundation for grammar and mechanics upon which advanced fluency is built.

Since Latin is no longer native to any population, our approach involves **re-creating cultural immersion** in our class setting. We combine natural living pedagogy with the very best of modern language pedagogies, and apply it to ancient language, **all through a Catholic lens**.



Ecclesiastical *Latin* and Biblical *Greek* are for everyone.

Clergy

Originally founded to support clergy and religious, VSI is committed to helping them learn the universal language of the Church. Responding to the Second Vatican Council's call to return to the sources of Christian revelation for theological, spiritual, and pastoral renewal, we equip clergy to receive their patrimony as faithful sons of the Church.

Educators

We form educators who not only can read and write in Latin, but who have the ability to think and speak like few other teachers as a result of a deep immersion in the culture.

Laity

Lay people increasingly want to study and know the language which is their birthright as Catholics. Our online courses facilitate this desire and help them gain the mastery they are looking for.

Our courses of *study*.

Certificate of Basic Ecclesiastical Latin Language Proficiency

This is the foundation. All of our programs start here.

Whether learners have taken some Latin before, or none at all, this ten-credit, five semester program gets them speaking, reading, and writing Latin in the ecclesiastical pronunciation. Because our program is founded on mastery-at-level, students can place out of as many of these courses as they are able.

This program includes the following semesters, all completely online:

- ▶ Three Semesters of Fundamentals
- ▶ One Semester of Composition
- ▶ One Semester of Advanced Latin

Afterward, students can continue building on their skills with a teaching license, or a specialization in Classics, Canon Law, Philosophy, Theology, or Liturgy.



Diploma

Pontifical Diploma in Ecclesiastical Latin (*Diplóma Latinitátis Ecclesiásticæ*)

Learners may complete our full course of study and earn the Pontifical DLE by taking a variety of courses across our various areas of specialization in order to obtain the necessary 32 credits.

Unlike any other Latin program in the world, the DLE is co-sponsored by the Pontifical Institute for Higher Latin (PIAL), and follows the program of studies outlined by Pope St. John XXIII in the document *Veterum Sapientia*.

Our diploma is the only Vatican-accredited online course of study in Ecclesiastical Latin in existence.

Specializations

After basic fluency in Ecclesiastical Latin, students can enter into the core of VSI's offerings. Each of our specializations can be pursued as stand-alone continuing education (CE) credentials in support of personal or professional interests, or else subordinated to an advanced course of study resulting in a teaching license or Pontifical Diploma.

Alternatively, they can build their own tracks and study what they enjoy. This allows them to build on previous success and earn the CE credentials that express their interests.

- ▶ Pedagogy
- ▶ Biblical Theology
- ▶ Systematic Theology
- ▶ Moral Theology
- ▶ Canon Law
- ▶ Liturgy



License

Teaching License in Ecclesiastical Latin

Launching summer 2024, learners can earn licensure to teach Ecclesiastical Latin from the only Ecclesiastical Latin licensing authority in the United States.

In only 18 months after completion of the Certificate of Basic Ecclesiastical Latin Proficiency (or by placing out of it), learners can receive a unique-in-its-kind teaching credential. Our *magistri* are trained not only in the best active pedagogy for classical language, but also are taught how to integrate the very best of modern language learning into their curriculum and instruction. And all of this, in an integrated, Catholic manner.

This accelerated program starts in the first year with a summer workshop to help solidify learners' spoken Latin, and continues over two semesters. Then, the second summer begins with student-teaching for the summer workshop, with observations by a mentor.

Finally, it culminates in a mentor-coached capstone project to complete a full 29 credits for this license.

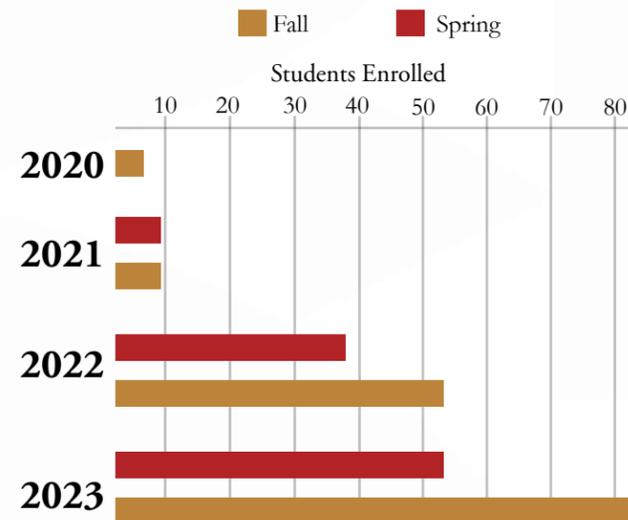


Affordable Access

Veterum Sapientia Institute is committed to making our tuition rates as affordable as possible. Donations provide one third of the actual cost of offering our programs to our students.

Explosive *Growth*

Our enrollment has grown exponentially in 3 years.



This represents a 500% increase!

Expanding Reach

Summer workshops continue to grow and remain a foundational aspect of our work. 2023 saw 30+ priests/seminarians and 25 in the lay seminar. This past year alone, we've taught 74 priests, religious, or seminarians.

Vatican Approval

Our Vatican-accredited Diploma in Ecclesiastical Latin is the only credential of its kind in the world.

"[...] may the Institute [...] be the vehicle by which the ancient and uninterrupted use of Latin be maintained and, where necessary, restored."
 -Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke
 Prefect Emeritus of the Apostolic Signatura

International Community

With an international faculty and a rising number of international students, we are fostering a global community of learners who appreciate the richness of Latin and Greek languages and the Church's history.

Exclusive Provider

Veterum Sapientia Institute now exclusively provides Latin Language education to four seminaries across three countries (two in the USA, one in Canada, and one in Germany). Our expanding role as the primary provider underscores our dedication to shaping Catholic language education on a broader scale.



Our history.



Father Reginald Foster, OCD

Fr. Reginald Foster blazed a trail of Latin revival. Many consider him to have single-handedly saved Latin as a spoken language. VSI would not exist without his insight, methods, and infectious joy.

For decades, Fr. Foster taught free summer Latin classes in Rome to anyone who wanted to attend. These summer seminars were complete with daily field trips to historical sites. Homework wasn't homework, but rather *ludi domestici*, or "games to play at home."

The founders of VSI studied under Fr. Foster. His love for Latin and the joyful, compelling way he taught it inspires VSI to this day.

Our Years of Growth

2013

VSI is founded with the first week-long Summer Workshop for Priests and Seminarians, taught by Fr. Reginald Foster.

2014-2019

Building upon the success of the first workshop, VSI hosted annual workshops, with steady increases in attendance and impact.

2020

COVID-19 made virtual learning commonplace. VSI seized the opportunity to jump from summer-only sessions to year-round learning modules.

2021

Received Accreditation from the Vatican for Diploma in Ecclesiastical Latin.

2023

Enrollment at 92 students; VSI is Exclusive provider of Latin Language for 4 seminaries in 3 countries.

Our Future

2024-2026

Realize our vision for sustainable programming and set the standard for integrated Catholic living Latin learning. Bring on a full-time CEO.

Our founders.

Father Jason Barone Co-Founder, Chaplain

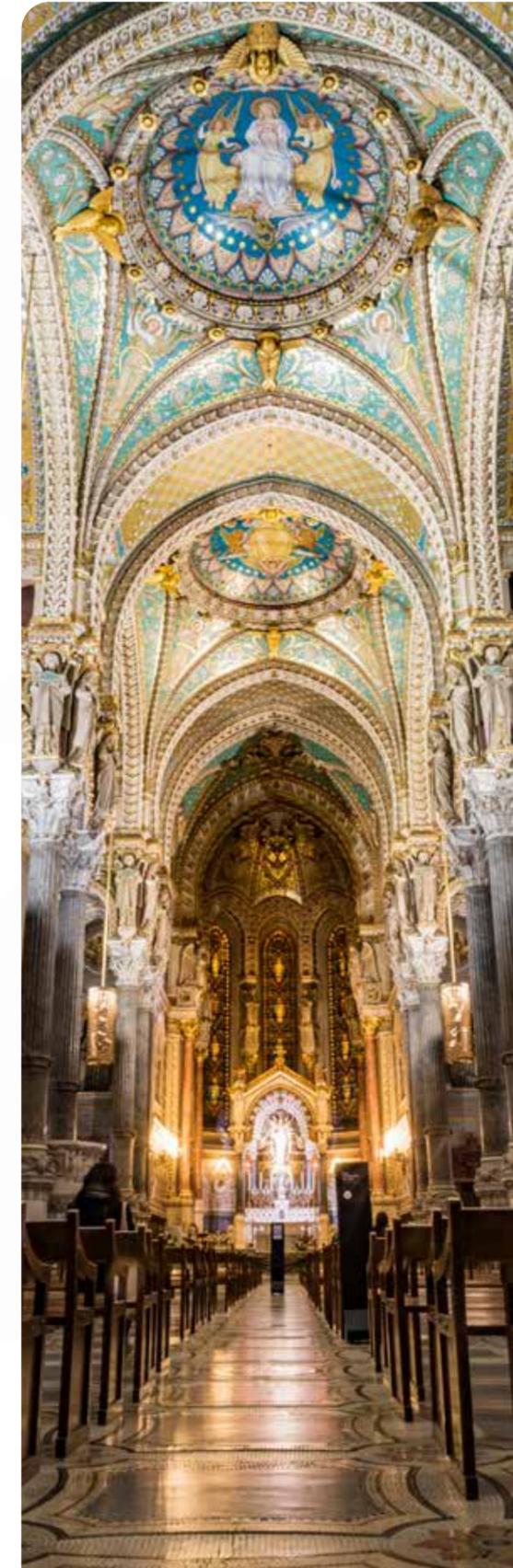
Fr. Barone is a priest for the Diocese of Charlotte and currently serving in parochial ministry in Sapphire and Highlands, NC. After completing seminary studies at Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, MD, he was ordained to the sacred priesthood in June of 2012. In his eleven years of priestly ministry, he served in parishes, schools, the vocations office, and at St. Joseph's College Seminary. In 2013, he began organizing the annual Veterum Sapientia conference. He is a co-founder of the Veterum Sapientia Institute.

Dr. Eric Hewett, PhD Co-Founder, Chairman of the Board

Dr. Hewett studied linguistics, ancient and modern languages in Texas and various European countries before learning to speak Latin with Fr. Reginald Foster in Rome. He completed a License in Patristic Sciences at the Augustinianum Pontifical Patristics Institute and a joint doctorate in medieval philosophy (University of Salerno) and Patristic Sciences (Augustinianum). In 2010 he co-founded the Paideia Institute for Humanistic Study, which he served as Executive Director through January 2020. In 2015 he received the President's Award for service to the field of Classics from the Society for Classical Studies. He now teaches Latin and Greek at the seminary of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter (FSSP) in Bavaria, Germany and is delighted to volunteer as first President of the Veterum Sapientia Institute.

Dr. Nancy Llewellyn, PhD Co-Founder, Faculty

Magistra Annula is Associate Professor of Latin at Belmont Abbey College, coming to North Carolina after a decade at Wyoming Catholic College. She teaches Latin at the Charlotte Diocese's new St. Joseph College Seminary in addition to her work at Belmont. Earlier in her career she studied with Fr. Reginald Foster and at the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome. She holds her PhD (2006) from UCLA.



“[Latin] is a most effective training for the pliant minds of youth. It exercises, matures and perfects the principal faculties of mind and spirit. It sharpens the wits and gives keenness of judgment. It helps the young mind to grasp things accurately and develop a true sense of values.”

-Veterum Sapientia, Pope St. John XXIII



Our *strategic* vision (2024-2026).

Sustainable Programming

In order to plan for the incremental growth of VSI from semester to semester, we'll focus on making our current programming sustainable for the long term. Generous supporters have proven that interest in living Latin is increasing, and sustainability requires us to solidify our course offerings and create supplemental materials with our approach in mind. As we do this, we set up a pipeline of students who are changing the world.

Setting the Standard

Our vision includes becoming the organization that sets the standard for an integrated Catholic, living Latin program in seminaries, Catholic schools, and around the world. We are poised to become the premier organization for Latin learning in this context.

Our four pillars of *Initiatives*.



Completion of the following four initiatives are the pillars for achieving our vision of *Sustainable Programming* and *Setting the Standard*.

1. Strengthen our foundation and reach

- Grow our institutional partnerships both for program development and student recruitment
- Be recognized as thought leaders in the space by attending conferences and other academic workshops, colloquia, etc.
- Build out a robust advancement program of donor cultivation and stewardship
- Expand payroll, SEO, email marketing, and student recruitment

Funding to Raise: \$750k
(\$250k per year for 3 years)

2. Continue developing our flagship diploma program towards a more competency-based approach with standards founded on our mastery-at-level concept

- Scale our current offerings by developing asynchronous learning materials without loss of personal connection to language learning
- Cultivate a mentorship model of learning and support by a pool of tutors who individually assess mastery and readiness to move forward.
- Build AI/machine learning supplemental materials in order to enhance the distance learning experience.

Funding to Raise: \$250k
(83k per year for 3 years)

3. Enhance our teacher credential program

- Certify teachers of both primary and secondary schools, as well as provide a *bona fides* for higher education instructors
- Increase our own pool of qualified VSI instructors
- Add faculty, course development, and some small scholarship funds for teachers

Funding to Raise: \$150k
(50k per year for 3 years)



4. Development of curriculum materials based on standards for 6th grade through college

- Formulate standardized assessments for living Latin proficiency
 - Set living Latin competency standards for grades 6-12
 - Create grade-specific tests using industry-proven psychometrics and assessment methodologies
 - Offer an alternative to the National Latin Exam and AP Latin exams for schools which emphasize practical language acquisition in the Catholic tradition
- Provide integrated Catholic Latin curricula to support our unique teaching methods
 - Replace secular 6th-12th grade Latin learning textbooks with integrated Catholic textbooks which improve upon the current standards and scaffold Catholic cultural learning
 - Develop materials for seminarians relating to their daily life in seminary

Funding to Raise: \$250k
(\$84k per year for 3 years)



Total to raise:
1.4 Million Dollars over 3 years
(or about \$467k per year)

“The goal of learning Latin is not simply to know Latin, but for it to be the vehicle through which we learn other things and communicate with others about ideas: to learn and live our Catholic culture in and through the language of the Church.”
 -Christopher Owens, VSI CEO



Join us in taking *action*.

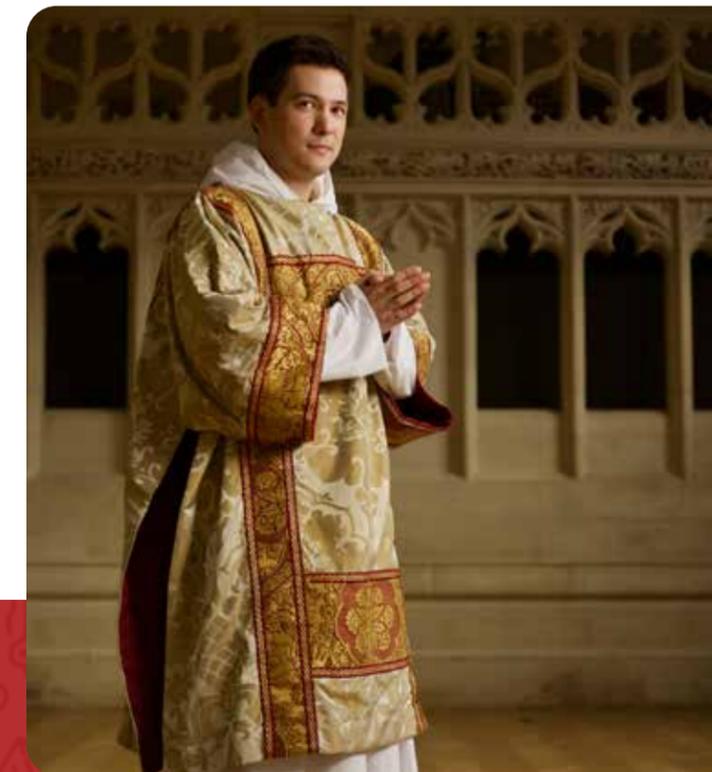
Your generous gift is not just a donation – **it’s an investment in the Church’s future** and in the renewal of Catholic identity and mission throughout the world.

It’s a commitment to nurturing a new generation of Catholics deeply rooted in these timeless languages, cultivating personal relationships with Christ, His Bride the Church, and the Saints and their wisdom.

These next three years are pivotal as we strive to become the Catholic world’s premier online Latin Language Institute, breathing life into the vision set forth by Pope St. John XXIII’s Apostolic Constitution *Veterum Sapientia*.

Your support will create a lasting legacy, ensuring that the Church’s heritage and language continue to thrive.

Together, we will make history and shape a vibrant future for our faith.



Ways to Give

1. Explore Planned and Major Gifts

Schedule a call to explore Major Gift options to support our mission:

Christopher Owens, CEO
 cowens@veterumsapientia.org
 +1 (828) 468-8929

2. Donate Online

Easily set up recurring monthly donations online at veterumsapientia.org/giving



3. Give by Check

Donate by check or money order by addressing your donation to “Veterum Sapientia Institute” and mail it to:

Veterum Sapientia Institute
 6414 W. Wilkinson Blvd. #332
 Belmont, NC 28012
 United States of America

EIN#85-2628713

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Classical Latin

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Benjamin Yates, MA
Introductory Greek

Fr. Kevin Zilverberg, SSD
Sacred Scripture



“The effective, friendly, Catholic learning environment that VSI creates is unmatched in the United States right now. To anyone who is on the fence about trying this out, I say: Duc in altum!”

-Fr. Dylan Schrader, PhD





IN HONOREM ALEXANDRI VII



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