

## Endowed Professorship in Christian Thought and Spiritual Practice

The international Benedictine University Sant'Anselmo (*Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo*) in Rome is offering a three-year Endowed Professorship, beginning with the academic year 2022/2023 (with a possible extension for two more years, for a total of five years). The successful candidate will focus, in an interdisciplinary manner, on the significance of spiritual thought and practice for contemporary life. This initiative corresponds to what the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* proposes for Ecclesiastical Faculties: "to consider in the light of revelation the most recent progress of the sciences, and to present them to the people of the present day in a manner adapted to various cultures." (VG 3)

### About the institution

The *Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo*, the university in Rome led by Benedictine order, is located on the Aventine hill. It has three faculties: The Philosophical Faculty offers a baccalaureate in philosophy as well as a Licentiate and a Doctorate in Philosophy of Religion with a particular focus on mysticism. Besides a Baccalaureate in Theology, the Theological Faculty offers Licentiate and doctoral programs in Monastic Studies, the History of Theology, and Sacramental Theology. The Pontifical Liturgical Institute, the largest faculty, internationally acclaimed for its liturgical scholarship, offers a Baccalaureate, Licentiate, and Doctorate in Liturgy. Special programs and diplomas are also offered by the various faculties.

### Purpose of this Endowed Professorship

Research and teaching at Sant'Anselmo are pursued in the context of monasticism, whether implicit or explicit. Whereas programs and professors follow naturally their own academic pursuits, the *proprium* of Sant'Anselmo is focused on liturgical sources and sacramental praxis, an experiential-sapiential theology as well as mystical traditions. The new Professorship will become part of a broader re-orientation of the unique outlook that Sant'Anselmo can offer and thus the potential candidate is expected to be aware of the formative role of Benedictine life and thought for professors and students at Sant'Anselmo. It is expected that the candidate will integrate this dimension into his or her own research and teaching. The endowment of this Professorship and student scholarships associated with this position, both made possible by the generous contribution of a Foundation, is meant to build on the rich expertise of academic work done at Sant'Anselmo in the past and present and should concentrate on how this can be communicated in a meaningful way to contemporary culture.

Students awarded scholarships will enroll in one of the academic programs of the three faculties. They are expected to collaborate with the Professor, by assisting actively in some of his or her courses, activities, and publications. The Professor, in turn, is expected to exercise a particular *cura personalis* for these scholars and facilitate the formation of a vibrant research team among them. The Professor is expected to also foster close collaboration between these scholarship students and

the professors and students of the various faculties at Sant'Anselmo. The aim is that this collaboration will support in its own way a robust program of studies that will have relevance for the Church and contemporary society.

### **Profile of the candidates**

The successful candidate must have a doctoral degree in Catholic theology (or in philosophy, conferred by a Catholic university or Faculty of Catholic Theology). He or she will demonstrate academic excellence through publications, teaching, and pastoral sensitivity. The successful candidate will be fluent in English or Italian (classes of this Professorship can be taught in either of these two languages). In case the candidate does not speak Italian, he or she must be willing to learn Italian for basic communication as an active member of the academic community at Sant'Anselmo.

The candidate must be an expert in either mysticism or liturgy or another specialization in theology with a keen interest to show the integration of the academic discipline with spiritual practices and with creative skills to build an international network among Benedictine and other academic institutions. Lay theologians and women are especially encouraged to apply for this position.

### **Job Description**

The candidate will be responsible to teach for subject-relevant degree programs offered by Sant'Anselmo and is expected to participate constructively in academic discourse and joint research as well as teaching projects. Extra-curricular activities (*Third Mission*) as well as the ability to build relationships in a multidisciplinary environment, across departmental and faculty borders, are essential for this position. The successful candidate will initiate or help in the organization of conferences, and projects at Sant'Anselmo.

The employment contract is for a period of three years, beginning with the academic year 2022/2023, with a possible extension for two more years. The new professor is required to reside in Rome.

This is a challenging full-time position in an international context and in an inspiring monastic environment in the city of Rome. With this opening, Sant'Anselmo is looking for a person that can enrich the university's mission with his or her own unique perspectives and experiences.

### **Application process**

Candidates who meet the requirements are invited to submit their application in English or Italian, including a CV, a list of publications, teaching and experience in the pastoral/spiritual context, a personal motivation statement, and a list of current and planned research projects. The material should be sent in electronic form to the Rector, Prof. Dr. Bernhard A. Eckerstorfer OSB, [rettore@anselmianum.com](mailto:rettore@anselmianum.com). Further information on the Endowed Professorship can be obtained from Claudia Burger: [ufficiorettore@anselmianum.com](mailto:ufficiorettore@anselmianum.com).

The deadline to submit applications is 1 March 2022. Every application will be confirmed; once a decision has been made by a commission, all applicants will be informed.