

The American College Alumni Association

Damien Committee Report August 2017

The Damien Committee was established during our 2013 Washington reunion to create a permanent contact between our association and the Damien Project in Leuven, housed at Naamsestraat 100. In addition to myself, its members are Reimund Bieringer, Jack Dick, Bob Flannery, and Joe Marcoux.

At each of the past four meetings of the Alumni Association, we have voted a modest amount to fund scholarships for students in Leuven, preferentially for those fully involved in the Damien Project, studying theology, philosophy or Canon Law in Leuven. In 2014 we had a moderately successful Feast Day appeal to solicit funds for the scholarship fund. This past fall, we decided to forgo the appeal for scholarship funds and requested that money be given to the Heritage Foundation so as to secure the establishment of a permanent memory of the American College in Leuven.

With Dean Lieven Boeve's move to Brussels and my own recent health issues, along with the naming of a new Damien Project coordinator in Leuven, the activity of the committee has been somewhat reduced during the past couple of years. Dean Boeve's move meant that the Project lost its theological spark plug in Leuven. At the present time, in Leuven itself there seems not to be the same hope for the future of the Damien Project as there once was. Hopefully, that can be rectified in the near future. I intend to be in contact with Professor Raymakers, dean of the Institute of Philosophy and chair of Leuven's Damien Committee, as well as the current dean of the Faculty of Theology and the current coordinator of the project to get things moving again. .

In the midst of all this, I am happy to report that this past November the Damien Committee voted to allot a modest scholarship of \$2000, to Albert Marcello, a priest of the diocese of Providence who was completing his JCL degree in the Faculty of Canon Law's distance learning program, a program that requires regular periods of residency in Leuven. Albert is currently working on his JCD in the same program.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond F. Collins, chair
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