

Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology Expands Formation of Catholic Leaders for a Changing World

New faculty, residential campus experience, and worldwide student community at the largest Catholic graduate school of theology prepare Catholic leaders for service in the Church

Florissant, MO, August 24, 2026 – As the Catholic Church faces growing challenges in evangelization, catechesis, and cultural engagement, the need for faithful and rigorous theological formation has never been greater. The [Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology](#) is responding by strengthening its mission to form clergy, religious, and lay leaders who are equipped to bring the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith to the world.

“Pope Leo XIV has urged that, to respond to the challenges facing today’s world, we must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us and revealed in its fullness in Christ,” said John Sehorn, Ph.D., Academic Dean of the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology. “That requires serious study of God’s Word, where we encounter the face of the Redeemer, who calls us to true human greatness.”

Founded in 2005, the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology has formed more than 1,100 alumni who serve throughout the Church as parish leaders, diocesan staff members, Catholic educators, missionaries, and apostolate founders. Today, the school serves approximately 550 students, including 46 international students from 21 countries.

Now entering its third academic year on its St. Louis campus, the Graduate School of Theology offers an immersive formation experience for both residential and distance learners. Currently serving students in 40 U.S. states and 21 countries, the Graduate School enables many to complete their degrees entirely online. Distance students also have the opportunity to travel to the 286-acre campus along the Missouri River for intensive courses, joining residential students for daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, theological conversation, and rigorous academic study in a retreat-like setting.

This year, the Graduate School of Theology also welcomes new faculty member Noelle Grace Johnson, Ph.D. Cand., as Assistant Professor of Scripture. Johnson joins the Augustine Institute from the University of Notre Dame and will contribute particularly to the school’s Master of Arts in Theology and Master of Arts in Biblical Studies degree programs.

The school continues to expand opportunities for students to apply theological knowledge to real-world ministry through its Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology program, including capstone projects that enable students to design and implement initiatives addressing pastoral needs in their communities.

Recent capstone projects have included developing parish catechetical programs, creating Catholic Social Teaching formation for Catholic Charities staff, preparing OCIA sponsors to accompany those entering the Church, and equipping parents to serve as primary educators of faith within their families.

Through Teachers for Christ, a partnership between the Master of Arts in Catholic Education program and the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education, students combine graduate study with hands-on apprenticeship in Catholic schools, preparing the next generation of Catholic educators.

“Our aim, and our students’ aim, is to share the inexhaustible treasures of God’s Word faithfully and generously in a wide variety of contexts,” said Sehorn.

For more information and a complete press kit, visit <https://press.augustineinstitute.org/fall-2026>.

Dr. John Sehorn is available for comment. To schedule an interview, contact Carrie Kline at carriek@missionadvancementpartners.com.

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About the Augustine Institute: The Augustine Institute is an educational organization founded in 2005 to serve the formation of Catholics for the New Evangelization. It equips Catholics intellectually, spiritually and pastorally to renew the Church and transform the world for Christ. It educates through academic instruction, programs and faithful content with initiatives such as its Graduate School of Theology, *Formed* and *Amen* content platforms, *Word of Life* K-8 curriculum, and others.