



*The Roman Catholic*  
*Diocese of Phoenix*

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 18, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities, *Ex Corde Ecclesia*, Pope St. John Paul II talked about importance of creating a "community of scholars" within higher education. Knowing the importance of actual human interaction to the learning process, I am pleased to support the partnership of the Franciscan University of Steubenville and the Institute of Catholic Theology. Franciscan University is known world-wide as a leader in theological and catechetical formation from the heart of the Church. The Institute for Catholic Theology, sponsored by St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Phoenix, has featured many presenters from the Diocese of Phoenix and is uniquely poised to offer an enriching community experience to the online formation of Franciscan University. The partnership of these institutions is a blessing to our diocese and I fully expect it to bear good fruit for the Kingdom of God.

I wish to affirm my support of this partnership and assure those who are interested in taking advantage of it that I gladly endorse this effort.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Thomas J. Olmsted  
Bishop of Phoenix