



**ATHANASIUS SCHNEIDER**  
**Episcopus titularis Celerinensis et**  
**Auxiliaris Sanctae Mariae in Astana**

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**To Dr. Edward Schaefer**  
**President of the *Collegium Sanctorum Angelorum***  
**1619 NW 19th Circle**  
**Gainesville FL 32605**

Astana 27.06.2017

Dear Mr. President of the *Collegium Sanctorum Angelorum*,

I thank you for your kind letter from 9 June 2017 and the Vision Statement on the *Collegium Sanctorum Angelorum*. The reading of the Vision Statement was for me a real joy. There is being presented a form of Higher Catholic Education which is worthy of the name “Catholic”.

Your education program reflects integrity and soundness in the human, intellectual and religious formation of young people, a program faithful to the natural law and to the revealed truths as transmitted unchangeably by the faith of the Catholic Church.

A laudable and valuable aspect in this center of Higher Catholic Education consists in its familiar character with the Benedictine model of *ora et labora* and in the small student body. By these characteristics the intellectual education process becomes at the same a human and religious formation, as it was the case in the first education centers, in the universities of the Christian Occident, which brought forth a truly human and Christian culture and civilization and which are the foundation of the society of Europe and America.

Your College bears the name of the Holy Angels. For the work of education and formation of young people, there are hardly more suitable patrons as the Holy Angels. Indeed, every student and professor has his own Holy Guardian Angel. Moreover, according to Catholic tradition God entrusts Angels to be special protectors of nations, places, churches and special institutions. The

Holy Angels have the task to impart especially to those who do intellectual work the light of true knowledge. This requires an inner purity and docility. Therefore, Saint Thomas Aquinas, the greatest Catholic theologian, was rightly named the “Angelic teacher” (*doctor angelicus*). The Holy Angels have the task to protect and to defend especially the little ones and the youth from the attacks and the seduction of the evil spirits. The most beautiful task of the Holy Angels however, consists in praying and worshipping together with us and in union with us as it were one voice, *una voce*, as it is said in the Preface of the Holy Mass.

It is my sincere desire and prayerful wish that the *Collegium Sanctorum Angelorum* be always guided, protected and defended by the Holy Angels: *collegium ab Angelis defensum*. By this way, it will remain faithful to its noble foundational aims.

The *Collegium Sanctorum Angelorum* as presented in its Vision Statement is a little light in the darkness and in the mist of the spiritual confusion, which pervaded the civil society and even to a large extent the life of the Church. Yet, many little lights will by time and with the help of God’s grace dispel the darkness, and many snowdrops and little spring flowers will bring the true spring, a spring which will be realized only when man will again live according to the law given by God through nature (natural law) and according to His Divine Revelation transmitted by the Catholic Church, the only way of salvation.

I invoke upon the *Collegium Sanctorum Angelorum*, upon its students and professors, upon all different members of the staff and of the community as well upon the benefactors abundant Divine blessings.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, starting with a cross symbol followed by the name "Antonius Schneider".

Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Mary in Astana, Kazakhstan