

## **AIRES (Aquinas Initiative for Religion, Education and Science)**

### **Some history**

First, there was the ICUSTA Faith and Science Network (IFSINE). After this, 5 ICUSTA members proposed a STAIEP project in 2014 five representatives: ICES-France; MIC-Ireland; UST-Manila; ProvU-Taiwan; UST-Houston – Leaders: Prof. Quentin & Frohlich. At this stage, the goal was to disseminate the Faith/Science dialog among undergraduate students. \$5000 were received as funding to attend the International Society for Science & Religion conference in San Diego, USA – also for planning ISFINE

A consulting process took place with other conference participants- esp. Prof. Robert Russell (UC-Berkeley)

### **Planning the project**

Planning meetings to discuss *WHY*, *WHAT*, and *HOW* were carried out. After these, some plans were signed off for a Templeton Foundation Grant. Also, worldwide experts were consulted in 2015. Some participants were as follows:

Fr. Francis---Xavier Dumortier (President/Rector, University of the Gregorian)

Fr. Gianfranco Basti (Former Dean,Philosophy; Mathematics, Theology) (Lateran University)

Msgr. Thomasz Trafny (Director, Pontifical Committee for Science and Faith, Pontifical Council for Culture)

Them a presentation at 2015 ICUSTA Biennial in Santiago was carried out. Afterwards, in 2016 regional meetings (Philippines, France & Chile) took place.

### **Discussion on the AIRES project**

Among the proposals in these program the following can be mentioned: interdisciplinary courses, training courses, online courses, website, translations, funding & workshop in December2017. The participants at this stage were: UST Houston, ICES France, ACU, and 15 people from Manila.

### **Advancement of the project**

In May, 2016, Chile, there was a regional meeting and seminar , followed by the publication of a book.



In November, 2016, Bogotá, there was a working session with the objective to decide the purpose, actions and budget for the Templeton's final proposal. The participants were as follows:

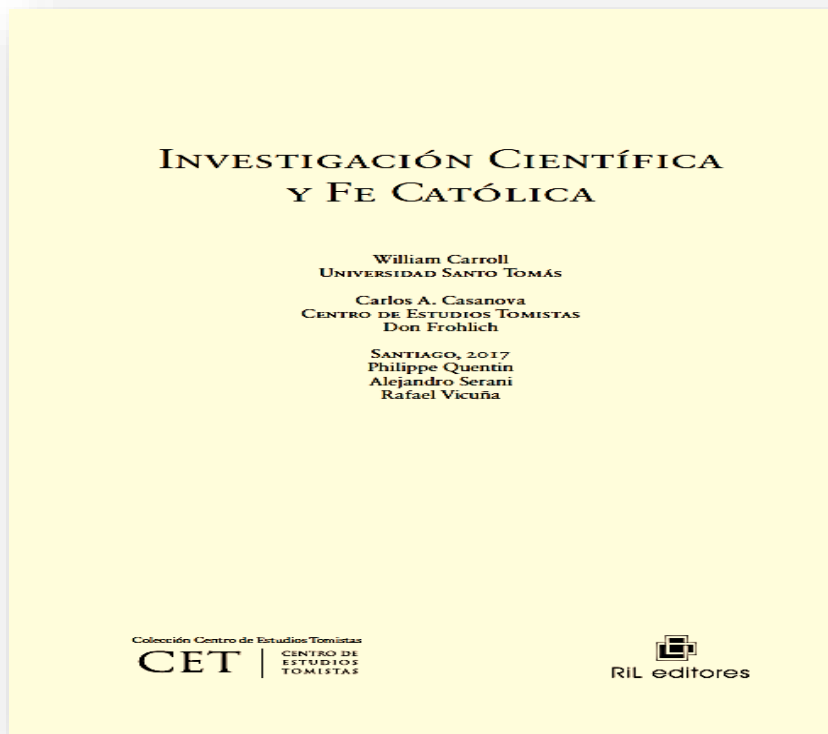
- Ruben Herce, Filosofía de la Ciencia – U. de Navarra, Pamplona, España
- Carlos Gomez, Filosofía de la Religión, U. de Rosario – Bogotá, Colombia
- Christopher Baglow, Teología, Notre Dame Seminary- New Orleans US
- Edgar Lopez, Teología, U. Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia
- Ignacio Serrano, Educación, Universidad Santo Tomás, Santiago, Chile
- Edgar Eslava, Física, UST Bogota, Colombia

## Others



**Scientific investigation and  
Catholic faith  
William Carrol  
Universidad Santo Tomás**

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## **JR Templeton Foundation Grant**

*Proposal submitted- June 1, 2017; Result known in July*

*Total amount requested US \$217,400*

*Duration: Jan. 1, 2018 – 31 Dec. 31, 2019*

*Participants: UST-Manila, UST-Chile, UST-Houston, ICES-France (+ 6 non-ICUSTA universities)*

*Project outputs (main):*

*15 courses/modules: undergraduate, graduate, seminarian, high school*

*Multilingual website with teaching resources and communication tools and online journal*

*Conference on Science, religion and education in Manila – December 2018*