

Iota Unum Podcasts

## What is a Catholic Community? Part 1: From St Benedict to the Internet.

Prof Robert Lazu Kmita talks to Joseph Shaw



Prof. Lazu Kmita is a Catholic philosopher and writer living in Romania. His works can be seen on the Academia website (English C.V. [here](#)); he has also written for *The Remnant* (e.g. [here](#)), *Gregorius Magnus* (e.g. on p. 32 [here](#)), *Polonia Christiana* (Poland), *Radici Cristiane* (Italy), *Second Spring* (Oxford) and many other journals. Also known as a Tolkien scholar, he is the author of a massive *Encyclopedia of J.R.R. Tolkien's World* (available only in Romanian) and many monographs, studies and articles. The Romanian edition of his first novel, *Insula fără anotimpuri* (*The Island without Seasons*) has been released in 2019. The Spanish edition, entitled *La Isla del Laberinto* (*The Island of the Labyrinth*), is also available since March, 2021 ([here](#)). The English edition will be published next year (2022).

Among other things discussed in the podcast:

St Benedict; the details of his life are known to us mainly from the Life by Pope St Gregory the Great, which can be read [here](#).

‘if any man will not work, neither let him eat:’ this is from St Paul’s Second Letter to the Thessalonians, 3:10.

More about the phenomenon of ‘Tertiaries’ or ‘Third Orders’ can be seen in the *Catholic Encyclopedia* [here](#).

St Cecelia’s Abbey Ryde has a website [here](#); it was founded in 1882, and the Empress Zita was born in 1892.

*Nobless Oblige* by Christine Grafyn von Bruhl can be seen [here](#) (Romanian Edition)

The institution of the Monte di Pieta is explained on Wikipedia [here](#).

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## What is a Catholic Community? Part 2: Family life, Asceticism, and Contemplation.

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Among other things discussed in the podcast:

Pope Pius XII's Address to the Italian Association of Large Families:

God also visits large families with His Providence, and parents, especially those who are poor, give clear testimony to this by resting all their trust in Him when human efforts are not enough. A trust that has a solid foundation and is not in vain!

Providence — to put it in human words and ideas — is not a sum total of exceptional acts of divine pity; it is the ordinary result of harmonious activity on the part of the infinite wisdom, goodness and omnipotence of the Creator. God will never refuse a means of living to those He calls into being.

The full text can be seen [here](#).

St Francis de Sales's *Introduction to the Devout Life* can be seen [here](#).

Ven Louis of Grenada *On Prayer and Meditation* can be seen [here](#)

St Alphonsus de Ligouri *Meditations on the Last Things* can be seen [here](#)

Fr Bryan Houghton's novel *Mitre and Crook*, reprinted, can be seen [here](#).