Thomas Aquinas
Transdisciplinary Perspectives



Edited by Thomas Eggensperger, OP and Frano Prcela, OP

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Editorial

The 4th of March 2024 marked the750th anniversary of the death of Thomas Aquinas. This is a good occasion to remember a theologian, Doctor of the Church and Dominican who has never been forgotten and is as present in the intellectual world today as ever! The aim of this issue of *Interface Theology* is to take an interdisciplinary approach to Aquinas in order to shed light on his oeuvre using different hermeneutics. Protestant theologian Volker Leppin (Yale), for example, evaluates Thomas from the perspective of his denomination and finds that he can be permanently exposed to criticism, Protestant theology can re-appropriate him, or it can win him back as an authority for common Christian teachings. Yoshinori Ueeda (Tokyo) shows how the medieval theologian was received in Japan—and only from 1905 onwards due to the publication of a programmatic writing. Benedikta Rickmann OP (Regensburg) chose a different approach to the interdisciplinary debate and asked about God in psychotherapy. Thomas would approach the topic from the point of view of spirituality and ask about the quality of spiritual and therapeutic interventions. American Dominican Andrew Hofer OP approaches the work of Aquinas as a patristic scholar and traces its reception by the Church Fathers. Thomas Eggensperger OP (Berlin) attempts to prove that Thomas Aquinas' *Summa theologiae* can be understood in its composition as 'ethics'. Ulrich Engel OP in his article reconstructs the philosophical-theological approach of the Aquinas expert Ignatius Eschmann OP in his resistance to authoritarian systems. Finally, Christoph J Bergmann OP recalls the description of the life of the honoured man published by Willehad P Eckert OP through his secretary Wilhelmv. Tocco.

Thomas Eggensperger, OP and Frano Prcela, OP

Biographical Details

Thomas Eggensperger OP, Dr theol MA, born 1963 in Vienna (Austria), Professor of Social Ethics at the 'Campus für Theologie und Spiritualität Berlin' (CTS), Guest Professor of the 'University of Santo Tomas' (Manila), Chief editor of the 'Deutsche Thomas-Ausgabe', Co-editor of the theological review *Wort und Antwort*, Scientific Board of the reviews *Philippiniana Sacra* and *Ciencia Tomista*, regent of studies of the Dominican province St. Albert the Great.

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Thomas Aquinas and the Jesuits

Bernhard Knorn SJ

Dominicans and Jesuits have a long history of conflict. Even before the order was founded, Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556) had unpleasant experiences with the inquisition carried out by Dominicans in Spain because his spiritual fervour was a thorn in the side of church theologians. The new order then attracted the harsh criticism of the influential Dominican Melchior Cano (1509–1560), who never tired of claiming that the Society of Jesus was claiming the name of Jesus exclusively for itself.[1] From the end of the 16th century, Dominicans and Jesuits were implacably opposed to each other in the dispute over grace and accused each other of teaching heresies regarding the work of God and the freedom of human beings. In the Neo-Scholasticism of the 19th/20th century, representatives of the two orders argued about what faithfulness to St Thomas meant exactly. Until well into the 20th century, it was believed that a Jesuit-Molinist view of God, the world and humanity was fundamentally in conflict with a Dominican-Thomist view—with consequences for the respective theology, spirituality and mindset.[2]

A Shared Enthusiasm for Thomas Aquinas

However, these conflicts would not have arisen if the Order of Preachers and the Jesuit Order did not share numerous spiritual

1. *Cf* B Hogenmüller, '"Enemigo de los Jesuitas", Melchior Cano's relationship to the Jesuits', in *Theology and Philosophy,* 88 (2013): 389–396.
2. Cf E Przywara, 'Thomas von Aquin, Ignatius von Loyola, Friedrich Nietzsche', in: Zeitschrift für Aszese und Mystik 11 (1936): 257–295, here: 274–289; J Anderson et al. (eds.), Ignatius of Loyola and Thomas Aquinas. A Jesuit Ressourcement, Washington, D.C. 2023.