

January 28, 2025

Daily Reflections



TO FALL ON THE SIDE OF ANGELS

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“Wonder is the desire of knowledge.”

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, SUMMA THEOLOGICA

Reflection

Dear reader,

This reflection was originally published in 2021 and is one of my favorites. Today I am celebrating my 15th anniversary of becoming a Dominican Associate so in joyful remembrance, happy feast day!

Today many Christians celebrate the feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas. *Doctor Angelicus* and *Doctor Communis*, a brilliant theologian, philosopher, and teacher, he is largely remembered for his influence on Christian thought and

scholastics. There have been many exceptional and influential people and philosophers throughout history, so what elevated Thomas to sainthood?

His extravagant and complex intelligence was perhaps superseded by his deep humility. Thomas was notoriously an introvert, quiet and shy and teased and named by his fellow students a “dumb ox” in part because of his lumbering stature as well as his reticence to speak. One might say Thomas was a bit of a “nerd.” While his family was landed gentry and locally powerful, Thomas fought his way to become a Dominican, a radical mendicant order outside of the more influential and politically acceptable religious orders of his day. His quest for reason and justice and compassion for the poor was relentless, and energized by his devotion to and love of God. Thomas regarded the Eucharist as the tangible expression of God’s love and would weep while celebrating the Sacrament. He composed Liturgical “love” songs that most of us would recognize today (*Pange Lingua, O Salutaris Hostia, Tantum ergo Sacramentum*).

Thomas was an integrator of theology and science, a pursuer of truth. Truth, or *Veritas*, part of the transcendentals, is a driving motto of the Dominican order and a significant aspect of being for Thomas. He cherished dialogue among individuals holding different perspectives to get to the truth. Would you agree, the truth has been hard to determine in today’s world of conflicting and overwhelming information? This has led to chaos, a fracturing of society, and significant pain and suffering being inflicted on people and institutions. We could use St. Thomas’s help right now, to help guide us to the truth of God’s presence within and among us and to fall on the side of Angels.



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For Pondering

- Who are the formative figures influencing your spiritual life?
- What wisdom have you gleaned from these key examples of God's love in the world?

- How will this guide you into the New Year?

For Prayer

*Grant me, O Lord, my God,
a mind to know you,
a heart to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you,
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,
and a hope of finally embracing you.
Amen.*

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

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