Aquinas, Aristotle, and the Promise of the Common Good

Aquinas, Aristotle, and the Promise of the Common Good claims that contemporary theory and practice have much to gain from engaging Aquinas’s normative concept of the common good and his way of reconciling religion, philosophy, and politics. Examining the relationship between personal and common goods, and the relation of virtue and law to both, Mary M. Keys shows why Aquinas should be read in addition to Aristotle on these perennial questions. She focuses on Aquinas’s Commentaries as mediating statements between Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics and Politics and Aquinas’s Summa Theologiae, showing how this serves as the missing link for grasping Aquinas’s understanding of Aristotle’s thought in relation to Aquinas’s own considered views. Keys argues provocatively that Aquinas’s Christian faith opens up new panoramas and possibilities for philosophical inquiry and insights into ethics and politics. Her book shows how religious faith can assist sound philosophical inquiry into the foundations and proper purposes of society and politics.

Mary M. Keys is associate professor of political science at the University of Notre Dame. She has received fellowships from the Erasmus Institute at the University of Notre Dame; the Martin Marty Center for Advanced Study of Religion at the University of Chicago, the Earhart Foundation, and the George Strake Foundation, among others. Most recently, she has been awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for research on “Humility and Modern Politics” in 2006–7. Her articles have appeared in the American Journal of Political Science and History of Political Thought.
To

My Teachers,

Especially My Parents
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