

Virtue and Grace in the Theology of Thomas Aquinas

Throughout his writings, Thomas Aquinas exhibited a remarkable stability of thought. However, in some areas such as his theology of grace, his thought underwent titanic developments. In this book, Justin M. Anderson traces both the developments in grace and their causes. After introducing the various meanings of virtue Aquinas utilized, including “virtue in its fullest sense” and various forms of “qualified virtue,” he explores the historical context that conditioned that account. Through a close analysis of his writings, Anderson unearths Aquinas’s own discoveries and analyses that would propel his understanding of human experience, divine action, and supernatural grace in new directions. In the end, we discover an account of virtue that is inextricably linked to his developed understanding of sin, grace, and divine action in human life. As such, Anderson challenges the received understanding of Aquinas’s account of virtue, as well as his relationship to contemporary virtue ethics.

Justin M. Anderson is Associate Professor at Seton Hall University and co-author of *Pursuing the Honorable: Reawakening Honor in the Modern Military*.

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Omnia opera nostra operatus es in nobis, Domine.

(Isa. 26:12)

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I happily dedicate this book to them. Since my debt to you both can never be repaid, I can only hope that, in the words of Thomas, “the will to repay might suffice for gratitude” (IIaIIae q. 106, a. 6, ad. 1).

Finally, to my dear wife Delphine, and our children Nathaniel, Madeline, Eleanor, Rose, and Amelia: you fill all of my works and render them exceedingly worth doing.

Abbreviations of Aquinas's Works

Where the Latin of Aquinas's works is included, I have taken it from the critical editions of the Leonine Commission, with these being listed in the Bibliography. Where no Leonine text is available, the optimal version is employed and cited. References to the various parts of the *Summa theologiae* are cited according to common convention (e.g., IaIIae q. 1, a. 1, ad. 2). English translations of the *Summa* that appear in the text are largely taken from Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica: Literally Translated by Fathers of the English Dominican Province*, 2nd and rev. ed. (New York: Benziger Brothers, 1947–1948). Occasionally, I have amended the English. All biblical passages quoted in English are from the New American Bible (NAB).

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|--------------------|--|
| Comp. Theo. | <i>Compendium theologiae</i> |
| De malo | <i>Quaestiones disputatae de malo</i> |
| De pot. | <i>Quaestiones disputatae de potentia</i> |
| De virtu. | <i>Quaestiones disputatae de virtutibus</i> |
| De ver. | <i>Quaestiones disputatae de veritatis</i> |
| In Boeth. De Trin. | <i>Super Boetium De Trinitate</i> |
| In De div. nom. | <i>In librum Beati Dionysii De divinis nominibus expositio</i> |
| In Meta. | <i>In duodecim libros Metaphysicorum Aristotelis expositio</i> |
| In Phys. | <i>Commentaria in octo libros Physicorum Aristotelis</i> |
| In Poster. | <i>Expositio libri Posteriorum</i> |
| Princ. Nat. | <i>De principiis naturae ad fratrem Sylvestrum</i> |
| QQ | <i>Quaestiones de quolibet</i> |

Abbreviations of Aquinas's Works

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| | |
|-----------------|--|
| SCG | <i>Summa contra Gentiles (Liber de veritate catholicae Fidei contra errores infidelium)</i> |
| Sent. Ethic. | <i>Sententia libri Ethicorum</i> |
| ST/Summa | <i>Summa theologiae</i> Ia, <i>Prima Pars</i> ; IaIIae, <i>Prima Secundae</i> ; IIaIIae, <i>Secunda Secundae</i> ; IIIa, <i>Tertia Pars</i> |
| Super De anima | <i>Sententia libri De anima</i> |
| Super De causis | <i>Super librum De Causis expositio</i> |
| Super Heb. | <i>Super Epistolam ad Hebraeos lectura</i> |
| Super I Cor. | <i>Super primam Epistolam ad Corinthios lectura</i> |
| Super II Cor. | <i>Super secundam Epistolam ad Corinthios lectura</i> |
| Super Io. | <i>Super Evangelium S. Ioannis lectura</i> |
| Super Phil. | <i>Super Epistolam ad Philipenses lectura</i> |
| Super Rom. | <i>Super Epistolam ad Romanos lectura</i> |
| Super Sent. | <i>Scriptum super Sententiis</i> |
| Super Tit. | <i>Super Epistolam ad Titum lectura</i> |

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