

PONTIFICIA ACADEMIA SANCTI THOMAE AQUINATIS

XI PLENARY SESSION

The truth about God, and its relevance for a good life in society

17-19 June 2011

Casina Pio IV, Vatican City

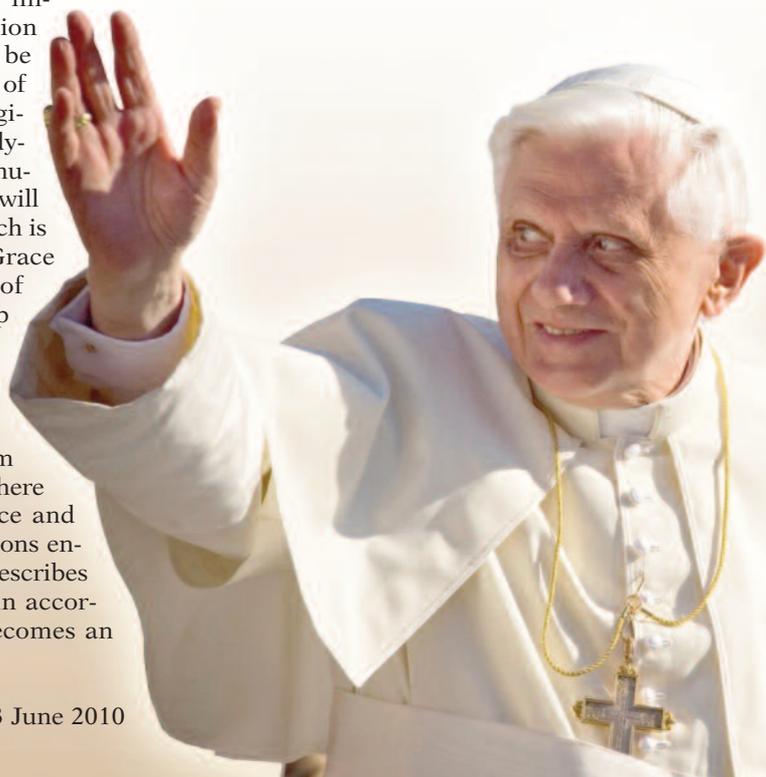


“ *Homo habet naturalem inclinationem
ad hoc quod veritatem cognoscat de Deo,
et ad hoc quod in societate vivat*
(ST 1-2.94.2)

”

In the Second Part of the *Summa Theologica* St Thomas considers man, impelled by Grace, in his aspiration to know and love God in order to be happy in time and in eternity. First of all the Author presents the theological principles of moral action, studying how, in the free choice of the human being to do good acts, reason, will and passions are integrated, to which is added the power given by God's Grace through the virtues and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as well as the help offered by moral law. Hence the human being is a dynamic being who seeks himself, seeks to become himself, and, in this regard, seeks to do actions that build him up, that make him truly man; and here the moral law comes into it. Grace and reason itself, the will and the passions enter too. On this basis St Thomas describes the profile of the man who lives in accordance with the Spirit and thus becomes an image of God.

Benedict XVI, *General Audience*, 23 June 2010



INTRODUCTION

After the ninth plenary session of the Academy, it was decided to dedicate two plenary sessions to the consideration of *ST* 1-2.94.2. The tenth plenary session (June, 2010) considered the 'naturalness' of the natural law, with a special attention to Ulpian's definition of natural law as 'quod natura omnia animalia docuit'.

For the eleventh plenary session, the idea is to consider (human) nature as connected more strictly with reason, with special attention to what Thomas says in *ST* 1-2.94.2 about man's inclination to know the truth about God and to live peaceably in society.

It is hoped that the first day (afternoon/evening) of the eleventh session can set the tone for – and clarify the major theme of – the entire session.

Saturday's discussion would first treat issues having to do with our knowledge of God; it would then move on to life in society. Regarding the first, it is important to understand that it is part of human rationality itself to seek to know the truth about God. The

relationship, however, between our rational nature and our ultimate end has been a source of much controversy in twentieth century philosophy and theology, so it is imperative to address this issue, as well. A closely connected theme is the place in religion of the knowledge of God. For many contemporary thinkers, the serious study of religion concerns only religious experience, understood either as a personal or a sociological phenomenon. Regarding the second theme, an important issue in our contemporary pluralistic society is whether the proper organization of political society is a good connected in a direct manner with reason itself (and so with human nature) or whether it is instrumental to man's achieving fulfillment in the attainment of other human goods. What is the role of government in promoting social virtue? The day would conclude with a panel discussion regarding these same themes.

The final day's (morning's) discussion would be about, not so much political society, but rather culture itself and religion's historical role in it



PROGRAMME

Friday, 17 June

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| 15:30 | <i>Word of Welcome</i> ◆ Msgr. Prof. Lluís Clavell President of the Academy |
| 15:45 | Chairperson: ... ◆ Prof. Terence Kennedy <i>The Relationship Between the Human Inclination 'ad hoc veritatem cognoscat de Deo' and 'ad hoc quod in societate vivat'</i> |
| 16:15 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 16:45 | ◆ Prof. Horst Seidl <i>On 'Natural Virtue' According to Aristotle and St Thomas, in Comparison with Kant</i> |
| 17:15 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 17:45 | Break |
| 18:15 | ◆ Prof. Stephen L. Brock <i>The Distinctiveness of the Natural Inclinations Proper to Man in Summa theologiae 1-2.94.2</i> |
| 18:45 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 19:15 | ◆ Prof. Ricardo Ferrara <i>Inclinación natural a conocer la verdad acerca de Dios (ST I-II 94, 2c)</i> |
| 19:45 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 20:15 | <i>General Discussion</i> |
| 20:30 | Dinner at the Casina Pio IV |

Saturday, 18 June

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| 9:00 | Chairperson: ... ◆ Prof. Charles Morerod <i>Man's Need to Know the Ultimate Cause of all Things</i> |
| 9:30 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 10:00 | ◆ H.Em. Card. Georges M.M. Cottier <i>The Natural/Supernatural Distinction and its Connection with Man's Natural Inclination to Know the Truth About God</i> |
| 10:30 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 11:00 | Break |
| 11:30 | ◆ Prof. Giuseppe Tanzella-Nitti <i>Religion and Science as Inclinations Toward the Search for a Global Meaning</i> |
| 12:00 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 12:30 | ◆ Prof. John M. Finnis <i>Social Virtues and the Common Good</i> |
| 13:00 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 13:30 | Lunch at the Casina Pio IV |
| 15:00 | ◆ Prof. John M. Finnis, Prof. Lawrence Dewan, Prof. Russell Hittinger <i>Panel Discussion on the Nature of the Political Good</i> |
| 16:00 | <i>General Discussion</i> |



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| 16:30 | ◆ Prof. Vittorio Possenti <i>The Secular State and Religion's Contribution to the Good Society</i> |
| 17:00 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 17:30 | Break |
| 18:00 | <i>Closed Session</i> |
| 18:30 | <i>Council Meeting</i> |
| 19:30 | Dinner at the Casina Pio IV |

Sunday, 19 June

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| 8:00 | <i>Holy Mass</i> |
| 9:00 | Chairperson: ... ◆ Prof. Maria Celestina Donadío Maggi de Gandolfi <i>The Natural and the Historic in the Determination of Social Morality</i> |
| 9:30 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 10:00 | ◆ Prof. Angelo Campodonico <i>Culture and Religion</i> |
| 10:30 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 11:00 | Break |
| 11:30 | ◆ Msgr. Peter B. Wells <i>Religion and Society in a Secularized Age</i> |
| 12:00 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 12:30 | <i>Concluding Remarks by Prof. Lluís Clavell and Prof. Russell Hittinger</i> |
| 13:30 | Lunch at the Casina Pio IV |

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ordinary Academicians

Msgr. Prof. Lluís Clavell, Presidente
H.E. Msgr. Prof. Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo,
Prelato Segretario

Prof. Jan A. Aertsen
Rev. Prof. Mauricio Beuchot Puente, O.P.
Mons. Prof. Inos Biffi
Rev. Prof. Stephen L. Brock
S.E. Mons. Jean-Louis Bruguès
Prof. Rafael T. Caldera
Prof. Angelo Campodonico
Rev. Prof. Romanus Cessario, O.P.
Rev. Prof. Lawrence Dewan, O.P.
Rev. Prof. Joseph Di Noia, O.P.
Prof. Maria C. Donadío Maggi de Gandolfi
Prof. Jude P. Dougherty
Msgr. Prof. Ricardo Antonio Ferrara
Rev. Prof. Kevin L. Flannery, S.J.
Prof. Yves Floucat
Prof. Eudaldo Forment
Prof. Umberto Galeazzi
Rev. P. Wojciech Giertych, O.P.

Prof. Russell Hittinger
Prof. Dr. Reinhard Hütter
Prof. Ruedi Imbach
Rev. Prof. José A. Izquierdo Labeaga, L.C.
Rev. Prof. Edward Kaczynski, O.P.
Msgr. Prof. Antonio Livi
Prof. Alejandro Llano
Rev. Prof. Mauro Mantovani, S.D.B.
Prof. Enrique Martínez
Prof. Fernando Moreno
Rev. Prof. Charles Morerod
Prof. John O'Callaghan
Rev. Prof. Mario Pangallo
Prof. Günther Pöltner
Prof. Pasquale Porro
Prof. Vittorio Possenti
Rev. Prof. Pedro Rodríguez
Rev. Prof. Luis Romera
Prof. Mario E. Sacchi
Prof. Dr. Juan José Sanguinetti
Prof. Dr. Horst Seidl
Rev. Prof. Giuseppe Tanzella Nitti
Prof. Luca Tuninetti

Prof. Georg Wieland
Rev. Prof. Robert Wielockx
Rev. Prof. John F. Wippel

Honorary Academicians

H.Em. Card. Georges M.M. Cottier, O.P.
H.Em. Card. Giovanni Battista Re

Emeritus Academicians

Rev. Prof. Leo Elders
Rev. Prof. Abelardo Lobato Casado, O.P.

Correspondent Academicians

Prof. Enrique Alarcón
Prof. Danilo Castellano
Prof. Marco D'Avenia
Prof. Mauricio Echevarría

Invited Speakers

Prof. John M. Finnis
Prof. Terence Kennedy
Msgr. Peter B. Wells