
Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas Tomorrow.

Why was St. Thomas chosen as Patron of Catholic Learning?

With so many scholars to choose from, one might think it difficult to choose a patron for Catholic learning. The early Fathers and Doctors of the Church were marvels of erudition and scholarship. It is stupid to single out St. Augustine from the early Fathers and consider that learning began and ended with him. His contemporaries alone, in the fourth and fifth centuries, make a litany of mighty names; other centuries, too, contributed their quota - which varied in number and intellectual accomplishment according to the work the Church had to do; for Christianization came first, then civilization, then culture - always in that order.

St. Thomas gathered all the wisdom of the ancients, embellished it, and handed it down to us. There are many subjects on which he has not given us the last word, but he has elucidated the principles from which we may work. And he is a beautiful example of the humility that must preside over scholarship if it is to avoid the pitfall of vanity, of learning for its own sake, which spoils so much of the quest for knowledge today.

Lay up in your heart the following advice, which St. Thomas once wrote to a young man:

"You have asked me, dear friend in Christ, how you must study to acquire the treasure of knowledge. My advice to you is based upon this principle: that you go through the rivulets and do not try at once to come to the sea, because we must necessarily go to the more difficult through the less difficult. This, then is my advice to you:

"Be slow to speak; love purity of conscience; pray often; love to be in your room; be kind to everyone; do not inquire into the affairs of others; do not be too familiar with anyone, because too great familiarity breeds contempt and gives occasion for leaving off study; do not be interested in the sayings and doings of people in the world; avoid all needless running about; imitate the saints and the just; remember every good thing you hear and do not consider who says it; understand what you read and hear; labor to fill the storehouse of the mind; do not inquire into things above you.

"If you follow this advice you will bring forth good fruit in the vineyard of the Lord, you will be able to obtain what you desire."

There is an altar dedicated to St. Thomas in the Alumni Hall chapel. Pay a visit there tomorrow - but be sure to begin the day with Holy Communion in honor of this great Saint who wrote the Mass and Office of the Blessed Sacrament, and whose hymns to the Eucharist are among the most beautiful compositions known to poets.

Be Distinctive.

Through the medium of the anonymous questionnaires of the Religious Survey, an alumnus reports that he had the grace to turn down an offer of \$5,000 graft at a time when he was seriously in need of money. Were there a way to get them, we could have for your edification hundreds of such stories. Many of you will some day be placed in positions where similar temptations are offered. It is the most fervent wish of your Alma Mater that it be said of all Notre Dame men that they are honest, chaste, and faithful to their duties to God and man. Let that be your distinction.

PRAYERS: Deceased - Dick Parrish's father; Bob Forbes' grandfather. Ill - Bishop Brennan, of Richmond; Mrs. J. Arthur Haley (operation); James Bookwalter's mother.
CORRECTION: Deceased, Dr. Bonine, of Cassopolis - not of Niles, Mich as previously reported in the Bulletin.