

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Today: The Feast Of St. Thomas

You hope to be a learned man some day? Then get acquainted with St. Thomas Aquinas, Patron of Catholic learning, whose feast we celebrate today.

He is just about the greatest mind the Catholic Church ever produced. And what a lovable character! Everywhere his writings manifest the simple humility that must preside over scholarship to keep it from turning vain and arrogant.

One day, a young man much like yourself wrote to St. Thomas asking how he should go about the business of becoming scholarly. Here's the reply St. Thomas gave:

"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 interested in the sayings and doings of people of the world. Do not be too familiar with anyone, because too great familiarity breeds contempt, and gives occasion for leaving off study.

Avoid all needless running about. Imitate the saints and the just. Remember every good thing you hear, and do not consider who said it. Understand what you read and hear. Labor to fill the storehouse of your 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; and you will be able to obtain what you desire."

Educational psychology! Will this get you a Ph.D.? One thing is very certain, and very important. Some day you will ultimately come up for your R.I.P. degree -- the one that stays with you forever -- and if you have heeded St. Thomas' directives listed above, you'll have nothing to worry about in the final test. Certainly, to save one's soul is the ultimate end of all Christian learning. In brief, a truly smart man is the one who gets to heaven! That's how smart St. Thomas was.

Call For More Blood!

We need 28 pints of blood, this week. Donors may call at the Office of the Prefect of Religion (117 Dillon) for details. Here's a bright, red form of charity for Lent! Those under 21 need parents' permission. Those over 21 need big hearts -- and blood!

PRAYERS -- Deceased: father of Dr. James Culliton (P.F.A.); Maura Mills, NDAA secretary, sister of Tom '41, and Bob '51, Mills; uncle of Bill LaFonde of Badin; Rev. Francis Novakowski, C.S.C.; grandmother of John Walsh of Morrissey; friend of Joe Burns of Cavanaugh; mother of Joseph O'Donnell, C.S.C., of Moreau Seminary; mother of Sister Raymond Marie. Ill: uncle of John Russo (O-C); grandfather of George Krembs of Dillon; father of Cecil Mast (Grad. School); Mr. and Mrs. Hal Tehan, '49 (accident); father of Miles Walshe of Cavanaugh; grandfather of Jim Gaulrupp of Cavanaugh; Jack McCann, '50 (amputation); aunt of John Houck of Fisher; Mr. & Mrs. R.W. Burns, '52 (Accident).