

Saint Thomas Aquinas, Vol. 2: Spiritual Master

By Jean Pierre Torrell

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Following his highly acclaimed study of the life and works of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Jean-Pierre Torrell, O.P., continues his masterful work on the great Dominican theologian and brings an immense learning to bear on a subject that most readers have not considered very carefully: Thomas's spirituality. Aquinas's intellectual power is evident to anyone who has had even modest exposure to his work. Understanding the spiritual impetus behind that massive achievement, however, requires careful attention to the whole Thomistic corpus and a subtle understanding of several crucial works, particularly Thomas's sermons and commentaries on Scripture. In this long-awaited sequel to *Saint Thomas Aquinas: The Person and His Work*, Father Torrell brilliantly lays out the theoretical background to Thomas's spirituality. He shows that Aquinas's theology is clearly oriented towards contemplation and is as deeply spiritual as it is doctrinal.

Meticulous in his research, Torrell quotes often from Thomas's own texts and presents a clear understanding of Aquinas's views on nature, the person, human society, politics, and our ultimate end in communion with God and one another. This volume makes apparent why the Catholic Church thinks of Aquinas not only as a great Christian intellectual, but also as a saint.

Praise for Volume 1, *The Person and His Work*:

"This is the introduction to Thomas. . . ." *First Things*

"The most up-to-date biography available." *Choice*

"[A] magnificent achievement. . . . An indispensable tool for every student of Thomas Aquinas." *The Thomist*

"Torrell's book is the crown of recent research into Aquinas." *Theological Studies*

Jean-Pierre Torrell is a Dominican priest of the Toulouse province and professor of dogmatic theology at the University of Fribourg. From 1973 to 1981, he taught at the Gregorian University in Rome and was a member of the Leonine Commission, where he contributed to research on and editing of Aquinas's works.

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"This is a worthy successor to Torrell's excellent volume 1, *The Person and His Work*."?John M. McDermott, *Theological Studies*

"Torrell seeks to recover not just the *doctor angelicus* but the *doctor communis ecclesiae*, the teacher of all the faithful. We owe a great deal to Father Torrell for achieving in this volume nothing less than a kind of transfusion from the cold, analytical, mathematical systematic Aquinas of the textbooks into the red-blooded, passionate, even psychologically intense spiritual guide who is at once cerebral and sentient, surprising as that may appear. . . . Torrell brings a lifetime of immersion in the works of Aquinas to bear on what is quite simply a most lucid and insightful outline of Thomas's theology as a whole. . . . There is nothing more that one can say about this volume than that there is simply no other book like it. It fills an enormous gap, not just in Aquinas scholarship, but also in the portrait of 'Friar Thomas' as it has come down to us. In this respect, Torrell's work serves as a crowning moment in what has been something like a 'resuscitation' of Thomas Aquinas in recent years. His work caps a century's worth of revival of interest in Aquinas, and it is entirely likely that, taken together, these two volumes will become the classic introduction to the life and work of 'the Master from Aquino.' "?Peter M. Candler, Jr., *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*

"The breadth of historical learning and the depth of theological insight is rare indeed. Neither for beginners nor for the impatient, this book will abundantly reward careful reading by theologians of any persuasion."- Denis R. Janz, *Religious Studies Review*

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Editorial Review

About the Author

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