



St. Thomas Aquinas, the angelic doctor, outstanding in learning was born toward the end of the year 1226. Against the wishes of his family he joined the Dominicans (OP). (The family even sent an impure woman to tempt him out of his vocation). He is the patron of all universities and of students.

First Reading: (Heb 10:19-25) Brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Ps 23:1-6

R./ Such are the men who see your face, O Lord.

Gospel: (Mk 4:21-25) Jesus said to his disciples, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a bushel, or under a bed, and not on a stand? For there is nothing hid, except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. If any man has ears to hear, let him hear." And he said to them, "Take heed what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to him who has will more be given; and from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

REFLECTION

When a little boy, standing and admiring the images of saints on the stained glass window of a huge cathedral, was asked "who is a saint?," prompt came the reply **"a saint is a person the light shines through."** Indeed saints of God are like moon, who only reflect the light of Jesus to a lost and dying world. Light works against the background of darkness, pointing out the way and warning against dangers. It has also the power to make hidden things plain, revealing both the hidden things of God to man as well as the hidden things within man! That is precisely the legacy of St. Thomas Aquinas, perhaps the greatest theologian and philosopher of the Catholic Church. At a time of doctrinal crisis, when the new found confidence in human reason coupled with the advancement in science and technology seem to have reduced the claims of faith to the level of irrationality, he could usher in a new light of inspiration and interpretation. Using the same tools of reason and logic as well as the ideals and aspects of modern thought, he succeeded in rearticulating the fundamental truths of life and faith highlighting its eternal relevance. No wonder then he is still held out by the Church as the role model for those studying to become a Catholic priest.