

SAINTS ALIVE! JANUARY 28: SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS



Saint Thomas Aquinas was born in 1226 and died in 1274. For his accomplishments in those 48 years – he filled volumes with his writings and was considered a great preacher – St. Thomas is one of the greatest and most influential theologians of all time.

He studied at Cologne and was nicknamed the "dumb ox" because of his silent ways and huge size. But he was a brilliant student. At the age of twenty-two, he was appointed to teach in Cologne, where he published his first works. He later became a priest and, at the age of 31, received his doctorate.

St. Thomas is the Patron Saint of all universities and of students. His feast day is January 28th.

U.S. students need the prayers of St. Thomas Aquinas:

As of 2012, 1 out of 7 U.S. **adults** can't read. One out of 5 U.S. adults read *below* a 5th grade level. One out of 5 high school **graduates** cannot read. 63% of prison inmates cannot read. [U.S. Illiteracy Statistics Data](#)

You can lose your job;
You can lose your car;
You can lose your home;
But you can't lose your education.

The surest way out of poverty is education.
Being literate means you're probably employed.
Besides earning an income, being employed means you're more likely to build a savings for your future.
You will need savings because having an education means that you will live longer.
Having an education means living a healthier life.
Having an education makes learning the issues and voting; living as a faithful citizen.

"Education is the most vital of all resources." A society's economic development depends, first, on the ideas and intellect of men and women. The well-being of our communities depends upon this contribution from every man and woman.

Education is more than work study; college is not a career school. Education is an opportunity to have a difference made in our lives. Education is not science *or* humanities but science *and* humanities *and* shop class. Education is a blank touch screen upon which we write new experiences, pursue a passionate subject that may have nothing to do with our careers and everything to do with living. Education has everything to do with flourishing despite losing your job, your car, and your home.

Children need parents and teachers who believe in them despite being labelled a "dumb ox." Children need the support from society to benefit from a vibrant school system and affordable higher education.

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