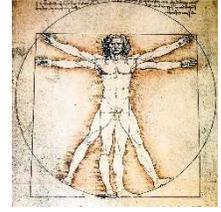




Aquinas 101: The Human Soul



Week 1, 9/9: Faith and Reason, Intro to St. Thomas

How do Catholics use philosophy to think about matters of faith? How do we know when we have found the truth? Why follow the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas?

Week 2, 9/16: The Existence of the Soul

How do we define the soul, and how do we know that it exists? What does it mean to claim that the soul is immaterial, and how is it related to the body?

Week 3, 9/23: The Powers of the Soul

How do we sort through the different things our soul is capable of? What part of ourself is most essential to us? How do we fit into the greater scheme of creation compared to animals and angels?

Week 4, 9/30: Original Sin and The States of Nature

How was human nature affected by the sin of Adam and Eve? What has the grace of Christ won for us?

Week 5, 10/7: The Sense Powers

How do we learn about the world around us? Is it possible to refute skeptics who say the senses do not give us true knowledge?

Week 6, 10/14: The Interior Senses and Sense Appetites

What do we do with the information that comes through the senses? How does our animal nature respond to these sensory images? Why do we find self-control so difficult?

Week 7, 10/21: The Intellect and the Will

How do we know that we are made to know immaterial truth and to experience immaterial goodness? What does it mean to live for higher realities and not sensible pleasures? What is our purpose in life?

Week 8, 10/28: The Freedom of the Will

How do we know that we have free will? How do we define it? What goes into our decision-making? What does it mean to make ethical choices?

Week 9, 11/4: Passions and Emotions

What are the passions of the soul, and how do they overlap with emotions? Do we always experience them passively, or can they be trained to follow reason? What were Jesus's passions like?

Week 10, 11/11: Habits, Good and Bad

What is a habit of the soul, and how is it different from habits of daily life? What are vices and virtues, and how do they grow or diminish in the soul? Do virtues and vices make us more or less free?

Week 11, 11/18: The Cardinal Virtues

What are the four cardinal virtues, and how do they relate to the powers of the soul? What difference does grace make in living out the virtues of daily life?

Week 12, 12/2: The Theological Virtues

What are the three theological virtues, and how are they different from the cardinal virtues? Can we grow in them by our own power? What does life look like when it is centered on them?