

MY LIFE WITH THE SAINTS

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Parish

St. Thomas Aquinas – Chapter 12: “Fides Quaerens Intellectum”, Pages 253-269

February 20, 2014

1. Concerning St. Thomas Aquinas: what did you know about him – if anything at all – before reading Chapter 12? Did you learn anything “new” about St. Thomas Aquinas? Did anything startle you or surprise you?
2. Father Martin writes: “But it was not the philosophy or the theology of Thomas that drew me to the saint...more the person of Thomas, and his life.” (Page 262) What do you think drew Father Martin to Thomas? What about his person? What about his life? What do you admire about Thomas’ life and person?
3. St. Thomas Aquinas was called “the Dumb Sicilian Ox” (Page 257)...yet he “is arguably the greatest Catholic philosopher and theologian in history”. (Page 254) What makes Thomas Aquinas “great” in your eyes? Do you ever feel like a “dumb ox” when it comes to matters of our Catholic Faith? Do you ever hesitate to try to explain to someone what the Church teaches...so remain silent? Is that good?
4. Thomas Aquinas insisted that “grace builds on nature”. (Page 254) Thomas’ life offers a good example of just how that grace works. From your reading of Father Martin’s book, how does “grace” work in the life of Thomas Aquinas? How does “grace” work in your life? In the life of the community we call the Church?
5. Father Martin puts it so simply: “But this most intellectual of men was also deeply devout and frequently enjoyed intense experiences of mystical prayer. He was admired for his humility and piety.” (Page 260) Did these simple words get you thinking about anything in your life?

6. More than ever, a “good Catholic”/a “dynamic Catholic” must be an informed and educated Catholic. Thomas Aquinas is proof of this. What is happening in your life that helps you on that great journey towards becoming a “good and informed Catholic”? What helps you become “informed”?

7. Martin describes St. Thomas Aquinas as an “active person whose life was rooted in prayer”. He goes on to say that throughout his life he has met people who combine charity, scholarship, love and action (Page 263). He says these people have helped him on his spiritual journey. Can you identify any people who have helped you on your personal spiritual journey? Name them. Identify as concretely as possible how they have helped you on your journey to intimacy with Jesus.

8. What do you think these words of St. Thomas Aquinas mean: “We can testify to something only in the measure that we have shared in it”? (Page 268)

9. The final words written by St. Thomas Aquinas were: “All I have written seems to me like straw compared with what I have seen and what has been revealed to me.” (Page 269) What is St. Thomas Aquinas teaching you with these final words?

10. How has St. Thomas Aquinas helped you on your journey towards becoming a more “dynamic Catholic”?