## TRINITY IN AQUINAS

Gilles Emery, OP

Professor of Dogmatic Theology University of Fribourg



Sapientia Press of Ave Maria University

## **Table of Contents**

Preface by Jean-Pierre Torrell, OPxi
Forewordxxvii
Chapter One
The Threeness and Oneness of God in
Twelfth- to Fourteenth-Century Scholasticism
Threeness and Oneness in the Beginning of Scholasticism,
Ecclesiastical Reactions, and Interventions
Roscellinus, Anselm, and Abelard2
Gilbert de la Porrée9
Peter Lombard and Joachim of Fiore
The Rejection of Trinitarian Monotheism by the Cathars14
Threeness and Oneness: Paths of Knowledge
From Oneness to the Trinity: The "Necessary Reasons"16
Threeness and Oneness: Two Distinct Orders of Knowledge
Threeness and Oneness: Two Separate Orders of Knowledge
The Divine Essence (Oneness) and the Persons (Threeness)26
Unity and Plurality: The Transcendentals
Conclusions

Chapter Two
Trinity and Creation: The Trinitarian Principle of the
Creation in the Commentaries of Albert the Great,
Bonaventure, and Thomas Aquinas on the Sentences33
Trinity and Creation in the Commentary of Albert35
The Thesis of the Creative Causality
of the Procession of the Divine Persons35
The Divine Persons, the Exitus and the Reditus
Trinity and Creation in the Commentary of Bonaventure46
The Diffusion of the Sovereign Good and Divine Fecundity 46
The Procession of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:
Exemplarity and Causality48
The Reductio of Creatures to God through the
Son and the Holy Spirit52
Trinitarian Creation in Thomas's Commentary on the Sentences 53
The Creative Trinity and the Structure of the Sentences54
The Generation of the Son and the Procession of the Spirit59
Trinity, Creation, and Mission
The Word and Love65
The Origin: The "Relation" and the "Principle"
Conclusion69
CHAPTER THREE
The Treatise of St. Thomas on the Trinity
in the Summa contra Gentiles71
General Method and Positioning of the Treatise on the Trinity73
Plan and Method of the Treatise on "The Confession of the Trinity"79
The Study of Errors about the Trinity84
Scripture: Its Function and Thomas's Exegetical Method89
Approaches to a Theological Understanding of the Mystery93
The Question of the <i>Filioque</i>
Problems of Trinitarian Theology114

Chapter Four
The Treatise on the Trinity in the Summa theologiae121
The Theological Intention of the Treatise on the Trinity
The Revelation of the Trinity122
The Prerogatives of Faith124
The Exclusion of Necessary Theological Reasons
The Purpose of Trinitarian Theology and the Function of Analogies
The Plan of the Treatise on the Trinity128
The Diverse Approaches to the Trinitarian Mystery in St. Thomas
Immanent Trinity and Creative Trinity
The Divine Essence and the Persons:
The Common and the Proper
The Internal Structure of the Treatise
Procession, Relation, and Person
The Notion of Procession
The Relations
The Person
The Three Divine Persons
The Person of the Father
The Person of the Mark Science 148
The Person of the Holy Spirit
The Persons, the Essence, the Properties, and the Notional Acts 156
The Mission of the Divine Persons
Conclusion
Chapter Five
Essentialism or Personalism in the Treatise
on God in St. Thomas Aquinas?165
A Long and Vast Debate166
The Creative and Redemptive Action of the Divine Persons
The Essence and the Persons in the Structure
of the Treatise on God

Relation, Procession, and Person
The Processions and the "Psychological Way"
Relation and Essence: A Unitarian Perspective?
Conclusion
CHAPTER SIX
The Procession of the Holy Spirit a Filio
According to St. Thomas Aquinas209
The Task of the Theologian and the Doctrinal Issues
Involved in the Procession of the Spirit a Patre and a Filio210
A Multisided Question Within a Whole
The Basic Feature of Pneumatology216
The Procession of the Holy Spirit a Patre per Filium
and the Other Formulae217
The Unity of the Principle and the Plurality of Persons
The Procession and the <i>Ekporeusis</i>
The Biblical Dossier of the Procession of the Spirit a Filio225
The Spirit of the Son
The Spirit Sent and Given by the Son
"He Will Glorify Me, Because He Will Take of Mine
and Declare It to You"
"Spiritus Veritatis qui a Patre Procedit"233
The Patristic Dossier of the Procession of the Spirit a Filio
The Greek and Latin Fathers
The Councils and the Problem of the Addition to the Symbol $\dots 243$
The "Evident Reasons"248
The Distinction by Relative Opposition According to Origin 249
The Difference According to the "First Source" of Distinction251
Two Distinct Processions ab Alio253
Insufficiency of the Distinction by Diverse Origins a Patre254
Insufficiency of the Distinction by Mode of Origin Alone256
Love Proceeds from the Word257
Trinitarian Order259

The Spirit Proceeds from the Father by Nature260
Attitudes Toward Medieval Eastern Orthodoxy26
Conclusion
Chapter Seven
Biblical Exegesis and the Speculative Doctrine of the Trinity
in St. Thomas Aquinas's Commentary on St. John271
The Trinitarian Doctrine of the Commentary of St. John and the Summa theologiae272
The Trinitarian Themes of the Commentary on St. John274
Absent or Less Developed Trinitarian Themes
Evaluation
The More Developed Themes in the Commentary on St. John 286
Exegetical Method and Speculative Theology
The Forms of Speculative Exegesis
Patristic Exegesis
Trinitarian Heresies
Conclusion: The Contribution of the Commentary on St. John314
Bibliography321
Primary321
Secondary
Index