

of his work: its firm adherence to that doctrine which Pope Innocent VI declared to have above all others, the canonical writings excepted, "accuracy of expression, arrangement of subjects, and soundness of conclusions so that he who holds it will never swerve from the path of truth, while he who attacks it must always be suspected of error." Thomas of St. Germain, in his preface to the first edition of Capreolus' commentary, notes this special characteristic of the author: "Who among all the defenders of St. Thomas was gifted with such a keen and penetrating intellect as John Capreolus? No one was ever found up to his time who seemed to understand the mind of St. Thomas so exactly, to have such clear insight into it, to explain it so well, and to defend it so strongly."

The disciple is not greater than the master. He is great in proportion as he approaches the master and can bring others nearer to him. He is great in proportion as he rightly understands, clearly explains and faithfully defends his master's teaching. And this is John Capreolus' claim to greatness. Prince of Thomists, the scholar of Rodez drank deeply of the wisdom of Thomas, proposed it for the benefit of his intellectual posterity and thus forestalled the opponents who, unwittingly or no, might have deprived an indigent scholastic world of a thorough appreciation of the Thomistic synthesis.

AT THE BIRTH OF OUR LADY

ARTHUR O'CONNELL, O.P.

O All-Immaculate! Fairest work of thy Creator's hand!
 What lauding word, angelic or of human art,
 Can ever meetly praise thee? What gardened land
 Supply for thy bright presence Paradisal part
 To dwell therein? What child of all the generations
 Yet to call thee Blessed, Mother, Holy Queen,
 Fit love for thine repay? Too far beyond creation's
 Voice or heart or habitations—all too mean.

That word sublime can only come from Him
 Who'll house His Word in thy mortality;
 That home must be where the Seraphim
 Will serve His tabernacle—thee;
 That Child fit filial praises hymn
 Who, though thine own, yet God's true Son will be.