

SIXTH CENTENARY OF THE CANONIZATION OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

On July 18, 1323 Thomas Aquinas was canonized a saint. As the sixth centenary looms into view our hearts beat to the transports of religious joy; and the Dominican Family will be pardoned if it points with pride to its scion of learning and sanctity.

St. Thomas' predominant passion in life was a whole-souled devotion to the cause of God's truth. To truth he pledged a fruitful career of prayer and study. Bringing a powerful mind to bear upon the vast jumble of philosophical and theological opinions of his day, he organized sacred learning for all time. For him it was reserved to reconcile reason with faith, converting Aristotle to the service of Christ. More than sixty works ranging over the field of philosophy, theology, Scripture, and apologetics have shed glory upon the Church. Not without grounds did the apostate Bucer boast, "Take away Thomas, and I will destroy the Church."

No wonder that encomiums have been lavished upon him by Popes, councils, universities, and religious orders; that Sovereign Pontiffs have issued thirty-eight Bulls praising and recommending his doctrine. Pius V in 1567 proclaimed him Doctor of the Universal Church; in 1880 Leo XIII declared him Patron of all Catholic universities, academies, colleges, and schools throughout the world; the Tridentine Fathers placed his Summa by the side of the Scriptures and St. Augustine on the table in the council-chamber. "In him," said Pope Leo, "were all the highest gifts of nature and grace, whose life no less than his writings, is an example to all the world."

Six hundred years have rolled away since the Church installed our holy Doctor in her Hall of Fame. Through those ages he has enjoyed a renown ever fresh and green. And so it will always be. His praises will never cease to rise until the last syllable of recorded time. —Bro. Mark Della Penta, O. P.



St. Thomas Among the Doctors