

DOMINICANA

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SLAVE AND MASTER



T. DOMINIC, under the banner of Truth, dedicated his whole life and all his strength to the service of God and His Church. His complete loyalty to truth, his ardent zeal in the service of the Church, his burning love for God so captured his mind, and strength, and heart that he might be called a slave, but a slave by choice. He founded the Order of Preachers and scattered its members to increase and perpetuate his own personal labors for the universal Church. The Church accepted his band of Preachers and confirmed them in their profession. They were to continue in the selfless serfdom that only a spirit as great as Dominic's could inspire. Indeed they were to serve the Church as Dominic did. They were to be "Defenders of the Faith."

Of the many saints among St. Dominic's spiritual sons and daughters there is none so illustrious as St. Thomas Aquinas. He is called the Angelic Doctor, the Prince of Theologians, the Master of Sacred Science. All these titles he richly deserves, but only because he too was a slave. By pronouncing his religious vows in the Order of Preachers, St. Thomas chose to live wholly subjected to the spirit of St. Dominic. He pledged his keen intellect and pure heart to Truth and labored always in the service of the Order, for the good of the Church and the glory of God. He was truly a slave by profession.

The Church has set an indelible seal of approval on the service of St. Thomas and confirmed the enduring greatness of his labors. At the Council of Trent the Summa of St. Thomas lay open on the altar beside the Holy Scriptures and the decrees of the Church. In the Encyclical *Aeterni Patris*, Pope Leo XIII declares, "In the Councils of Lyons, of Vienne, of Florence, of the Vatican, you may say that Thomas was present at the deliberations and decrees of the Fathers, and almost that he presided at them, contending against the errors of the Greeks and heretics and rationalists, with a power from which there was no escape, and with a most auspicious result."

DOMINICANA wishes to dedicate this issue to the honor of St. Thomas Aquinas who by his loving slavery to the spirit of St. Dominic, to the service of the Church, to the glory of God has become Saint, Scholar, and Patron of Schools.