

EDITORIAL: THE REALITY OF THINGS

Many people spend the hours before New Year's Day making resolutions. We, the Editors of *Dominicana*, suspect that the time chosen is not propitious. We are making our resolutions with this Spring issue, during that season when all things under divine Providence are renewed. And our resolution comes at a particularly auspicious time, for it is a resolution concerned with *things* and *renewal*: with *things*, because we intend to wrestle with reality itself; with renewal, because we shall present this reality in the "ever ancient and ever new" beauty that is Thomistic Theology and Philosophy.

In the past *Dominicana* has been devoted to studies of general spiritual and cultural interest, especially regarding those aspects of Western Civilization to which the Order of Preachers has made evident contributions. But it is our belief that a more important and more necessary task must be fulfilled, if the very foundations of this Western Culture would remain secure. This is a task that can be accomplished only by theological and philosophical investigation, which in plain words means the search for the reality of things.

We have set ourselves to an awesome work, but we do so with the controlled courage of youth; it is our generation that must grapple with awesome difficulties. We are not the first to recognize the need for St. Thomas in our day, for Pope Leo XIII, with a wisdom that has received universal acclaim, began the new day of Thomistic studies in his Encyclical *Aeterni Patris* of 1879. That there now exist such important movements as the Theology for the Laity, the Theological Formation Courses for Religious Sisters, philosophical study groups at Newman Club Centers, and many more, can be traced to the influence of this contemporary revival of Thomistic thought. But there is much more that has to be done, and this is our contribution.

Perhaps the articles presented will not always make for easy reading. But they will merit the patient attention of those young men and women who are willing to search for coherent and wise discussion of principles for solution to the problems of the world into which all of us have been born, and who look to that higher world to which we have all been called by divine mercy. We say "coherent and wise," without pride, but with assurance, for in all cases, they will be founded

on the perennial wisdom of the Church's Common Doctor, St. Thomas Aquinas.

It is for this reason that we present a renewed *Dominicana*, with the conviction that those engaged in the hard business of attaining intellectual maturity and integrity will welcome an honest attempt to search out the reality of things. For in the words of the late Pope Pius XII: "When our intellect does not conform to the reality of things . . . it wanders in the illusion of dreams and pursues a phantom." We have no time for illusions and the pursuit of phantoms today.