



St. Thomas Aquinas  
and  
Aristotle

Presented by

Veronica Vicherek

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 A.D.



# St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

- ◆ Born to a wealthy, noble Italian family
- ◆ Age 5: Sent to study at Monte Cassino
- ◆ Age 19: Decides to join the Order of Preachers, O.P., ie. the Dominicans
- ◆ Pupil of St. Albert the Great at University of Paris, where he earns his theological Master's Degree
- ◆ Died in Fossanova Abbey, on the way to the Council of Lyons





# Major Works

- ◆ Summa contra Gentiles
  - ◆ Defending and explaining Catholic teaching to non-Christian cultures
- ◆ 11 commentaries on Aristotle
- ◆ 7 systematic disputations on Truth
- ◆ Numerous articles, letters and discourses written in his lifetime



# Summa Theologiae

**4 Parts; 614 Questions; 3,125 Articles**

Prima Pars: nature of objective reality; the existence and nature of God; creation of the universe; nature of man

Prima Secundae: happiness or *eudaimonia*; general principles of morality; natural law; human and divine government

Secunda Secundae: virtues and vices: various states of life

Tertia Pars: the Person and work of Jesus Christ; Sacraments of the Catholic Church



# Aristotle (384-322 BC)

- ◆ Born in Stagira, Chaldice. His name means “the best purpose”
- ◆ Student of Plato in Athens, teacher of Alexander the Great in Macedonia
- ◆ “Father of Western Philosophy” and one of the first recognized scientists
- ◆ Wrote about natural philosophy (physics, psychology, biology etc.) and practical philosophy (Ethics, Politics, Economics, etc.)
- ◆ Studied formal logic, and established virtue ethics









What is Philosophy?

What is Theology?

Can they reasonably co-exist?








Is human reason a reliable means of  
obtaining knowledge?

What is revelation?

Can they co-exist?





How is this relevant to today?





# Additional Reading

- 1) <https://dhs priory.org/thomas/> Collected works in Latin and English
- 2) “Influence of Aquinas- Oxford Handbooks” by Christopher Upham (found using Google Search)
- 3) <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-ethics/> Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy - Aristotle’s “Ethics”
- 4) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summa\\_Theologica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summa_Theologica)
- 5) <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aquinas/> Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – Thomas Aquinas
- 6) <http://www.quebecoislibre.org/06/060122-5.htm> Summary of St. Thomas Aquinas’s philosophy and cultural influence
- 7) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_works\\_by\\_Thomas\\_Aquinas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_works_by_Thomas_Aquinas)