



An Ancient Light That Shines Brighter Than Ever

Introduction: When the Modern World Stumbles Upon St. Thomas

In a world dominated by speed, emotion, and superficiality, great truths seem to have been relegated to the attic of dusty books. But among those pages, there still pulses a wisdom that refuses to be silenced by time: the wisdom of Saint Thomas Aquinas. And yet, why are so many afraid of it? Why does Thomism—a clear, robust, and profoundly Christian way of thinking—face such rejection or indifference in today's culture?

The answer is not simple, but it is necessary. Understanding it not only sheds light on our present moment but also gives us a compass for navigating the doctrinal, ethical, and spiritual confusion of our time. In this article, I invite you to explore the reasons why Thomism is unsettling—but more importantly, why it is urgently needed today.

1. What Is Thomism? A Synthesis of Faith and Reason

Thomism is the philosophical-theological school founded on the teachings of Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274), a Dominican friar, Doctor of the Church, and one of the most brilliant minds in the history of Christian thought. His monumental work, especially the *Summa Theologiae*, is not merely a treatise on theology, but a coherent worldview in which everything has its place: God, man, morality, politics, law, grace, science, art...

The genius of Saint Thomas lies in his ability to harmonize faith and reason. With a profoundly structured mind, he took the best of classical philosophy—especially Aristotle—and baptized it, putting it at the service of the Gospel. In Thomas, there is no rupture between the natural and the supernatural, but rather continuity: grace does not destroy nature but perfects it (*gratia non tollit naturam, sed perficit eam*).

This harmony is precisely what clashes with modern thought—fragmented, subjective, and relativistic.



2. The Modern World: A Crisis of Reason and Truth

We live in an era where relativism has been elevated to dogma. People no longer believe in objective truths, but in “personal narratives,” “subjective experiences,” or “validated feelings.” Reason has been weakened, logic is seen as oppressive, and theology is dismissed as outdated. The very idea of a universal truth is perceived as authoritarian or intolerant.

Pope Benedict XVI warned of the “dictatorship of relativism” that recognizes nothing as definitive and leaves the self and its desires as the only ultimate measure. In this context, Thomism emerges as a clear voice declaring: *“Yes, truth exists. Yes, we can know it. Yes, that truth is Christ.”* (cf. Jn 14:6: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”*)

3. Why Does Thomism Frighten the Modern World?

Thomism frightens the modern world for at least five major reasons:

a) Because It Is Objective

Thomism begins with the conviction that reality is objective. Things are what they are, regardless of how we feel about them. The essence of things does not change by ideological decree or emotional desire. In contrast, the modern world seeks to shape reality according to its whims. This includes everything from abortion and euthanasia to gender ideology and transhumanism. Thomism responds to all of this with a calm but firm affirmation of nature.

b) Because It Requires Intellectual Discipline

Thomism is not sentimentalism or superficial thinking. It demands effort, order, rigor, and humility. It is not enough to “feel” that something is right: one must know, think, reason, distinguish. In a world of memes, headlines, and TikToks, this intellectual attitude is unbearable for many.

c) Because It Reveals the Truth About Man

Thomism affirms that the human being is not defined by emotions, desires, or social constructs, but has a nature given by God. Man is a rational creature, with body and soul, created to know, love, and serve God. This vision contradicts the modern anthropology that proclaims: “You are what you feel” or “You are what you choose to be.”



d) Because It Puts God at the Center

Thomism is not anthropocentric but theocentric. God is the beginning and end of everything. Everything makes sense in relation to Him. Morality, politics, education, life—all must be oriented toward the supreme Good. This confronts the current narcissism that has made the self the center of the universe.

e) Because It Does Not Compromise with Error

Saint Thomas is profoundly charitable, but never condescending with error. He distinguishes between the person who errs (whom he loves) and the error itself (which he combats). Today, dialogue is often understood as the renunciation of truth. Thomism proposes real dialogue: open, yes, but also demanding and oriented toward truth.

4. The Current Legacy of Thomism: More Alive Than Ever

Despite its apparent “antiquity,” Thomism is not dead. In fact, it is undergoing a quiet yet powerful resurgence. In traditional seminaries, faithful theological institutes, Catholic universities, and young communities thirsting for truth, Saint Thomas is being rediscovered as a trustworthy guide.

The Second Vatican Council itself strongly recommended him (cf. *Optatam Totius*, n. 16), and popes like Leo XIII, Saint John Paul II, and Benedict XVI have defended him as a pillar for Catholic formation. *Fides et Ratio* by John Paul II is a profound homage to the Thomistic spirit.

Today, especially in times of doctrinal and ethical confusion, many Catholics seek clarity, stability, and depth—and they find all that in the Angelic Doctor.

5. Practical Applications of Thomism in Daily Life

It might seem that Thomism is reserved for theology classrooms. Nothing could be further from the truth. This worldview can radically transform your everyday life:



a) In Your Prayer Life

Thomism helps you understand who God is: not a vague force, but a personal Being, infinitely perfect, pure act, eternal love. This deep vision elevates your prayer from a mere emotional dialogue to a rational and full adoration.

b) In Your Moral Life

By understanding that everything has an end (teleology), Thomism teaches you that your actions have meaning if they are directed toward the Good. It helps you discern what is right with clarity, without falling into relativistic casuistry.

c) In Your Work and Decision-Making

Thomism teaches you to order your life according to reason illuminated by faith. It invites you to act with prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance—the cardinal virtues that Saint Thomas developed with brilliance.

d) In Your Relationships with Others

Thomism fosters charity founded on truth. It is not “emotional tolerance,” but a genuine pursuit of the other’s good—even when that requires fraternal correction or confronting error.

6. How to Begin Studying Thomism: A Pastoral Guide

If you want to introduce yourself to this school of thought, here are some pastoral steps:

1. **Start with the Basics:** Books like “*A Companion to the Summa*” by Fr. Walter Farrell or “*The Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*” by Étienne Gilson.
 2. **Seek Spiritual Guidance:** A priest formed in Thomism can help you apply these teachings to real life.
 3. **Join Traditional Catholic Communities:** Where Thomism is lived, not just studied.
 4. **Pray with Saint Thomas:** His prayer before studying is a powerful act of intellectual humility—especially necessary today.
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7. Conclusion: To Return to Saint Thomas Is to Return to Christ

This is not about making an idol of Saint Thomas, but about recognizing in him a privileged instrument that God has given His Church. In him, the light of reason and faith shine together, showing the path that leads to Truth.

In times of darkness, Thomism is not an intellectual luxury—it is a spiritual necessity. It is not a dead philosophy but a living tool that can help you know God more, love others better, and live with wisdom.

Because as Saint Thomas said:

“The good of the human person consists in living according to reason.”

(Summa Theologiae, I-II, q. 71, a. 2)

And that is precisely what the modern world has forgotten... and what **you** can recover.

**Do you dare to think clearly? To love intelligently? To live with order and purpose?
Then do not fear Thomism. Open the door. For it is not a threat... it is a promise.**