



## Contents

Acknowledgments .....	xi
Abbreviations of Works by St. Thomas Aquinas .....	xiii
Translations .....	xv
Preface .....	xvii
Introduction .....	xxi

### PART I

#### CHAPTER 1

<b>Identifying the Challenge: The Problem of Ontotheology and the <i>Via Inventionis</i> for a Modern Thomistic Natural Theology .....</b>	3
Natural Theology as a Problem in Modernity .....	3
Vatican I and <i>Aeterni Patris</i> .....	6
Challenges for Post-Kantian Thomism .....	10
Heideggerian Ontotheology and Thomistic Analogy .....	21
The Metaphysical Problem of the Person .....	27
<i>Via Inventionis</i> for a Thomistic Theological Metaphysics .....	28

### PART II

#### CHAPTER 2

<b>Knowledge of God as Wisdom according to Aristotle.....</b>	33
The Platonic Background of Aristotle's Protreptic Aspirations .....	35
Aristotelian Rearticulation of the Platonic Aspirations.....	40
Wisdom in the <i>Metaphysics</i> .....	45
Aristotelian Theology and Ontotheology .....	64

**CHAPTER 3**

<b>Context and Elements of Aquinas's Natural Theology .....</b>	67
The Christian Theological Context of Aquinas's Natural Theological Reflections .....	69
Aquinas's Christian Reinterpretation of Aristotelian Physics and Metaphysics.....	76
The <i>Esse/Essence</i> Distinction and the Metaphysics of Creation.....	81
The Perfection of the Primary Cause .....	86
Analogical Predication of Names to God .....	88
Personal Operations Attributed to God.....	94
Aquinas and Ontotheology .....	96
A Restatement of the Problems.....	98

**PART III****CHAPTER 4**

<b>Exodus 3:14, the Real Distinction, and Theo-ontology: The Case of Étienne Gilson .....</b>	103
Existence and the Critique of Essentialist Metaphysics .....	105
The Judgment of Existence and the <i>Esse/Essence</i> Distinction.....	109
An Existential Interpretation of the Five Ways .....	113
Problems with the <i>Esse/Essence</i> Distinction .....	116
Exodus 3:14 and Theo-ontology .....	117
Critical Reflections .....	120
The Judgment of Existence and Realistic Knowing .....	121
Existence and Essence in Aristotle and Aquinas.....	124
Theo-ontology and Specifically Philosophical Wisdom.....	129
Conclusion .....	132

**CHAPTER 5**

<b>The Transcendentals and the Analogy of Being: The Case of Jacques Maritain .....</b>	133
Diverse Philosophical Approaches to Reality:	
The Degrees of Abstraction.....	135
The Judgment of Existence and the Intuition of Being.....	138
The Transcendentals, <i>Intellectus</i> , and <i>Resolutio</i> .....	141
The Analogy of Being: Proper Proportionality .....	145

The Being of the Human Person.....	148
Intuitions of a Primary Being and the Five Ways.....	150
Critical Reflections .....	156
Resolution and Causality .....	157
Analogical Study of the Causes of Being.....	160
Personalist Metaphysics and Natural Theology.....	166
Conclusion .....	169

## CHAPTER 6

### **The Human Person as a Being-toward-Truth: The Case of Karl Rahner.....**

<i>Analogia Entis</i> in Maréchal.....	174
Rahnerian Method .....	179
Presence in the World, Doubt, and Human Sensibility.....	180
Abstraction within the Judgment of Existence .....	182
Pre-apprehension, Natural Theology, and the <i>Analogia Entis</i> .....	185
Spirit in the World, and Theological Reflections on the Person .....	189
Critical Reflections .....	190
Realist Presuppositions within a Transcendental Deduction .....	191
Causal Analysis and Secondary Acts.....	194
Conclusion .....	198

## PART IV

### CHAPTER 7

### **From Omega to Alpha: Toward a General Order of Metaphysical Inquiry .....**

Points of Departure: Physics, Metaphysics, and the Proper Object of Metaphysics.....	204
Analogical and Causal Study of Being: Substance and Accidents, Actuality and Potentiality .....	217
The Real Distinction between Existence and Essence .....	225
Ways toward God: A Posteriori Demonstrations .....	234
The Human Person as Being toward Ontological Truth and Goodness.....	245
Conclusion .....	249



## CHAPTER 8

<b><i>Analogia Sapientiae</i></b> .....	251
Negative Theology, and the Real Distinction between Essence and Existence.....	255
Causality, Apophaticism, and Analogy.....	268
<i>Analogia Sapientiae</i> : God as the Subsistent Wisdom That Is the Origin of the World .....	274
<i>Sapientia</i> and the Final End of Man.....	282
Bibliography .....	291
Index .....	307