

with God and therefore even the most pagan philosophers could have something to say if we can but get it into the proper context. In other words, even their wisdom had a "god-source".

Albertus Magnus (d. 1280)

The "universal doctor" was a German Dominican of encyclopaedic learning and was largely a student-compiler more than an original thinker. He served as a teacher to Thomas Aquinas and the scope of his learning opened the vistas of classics, etc., to others. There are, in scholastics, those who pioneer and those who inspire pioneers. Magnus was more of the latter.

Thomas Aquinas (d. 1274)

Known as the "angelic doctor", Thomas was an Italian Dominican and the most voluminous writer and profound thinker of his age. He did not have a long life (only 50 at the time of his death) but there was no theological subject on which he did not do extensive exploration and often gave the pronouncements that have held the church of Rome since. His great work is the SUMMA THEOLOGICA, a giant work in systematic and philosophic theology that makes most other works look miniscule. He produced much else, about sixty major works being attributed to him. It is true that he was so taken with the thought processes of Aristotle that he believed they must have come from God and his own philosophic system is often called "Aristotle Christianized" or something like that.

Aquinas championed natural theology but taught that it was not complete and revelation was required to make it complete and intelligible. But revelation could not be gained by reason, although it was not necessarily contrary to reason. In anthropology he was a dichotemist, he opposed the immaculate conception, championed the other basic Marian doctrines and heartily favored transubstantiation. His texts are still used in Roman education and at one time TWT was a Thomist in epistemology...but he can hardly spell it now, let alone remember how it was developed. A thomist, you will understand, is one who in any discipline follows the basic ideas of Aquinas and it is possible to be a thomist in ethics but not one in metaphysics, etc. If you don't understand how this can be, it indicates that you