

## BIOGRAPHY

Thomas Aquinas, born of noble parents, entered the Order of Preachers while he was still quite young, against the will of his mother and brothers. He was sent to Paris; but his brothers waylaid him on the journey and abducted him to the castle of San Giovanni.

There the angelic youth put to flight with a firebrand a woman who had been brought in to cause him to lose his chastity. At Paris, he devoted himself to the study of philosophy and theology with such success that, when he was scarcely twenty-five years old, he gained the highest praise for his commentaries on the works of the philosophers and the theologians. He never started to read or write without first having prayed. Once he heard these words from Jesus Crucified: "You have written well about Me, Thomas. What reward would you like to receive?" And he lovingly answered, "None but Yourself, Lord." There was no kind of writing in which he was not thoroughly versed.

Summoned to Rome by Urban IV, at his command he composed the Office for the Feast of Corpus Christi. On his way to the Council of Lyons to which he had been sent by St, Gregory X, he was taken ill at the Monastery of Fossa Nuova and, as he lay sick, he interpreted the Canticle of Canticles. He died there at the age of fifty years, on March 7, 1274. Leo XIII proclaimed and appointed him the heavenly Patron of all Catholic schools.

## ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CONFESSOR & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

**FEAST DAY:**  
**7 MARCH (1962)**  
**28 JANUARY (1969)**

## COLLECT

○ God, Who dost enlighten Thy Church by the wonderful learning of Thy blessed Confessor Thomas, and quickenest Her through his godly labours, grant unto Thy people, we humbly beseech Thee, ever to apprehend by their understanding what he teacheth, and in their life faithfully to practice the same. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who Liveth and Reigneth with Thee, in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen

## NOVENA TO ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

St. Thomas Aquinas, Patron of students and Catholic schools, I thank God for the gifts of light and knowledge He bestowed on you, which you used to build up the Church in love. I thank God, too, for the wealth and richness of theological teaching you left in your writings. Not only were you a great teacher, you lived a life of virtue and you made holiness the desire of your heart. If I cannot imitate you in the brilliance of your academic pursuits, I can follow you in the humility and charity which marked your life.

As St. Paul said, charity is the greatest gift, and it is open to all. Pray for me that I might grow in holiness and charity. Pray also for Catholic schools, and for all students. In particular, please obtain the favour I ask during this novena. **[Make you request here...]**