

St. Thomas Aquinas (1226-1274)

Spreading Knowledge

F E A S T
January 28

His family would be surprised to know that the words of Thomas Aquinas still help guide the Catholic Church, more than 700 years after his death. His parents were members of the nobility in Italy who sent young Thomas to school in a monastery. He was a brilliant student. He loved to study and, at age 17, he decided to become a Dominican monk. But his family had other plans for him.

One story says that Thomas' mother had him kidnapped and locked up in the family castle to get him to change his mind. But the young man kept his faith and, after two years, his family agreed to his wishes. He studied even more, and became a great teacher, writer, and preacher. By the time of his death, he had written twenty books, including his greatest work, the *Summa Theologica*, which is still used today. Much of what you learn about Roman Catholicism is based on the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Using the Word List, fill in the missing words in the sentences below. Then write those words in the correct order in the grid. Two letters have been filled in to get you started.

1. Thomas _____ to be a monk, but his family had other ideas.
2. His greatest work was called _____ *Theologica*.
3. St. Thomas' life was filled with a _____ for a greater knowledge of God.
4. St. Thomas Aquinas dedicated his entire adult life to _____.
5. A strong faith is _____.
6. One of Thomas' goals was to _____ others about God.

WORD LIST

CHOSE
 CHRIST
 SACRED
 SUMMA
 SEARCH
 TEACH

					A
		E			

When you have the words in the right order, the diagonal word within the highlighted boxes completes this sentence: "St. Thomas was called the light of the _____."