A ONE-PAGE SHEET

# Summa Theologica

*Thomas Aquinas*

AD 1265–1274 · DOMINICAN FATHERS, 1911–1920

"*Since therefore grace does not destroy nature but perfects it, natural reason should minister to faith as the natural bent of the will ministers to charity.*"

I, Q. 1, A. 8 · FATHERS OF THE ENGLISH DOMINICAN PROVINCE, 1911–1920

## Sacred doctrine

Theology, for Aquinas, is a real science. It does not prove the articles of faith by unaided reason; it starts from what God has revealed and then thinks carefully from there.

## Grace perfects nature

Grace does not wipe out nature, reason, or ordinary virtue. It completes them. That is why natural reason may serve faith, as the will's natural bent may serve charity.

## Ways to God

In the first part he offers well-known arguments from motion, cause, necessity, grades of perfection, and order in the world. They are meant as paths of reason, not as a substitute for faith.

## Law in four f

He distinguishes
law. Human law i
when it is merely

## Virtue, and t

He keeps the mor
faith, hope, and c
Charity is the for

## A method th

Each article states
answers. A studen
settling a questio

## What a Christian reader should weigh

Not every article is defined dogma, and some of the natural science is of its age. The method trains careful judgment, but Scripture and the Church remain the rule of the Bible, or as if every reply were beyond later correction.