



# RELIGIOUS ED

LIFE WITH CHRIST IS A WONDERFUL ADVENTURE!~POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

**JANUARY RE CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23RD**  
**CLASS**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY T30H**  
**NO CLASS**



*St. Thomas Aquinas    Feast Day: January 28th*

The return to our religious ed classes is a wonderful time to renew our commitment to learning our faith, and all of our school subjects. If ever there were a saint who knew the value of studiousness, it was St. Thomas Aquinas. He was a scholar, writer and gifted teacher and for centuries seminarians studied his writings in their preparation for the priesthood. He had great insights into the Bible, philosophy and the science of God called Theology. He also wrote beautiful hymns in honor of the Holy Eucharist, especially for benediction (the Pange Lingua and Tantum Ergo), which we still sing today. The Catechism of the Catholic Church contains many of his writings and prayers.

As a student, St. Thomas thought over each question carefully before answering and was thus dubbed the "dumb ox". One day during class, Thomas' teacher came across a difficult part of the book they were studying and was struggling to explain it to the students. Thomas explained it to the teacher clearly and correctly. Soon after, one of St. Thomas' teachers, St. Albert the Great, gave him an oral test. Commenting on what Thomas said, Albert responded, "We call him the "dumb ox" but I tell you he will make his lowing heard to the uttermost parts of the earth."

As Thomas grew older, his desire to join a religious order deepened. While his family was supportive, his mother was afraid that he would want to join the Dominicans, an order which begged for a living, instead of a wealthier order. She had her other sons find him and lock him up in a castle tower to keep him from joining the Dominicans. Thomas used this time to intensely study Scripture and write before he was freed by his family. For St. Thomas, studiousness was at the service of his piety, his relationship of prayer with his Father God. Thomas' greatest book, the Summa Theologica, was almost complete when, after saying Mass one day, Jesus appeared to him saying, "You have written well of me, Thomas; what reward would you have?" Thomas humbly replied to our Lord, "Nothing, but yourself, Lord." He also told our Lord, "All that I have written seems to me like so much straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me."

St. Thomas teaches us many things: faith does not contradict study, reason and knowledge. Studiousness is at the service mainly of God but also all others who benefit from our study. A studious person realizes that his natural gifts come from God.

Let us pray, particularly this month in which his feast day falls, that St. Thomas will intercede for our students by helping them to become young scholars who will greatly benefit both the Church and society.