

## Hans Urs von Balthasar's Interpretation of the Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas\*

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### Introduction

AS SHOULD be expected of every good theologian, the thought of Hans Urs von Balthasar has a solid philosophical framework.<sup>1</sup> The influence of Thomas Aquinas on the formulation of Balthasar's theology and

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\* Translation by Joseph G. Trabbic of "Il pensiero filosofico di Tommaso d'Aquino nell'interpretazione di H. U. Von Balthasar," *Medioevo* 18 (1992): 187–202.

<sup>1</sup> We will adopt the following abbreviations for the works of H. U. von Balthasar: *Glory 1: The Glory of the Lord*, vol. 1: *Seeing the Form*, trans. E. Leiva-Merikakis (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1983).

*Glory 2: The Glory of the Lord*, vol. 2: *Studies in Theological Styles: Clerical Styles*, trans. A. Louth, F. McDonagh, and B. McNeil (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1984).

*Glory 4: The Glory of the Lord*, vol. 4: *The Realm of Metaphysics in Antiquity*, trans. B. McNeil, A. Louth, J. Seward, R. Williams, and O. Davies (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1989).

*Glory 5: The Glory of the Lord*, vol. 5: *The Realm of Metaphysics in the Modern Age*, trans. O. Davies, A. Louth, B. McNeil, J. Seward, R. Williams (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1991).

*Theo-Drama 2: Theo-Drama: Theological Dramatic Theory*, vol. 2: *Dramatis Personae: Man in God*, trans. G. Harrison (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1990).

*Theo-Drama 4: Theo-Drama: Theological Dramatic Theory*, vol. 2: *The Action*, trans. G. Harrison (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1994).

*Theo-Logic 1: Theo-Logic: Theological Logical Theory*, vol. 1: *Truth of the World*, trans. A. J. Walker (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2001).

*Theo-Logic 2: Theo-Logic: Theological Logical Theory*, vol. 2: *Truth of God*, trans. A. J. Walker (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2004).

*Explorations 1: Explorations in Theology*, vol. 1: *The Word Made Flesh*, trans. A. V. Littledale and A. Dru (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1989).