



ANGELICVM
ROMA
PONTIFICIA UNIVERSITÀ S. TOMMASO D'AQUINO

THOMISM AND ECONOMICS

March 11, 2024
16:30-19:00

Pontificia Università San Tommaso d'Aquino
Facoltà di Scienze Sociali
Largo Angelicum 1, Roma
Aula XI

16.30 Welcome and introduction
Rector and Dean

16.35 **The Economic Thought of Thomas Aquinas: from Theological Issues and a Philosophical Framework to an Economic Understanding**
Pierre Januard, OP

Respondents:

17.15 *Philip Neri Reese, OP*

17.25 *Stefano Menghinello*

17.35 **Homo Thomistica and Homo Oeconomicus: on Economic Freedom**
Albino Barrera, OP

Respondents:

18.15 *Catherine Joseph Droste, OP*

18.25 *Cristiano Colombi*

18.35 Discussion with the audience

19.00 Conclusions and aperitif



Prof. Pierre Januard OP

Pierre Januard is a French Dominican. He teaches economics at the Catholic University of Angers and at the Sorbonne in Paris, where he is completing a postdoc. He defended his PhD in economics in 2022 on the risk in the early works of Thomas Aquinas and has published around ten articles on the economic thought of Thomas Aquinas. He also works with financial companies specialising in ethical and sustainable finance. At the same time, he continues to teach fundamental and dogmatic theology.

Prof. Albino BARRERA OP

Albino Barrera is Professor of Economics and Theology at Providence College (RI, USA). He is a friar of the St Joseph Province (New York) of the Order of Preachers. His research interests are economic ethics and the Church's poverty alleviation work. He has taught Development Economics, International Trade, Catholic Social Thought, and Theological Ethics for Business and Economics, among other courses. His most recent book is *Compassion-Justice Conflicts and Christian Ethics* (Cambridge, November 2023). He is the lead editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Religion and Economic Ethics* (Oxford, February 2024).

Abstracts

Prof. Pierre Januard OP

Thomas Aquinas sought to answer moral questions and, as a theologian, to determine what was right and what was sinful in the behaviour of the lender, borrower, seller or buyer. In order to carry out this normative quest, he needs to understand in a positive way what the transactions consist of. This leads him to advance economic thought and understanding of exchange activities, from his early works to his latest.

Reading the economic works of Thomas Aquinas provides a powerful resource for understanding and addressing contemporary economic and social issues. In addition, the way he addresses theological issues and the philosophical conceptual apparatus he uses enable him to forge the conceptual foundation of his economic thought, which he would later mobilise when dealing with trade and lending. In turn, the use of economic concepts such in theology would gradually shape his theological thinking.

The goal is to address Aquinas's economic thought as an economist but that it might be of interest for theologians and philosophers.

Prof. Albino BARRERA OP

A significant impact of Thomism on economic thought and praxis today is the alternative it presents regarding the nature of economic freedom.

Mainstream economics follows the larger culture's understanding of freedom as the freedom of action.

The goal is to expand the sphere of autonomy within which people are sovereign in pursuing their preferences and life projects.

Thomism presents a competing view of freedom—as rational freedom. While it has a much a more circumscribed sphere of autonomy with significant negative and positive duties, rational freedom nevertheless ends up providing a much more substantive, consequential, and enduring freedom.
