

## St. Thomas of Aquin



ST. THOMAS, among the doctors of the Church, is a star of the first magnitude. None of his distinguished works was begun without prayer; always, and before all things, he looked to God for assistance, and he was thereby so illuminated of God that no one may materially differ from what he has written (so says one of his biographers) without danger of soiling the purity of his faith.

From his earliest youth he was daily to be found at the steps of the altar praying for guidance and light upon his studies. He used to say that he learned far less from books than he did at the foot of the Cross. Pure in heart, obedient, humble as a child, and full of a heavenly peace which shone in his very face, at twenty-five years of age he received priest's Orders. In preparation for this great change he redoubled his devotions. Night after night he spent before the tabernacle in communion with God and the holy Angels; and when he offered up his first Mass it was with tears of emotion, whilst his brow was illumined with a celestial glow.

There was at this time a great dispute concerning the All-Holy Sacrament, which had reached even