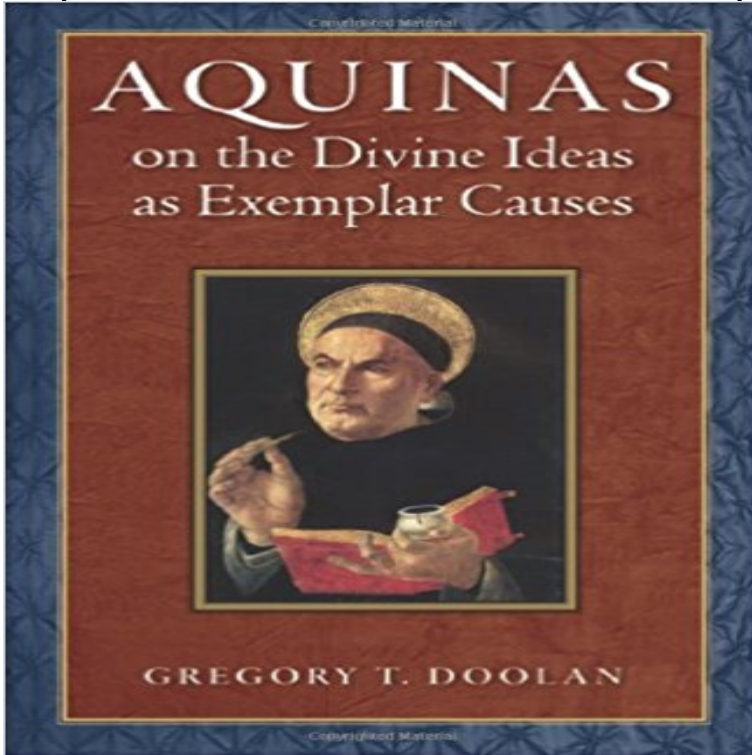


# Aquinas on the Divine Ideas as Exemplar Causes



Gregory T. Doolan provides here the first detailed consideration of the divine ideas as causal principles. He examines Thomas Aquinas's philosophical doctrine of the divine ideas and convincingly argues that it is an essential element of his metaphysics. According to Thomas, the ideas in the mind of God are not only principles of his knowledge, but they are productive principles as well. In this role, God's ideas act as exemplars for things that he creates. As Doolan shows, this theory of exemplarism is an integral part of Thomas's account of the existence and order of the created universe. It also accounts in part for the freedom of God's creative act. The volume begins with an introduction to Thomas's doctrine of exemplarism and then addresses his arguments for the existence of exemplar ideas within the mind of God. Having established the existence of divine ideas, Doolan considers how Thomas reconciles their multiplicity with God's simplicity. The work identifies the various things for which Thomas posits divine ideas. As Doolan is careful to show, Thomas does not consider all of these ideas to be exemplars because not all of them act as causal principles. After identifying the ideas that do act in this way, Doolan considers how such exemplars can be causes of natural things without compromising the causality of natural agents. The volume culminates with a consideration of the role that the divine ideas play within the structure of Thomas's theory of participation.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Gregory T. Doolan, assistant professor of philosophy at The Catholic University of America, is a contributor to *Wisdoms Apprentice: Thomistic Essays in Honor of Lawrence Dewan, O.P.*, and *Reassessing the Liberal State: Reading Maritain's Man and the State*. This is his first book.

**PRAISE FOR THE BOOK:** An outstanding doctrinal study of Thomas's teaching on exemplary forms. Gregory

Doolan argues convincingly that the doctrine of divine exemplarism occupies an essential place in Thomass metaphysical thought. Doolan has a very good mastery of Thomass thought; he is familiar with all the relevant literature and takes stand in several interesting debates concerning the subject of his study. R. A. te Velde, University of Tilburg [Doolan] canvasses Aquinas works thoroughly, explicitly highlighting ideas as exemplar causes, their very existence and their multiplicity, before identifying exemplar ideas, along with the causality proper to them, to finally broach the ways Aquinas uses divine ideas to elucidate his critical strategy of participation. Daunting metaphysical issues all, and those who are drawn to explore them will find a virtual roadmap for Aquinas treatment in this well-composed study. . . . [A] first step to any student attempting to negotiate these metaphysical shoals. David Burrell, C.S.C., Nova et Vetera Doolans study is the most detailed philosophical analysis of the divine ideas as causal principles yet published and brings to the fore how this causality is related to that of natural agents and how it fits within the framework of St. Thomass theory of participation. . . . The work is of great value to scholars due primarily to Doolans superb textual analyses, synthetic exposition of St. Thomass thought and commentaries on the work of other Thomists, helpful summaries that conclude several chapters, and clear, direct, highly-readable style. . . . I conclude by whole-heartedly recommending Doolans study. With it, he has established himself as a first-rate scholar who is not afraid to take a firm, measured stand on currently debatable points. Jason Mitchell, L.C., Rivista Alpha Omega

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