

**THE LIFE OF THE ANGELIC  
DOCTOR ST. THOMAS  
AQUINAS, OR THE ORDER  
OF FRIAR PREACHERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649090631

The life of the Angelic Doctor St. Thomas Aquinas, or the order of friar preachers by  
Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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DOCTOR ST. THOMAS  
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OF FRIAR PREACHERS**



THE LIFE  
OF  
THE ANGELIC DOCTOR  
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS,  
OF  
THE ORDER OF FRIAR PREACHERS;

BY  
A FATHER OF THE SAME ORDER,

(*Pius Conranough*)

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*Augustinus Fratri sic loquitur :  
Thomas mihi par est in gloria,  
Virginali præstans munditia.*

—Office for Feast of St. Thomas.

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**Permissu Superiorum.**

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P. J. KENEDY AND SONS

PRINTERS TO THE HOLY APOSTOLIC SEE

NO. 44 BARCLAY STREET, N. Y.

## APPROBATION.

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Nos infrascripti Revisores Ord. Præd. pro scriptis excudendis fidem facimus quod attente perlectum opusculum cujus titulus "The Life of Saint Thomas Aquinas, by a Dominican Father" compilatum, typis mandari posse censemus. In quorum fidem his propria manu subscripsimus, Benetiæ, die 16 Junii, 1881.

Fr. MANNES DOOGAN, O. P.

Fr. LUDOVICUS DANIEL, O. P.

*Imprimatur,*

Fr. SADOE VILARRASA, Com. Gen. Calif. O. P.

We approve of the publication of the book entitled "The Life of Saint Thomas Aquinas, by a Dominican Father," published by D. & J. Sadlier & Co.

✚ JOHN CARDINAL McCLOSKEY,  
Archbishop of New York.

June, 1881.



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THE  
LIFE OF SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

(THE ANGELIC DOCTOR).

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CHAPTER I.

EARLY LIFE OF SAINT THOMAS.



HE little town of Aquino, near which St. Thomas was born, is situated at an equal distance from Rome and Naples. It is in the centre of a fertile plain, which the inhabitants call "Campagna felice," or the happy valley, and which is almost surrounded by bare and sterile mountains. In the thirteenth century, upon

the most advanced spur of these mountains, there stood a castle called Rocca-Secca, whose ruins, overhanging the torrent of Melfi, which flows from the highest parts of the Apennines, still attest its ancient splendor.

The castle of Rocca-Secca belonged to the old and powerful family of the Counts of Aquino. In the middle of the twelfth century the head of this family was Count Thomas, Lieutenant-General of the army of the Emperor Frederick I of Germany, who had given him his sister Frances in marriage. From this union sprang Count Landolph, the father of St. Thomas. He married the Countess Theodora, of the illustrious family of the Carracioli. She was of royal blood, being descended from the Norman kings of Naples and Sicily.

Thus St. Thomas was allied by birth to some of the most noble families of Europe, being the second cousin of the Emperor Frederick II of Germany, and, as some authors say, nearly related to St. Louis, King of France.

Before his birth several signs predicted the greatness he was destined to acquire. One day when the Countess Theodora was at the castle of Rocca-Secca, a venerable old hermit called the Good, who lived with some companions upon a neighboring mountain, and who was venerated as a saint, went to her and said: "Rejoice! for you bear in your womb a child, who during his life will spread abroad such a splendor of holiness and learning, that this age will give birth to no one able to be compared with him: you will call him Thomas."