

St Thomas Aquinas entered the Dominican order in 1244. His writings and teachings in theology, philosophy and scripture were outstanding and founded on a life of prayer. He died in 1274.

The Readings and Gospel are , as is often the case, very apt for this day of commemoration. A man whose holiness and great learning are summed up in the words of today's Reading from the book of Wisdom. "I prayed, and understanding was given me. I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom was given to me.....May God grant me to speak as he would wish and express thoughts worthy of his gifts, since he himself is the guide of Wisdom.....We are indeed in his hand, we ourselves and our words, with all our understanding, too, and technical knowledge."

In the Gospel Jesus says, "You must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers.....Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted." Thomas Aquinas followed the example of Jesus. He was a man of humility who turned to his Master in prayer. He didn't flaunt his resulting wisdom but, with humility, used it to the benefit of his brothers and sisters in Christ. We too have God given gifts. We too are called to turn to our Father, God, for the wisdom and humility to use them as He so wishes.