ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Cristina M. Pumplun, Secretary of Studies

1. Research and study at the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht

Since January 2010 the meetings of the research group ‘Onderzoeksgroep Thomas van Aquino’ are part of the curriculum of the Research Master Programme of Tilburg School of Theology (TST). During term four research master students participated in the monthly meetings and discussions of the research group and two of them also presented a paper for discussion. The group commented on a paper by Piet-Hein Hupsch on Gregory of Nazianzus’ theological orations, and Hans Verstappen gave a presentation about The Ladder of Divine Ascent by John Climacus.

During the other meetings texts by Thomas Aquinas were read and discussed about – a.o. StTh III, q. 52 – as well as papers and articles by members of the Institute: parts of the forthcoming dissertation by Syds Wiersma about the Pugio Fidei by Raimundus Martini, an article by prof. Rudi te Velde about “Thomas Aquinas and the Problem of Theism” and two papers by prof. Herwi Rikhof and dr. Harm Goris on Creation theology.

In total the research group convened seven times in 2010. Chair during these meetings were prof. Henk Schoot and prof. Herwi Rikhof.
2. Day of Study at the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht

On 29 January 2010 the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht (Tilburg University) organised a morning of study to inform a broader public about the projects which are done at the institute on the work of Thomas Aquinas. In September 2009 the 13th volume of the publication series of the institute had been published, the collection of studies presented at the third international conference of the institute in December 2005. Title of the volume is Transcendence and Immanence in the Work of Thomas Aquinas (Peeters/Leuven 2009). Aim was to present this volume with English academic contributions for a larger Dutch public. Four of the main contributions by Dutch members of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht (Tilburg University) – Rudi te Velde, Herwi Rikhof, Henk Schoot and Harm Goris – were updated and adapted for this audience. 65 people attended the morning of study. The contributions have been published in the Jaarboek Thomas Instituut 2009 (2010).

3. Chair for Theology of Thomas Aquinas

During the year under review further research at the chair concentrated around the subject of Christian salvation. Henk Schoot, extraordinary professor to the Chair for Theology of Thomas Aquinas, gave several lectures to present his research in front of different audiences. He developed a new course in the Master Theology on the subject of Christian Salvation, in which due attention was given to the soteriology of Anselm and Aquinas, among others. In October he gave a lecture at the day of studies of the Franciscan study centre at Utrecht about crisis, money and faith. He gave an interpretation of the second papal encyclical of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi, on basis of Aquinas’ soteriology in February at Luce, Centre for Religious Communication, in Utrecht, and in January he talked about hermeneutical aspects of Aquinas’ soteriology at the morning of study of the Thomas Instituut.
As coordinator of the researchgroup ‘Onderzoeksgroep Thomas van Aquino’ he led the integration of master students into this research group.

4. The Board of the Institute and the Foundation

Because the *Thomas Instituut te Utrecht* forms an institute of only one faculty (Tilburg School of Theology of Tilburg University) an official board for the institute was no longer required. To safeguard the continuation, coordination and cooperation within the institute a steering committee has been formed with the Director of the institute, prof. Henk Schoot, the Secretary of Studies, dr. Cristina Pumplun, and dr. Harm Goris. This committee convened on 12 January, 25 May, 29 June and 14 October.

The Board of the Thomas Foundation convened on 6 April and 30 November 2010. There were no changes in the composition of the Board of the Foundation.

5. *Jaarboek Thomas Instituut te Utrecht*

The *Jaarboek Thomas Instituut te Utrecht* 2009 was timely published in 2010. The Editorial Board convened on 12 April and 1 November. There were no personnel changes in the Editorial Board.

6. Publication: Ferdinand de Grijs, *Onze Heer*

In the year under review Ferdinand de Grijs, former Director of the Institute published his book *Onze Heer. Onderzoekingen in het katholieke geloof over Jezus Christus*, Valkhof Pers/Nijmegen 2010, isbn 9789056253332, 213 pp. Prof. Henk Schoot was editor of this project and wrote the introduction. This is the first part of a two-part project: in *Onze Heer II* de Grijs plans to write about the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.
7. **Website of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht**

In March 2010 the institute celebrated its foundation twenty years earlier, in 1990. To mark this anniversary a new website was launched on 7 April 2010 under the well-known name: www.thomasinstituut.org. The website was presented a day earlier during a meeting of the Thomas Foundation, sponsor of the new site. The new site received a modern outline and concentrates on information about Thomas Aquinas and the work of the institute, about where to get more information on Aquinas’ life and work and about the network of studies done on Thomas Aquinas around the world. The site now also makes it easier to directly purchase volumes of the publication series of the *Thomas Instituut te Utrecht* and the *Jaarboek Thomas Instituut te Utrecht*.

8. **Members of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht**

31 December 2010

*Tilburg School of Theology (Tilburg University)*

**Staff**
- Prof. dr. P. van Geest
- Dr. H.J.M.J. Goris
- Prof. dr. H.W.M. Rikhof
- Prof. dr. H.J.M. Schoot
- Prof. dr. R.A. te Velde
  (University of Amsterdam) Philosophy
- Prof. dr. J.B.M. Wissink

**Candidates for a Doctorate**
- Drs. T. Corstjens
- Drs. S. Magnus
- Drs. F.A. Steijger
- Drs. S. Wiersma

*Tilburg School of Humanities (Tilburg University)*

- Dr. C.J.W. Leget
- Prof. dr. F.J.H. Vosman
**Radboud University Nijmegen**  
Dr. P.J.J.M. Bakker  
(Philosophy)  
Prof. dr. H.A.G. Braakhuis  
(Philosophy)  
Prof. dr. P.G.J.M. Raedts  
(History)  
Prof. dr. P.J.M. van Tongeren  
(Philosophy)  
Dr. A.C.M. Vennix  
(Philosophy)  
Prof. dr. B.P.M. Vermeulen  
(Law)  

**Other members of the Institute**  
Prof. dr. F.J.A. de Grijs  
(Catholic Theological University of Utrecht, emeritus)  
Dr. S. Gradl  
Prof.dr. M.J.F.M. Hoenen  
(Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany)  
Dr. M.-R. Hoogland c.p.  
Drs. Tj. Jansen s.j.  
Dr. F.G.B. Luijten  
Prof. dr. K.W. Merks  
(Tilburg University, emeritus)  
Prof. dr. A. Orbán  
(Utrecht University, emeritus)  
Dr. W.G.B.M. Valkenberg  
(Loyola College in Maryland, Baltimore, USA)  
Drs. P.L. van Veldhuijsen†  
Dr. A. Vos  
(Protestant Theological University, emeritus)
9. Research programmes and research projects in 2010

*Tilburg School of Theology (Tilburg University): The Thought of Thomas Aquinas (philosophical, systematic-theological)*

The central questions in the research project ‘The Thought of Thomas Aquinas’ are systematic-theological and philosophical in nature. Results of recent historical research are taken into account, but historical research is not the aim of this project. In this project Thomas’ texts are read with systematic questions in mind and with a hermeneutical awareness. This then determines the research’s double perspective: first it focuses on aspects characteristic for Thomas’ thinking, and secondly it takes into account sensitivities that form part of the current (theological and philosophical) situation.

Characteristic for Thomas’ theological thinking is its basis in Holy Scripture, its continuous theocentrism, its negative theology bias, and its attention to the *nexus mysteriorum*. Characteristic for Thomas’ philosophical thinking is his attention to metaphysics. The sensitivities of the current situation relevant for this research are related to the notion of the history of salvation, to subjectivity and to pluralism. Both perspectives are dealt with in the sub-projects.

The research concentrates on a number of interrelated themes: the doctrine of the Trinity, christology and soteriology, theological anthropology, and theory of participation.

*Nature and Grace. The relation between Nature and Grace in the Theological Anthropology of Thomas Aquinas*
- H.J.M.J. Goris

*Trinity and Thomas*
- H.W.M. Rikhof
Christology and Soteriology
(Chair for Theology of Thomas Aquinas)
  -H.J.M. Schoot
Metaphysics and Subjectivity
  -R.A. te Velde

PhD-projects carried out at the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht

Words of Presence. The significance of the words of institution as discussed by Thomas Aquinas for a communicative-personalist understanding of the eucharistic realis presentia
  -T. Corstjens
"Ut credentes vitam habeatis”. Faith in Thomas Aquinas’
In Ioannem
  -S. Mangnus
God’s Hidden Presence in the Sacrament of the Eucharist
  -F.A. Steijger
The Pugio Fidei by Raimundus Martini (1220-1284)
  -S. Wiersma

Tilburg School of Humanities (Tilburg University)

The meaning of the term ‘passion’ (and its connotations) in handbooks of moral theology
  -F.J.H. Vosman
Professional Loving Care in a General Hospital (Care in Contested Coherence)/The dynamics of hope in palliative care
  -C.J.W. Leget

Individual projects

Augustin’s evaluation of fear
  -P. van Geest
Den Tod im Leben sehen. Martin Luthers Beitrag zu einem erneuerten Umgang mit Tod und Sterben
  -S. Gradl
Current meaning of Aquinas’ ethics
-K.-W. Merks

Subject and normativity (programme)
-P.J.M. van Tongeren

Theology and Christian-Muslim relations
-W.G.B.M. Valkenberg

The Project of a hermeneutic philosophy
-A.C.M. Vennix

Design of a Practical Ecclesiology
-J.B.M. Wissink

10. Publications in 2010

This list contains all publications by members of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht (Tilburg University) in so far as they include Thomas Aquinas as a topic or a topic in relation to his life and works. It also contains all publications by members who participate in the research programme ‘The Thought of Thomas Aquinas (philosophical, systematic-theological)’ of the Tilburg School of Theology (Tilburg University).

Scientific publications


Geest, P.J.J. van - The Incomprehensibility of God. Augustine as a Negative Theologian (Late Antique History and Religion 4) - Peeters/Leuven-Dudley (2010)


Geest, P.J.J. van - “…seeing that for monks the life of Antony is a sufficient pattern of discipline…” Athanasius as mystagogue in his Vita Antonii - P. van Geest (ed.), Athanasius of Alexandria. New Perspectives on his Theology and Asceticism (Church History and Religious Culture 90) - Brill/Leiden (2010) 165-169


Velde, R.A. te (red.) - In het spoor van Plato’s Symposium. Eros in de westerse cultuur (Annalen van het Thijmgenootschap) - Valkhof Pers/Nijmegen (2010)


**Professional and/or popular publications**


Lectures


Geest, P.J.J. van - Multicultureel leiderschap in de tijd van de kerkvaders - Lecture at the Radboudstichting, Utrecht, 7 April 2010

Geest, P.J.J. van - Augustine as a negative theologian - Lectures at the Centre for Early Christian studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 14-17 February 2010
Geest, P.J.J. van - Business Ethics in Late Antiquity - Lecture at the Duisenberg School of Finance, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, 13 April 2010

Geest, P.J.J. van - La tensione tra il *dover parlare* di Dio e il *voler tacere* di fronte a Dio. Alcune osservazioni nel *De Trinitate* di Agostino - Lecture at the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, Roma, 6 May 2010

Geest, P.J.J. van - The Early Augustine on Fear - Lecture at the international Conference on Augustine and his Reception - Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, 21 May 2010

Geest, P.J.J. van - Augustine on Fear in *De Doctrina Christiana* - Lecture at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Louvain, 5 June 2010

Geest, P.J.J. van - Annual St. Augustine Lecture / The Philosophy Society Lecture / Faculty of Theology Lecture - University of Malta, Malta, 11-12 November 2010


Goris, H.J.M.J. - Alomtegenwoordigheid volgens Thomas van Aquino - Lecture at the morning of studies of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht “God met ons? Thomas van Aquino over God nabij en veraf”, Utrecht, 29 January 2010

Rikhof, H.W.M. - Het kindschap Gods - Lecture at the morning of studies of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht “God met ons? Thomas van Aquino over God nabij en veraf”, Utrecht, 29 January 2010


Rikhof, H.W.M. - Recent history and developments in the RC Church and theology in the Netherlands - Lecture at the South East Institute for Theological Education, Hoeven, 20 March 2010

Rikhof, H.W.M. - Newman teologo? - Lecture at the Comunita monastica SS Trinita, Dumenza, 18 July 2010

Rikhof, H.W.M. - Over Priester en priesterschap - Lecture at the diocese Den Bosch, Hoeven, 11 October 2010


Rikhof, H.W.M. - Johannes Paulus II over de Heilige Geest - Lecture at the day of studies of the Tilburg School of Theology (Tilburg University) and the major seminaries in the Netherlands “Johannes Paulus II. Ontmoeting en Inspiratie”, Dijnselburg, 18 October 2010
Rikhof, H.W.M - Theologische reflecties op het laatste oordeel - Lecture at a day of studies of the “Bovendonk Academie”, Hoeven, 15 November 2010

Schoot, H.J.M. - Actuele hermeneutische aspecten van de soteriologie van Thomas van Aquino - Lecture at the morning of studies of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht “God met ons? Thomas van Aquino over God nabij en veraf”, Utrecht, 29 January 2010

Schoot, H.J.M. - Spe Salvi: Hoop op Gerechtigheid in Christus. Een interpretatie met behulp van Thomas van Aquino - Lecture at a day of studies at Luce (Centre for Religious Communication) about the three encyclicals of Pope Benedict XVI, Utrecht, 10 February 2010


Schoot, H.J.M. - Kredietcrisis: geld en geloof - Lecture at the day of studies of the Franciscan study centre “Crisis als kans, een Franciscaanse blik op de crisis van onze tijd”, Utrecht, 21 October 2010

Valkenberg, W.G.B.M. - Can We Talk Theologically? Thomas Aquinas and Nicholas of Cusa on the Possibility of a Theological Understanding of Islam - Lecture for the conference at Claremont Graduate University, “Thinking the Medieval Legacy for Contemporary Theology: An Encounter between Medieval Thought and Postmodern Challenges”, Claremont, 16-17 April
Velde, R.A. te - Over transcendentie gesproken - Lecture at the morning of studies of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht “God met ons? Thomas van Aquino over God nabij en veraf”, Utrecht, 29 January 2010

Velde, R.A. te - Augustinus en metafysica - Lecture at the Geert Grote University, Deventer, 29 March 2010

Velde, R.A. te - Metafysica - Lecture at the symposium of the Student Society USLAS, Utrecht, 6 April 2010