

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Cristina M. Pumplun, Secretary of Studies

1. Research program

The research at the *Thomas Instituut te Utrecht* is being carried out within a program under the title: “The hidden presence of God in Scripture and Sacrament in the context of Thomas Aquinas”, which concentrates on Thomas Aquinas and on the subjects of scripture and sacrament. This program is a continuation of earlier research into the theology of Thomas and the reception of his theology, which – over the years – has developed increasingly into a program that concentrates on the theology of Thomas and its relevance for current theological discussions. Therefore, within the current program Thomas’ theology is studied in view of its contribution to these discussions. The field of research is the theology of Thomas Aquinas. The guiding principle is systematic theological and canonical juridical in character. The overall theme of the hidden presence of God is studied in four related projects and is related to the methodical features that have become characteristic of the ‘Utrecht approach’: attention to language, to negative theology of Thomas, to the biblical nature of his thought and to the *nexus mysteriorum*.

The programme includes the following main projects:

- Theology of the Trinity: a reading of Thomas in relation to the current renaissance of the theology of the Trinity;
- The God of the medieval Arabic philosophers: doctrine of God in view of the inter-religious dialogue;
- Christ-revelation and the religions: Christology in view of the medieval inter-religious dialogue;
- Sacrament and creation: the sacramental presence of God in marriage, sacrament and creation (this is an interdisciplinary project of systematic theology and canon law).

Two PhD-projects are related to this:

- Thomas's commentary on John;
- The *Pugio Fidei* (a key publication in the inter-religious dialogue in the 13th century).

Two external PhD-projects are also linked to the main projects of the programme and they deal with sacramental theology, especially the Eucharist.

Every five years, an international conference is organised, during which the topics of the programme are presented to and discussed with an international forum. Each year one or two symposia on a more regional and national level are organised to discuss new publications by members of the Institute or questions raised by the study of Thomas Aquinas. National and international recognition of the quality of the Institute and its research is expressed in the invitation to members, who are invited to contribute to books and conferences, to give guest-lectures and conduct summer courses and to act as editors in various editorial boards. The various research projects give the opportunity for interdisciplinary discussions, both within the Institute and within a broader academic setting, including areas discussing the relationship of systematic theology-exegesis, Christianity-Judaism, theology-philosophy, (medieval) history.

2. Chair for Theology of Thomas Aquinas

During the last three years the Thomas Foundation has acquired funds for establishing a chair for the study of the theology of Thomas Aquinas. This chair was newly founded at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at Utrecht (Tilburg University) in 2006, and is an initiative of the Thomas Foundation. It is also the first chair world wide which is dedicated to the theology of Thomas Aquinas. As of 1 May 2006 Henk Schoot has been appointed extraordinary professor to this chair. He held his inaugural lecture on 26 January 2007 (which in English translation is published in this *Jaarboek*).

3. Study and research at the *Thomas Instituut te Utrecht*

On 23 June 2006, the *Thomas Instituut te Utrecht* organised a morning of studies on the occasion of the publication of a book by a

member of the board of the Institute, Rudi te Velde: *Aquinas on God* (Ashgate 2006). Twenty-five people attended. Te Velde delivered a presentation mainly of the third chapter in this book, where he describes Aquinas' conception about 'what God is (not)' by developing a original and nuanced vision concerning the question if one can talk about a 'negative theology' in Aquinas. Harm Goris afterwards answered by laying down his opinions about Thomas and negative theology. A lively discussion concluded the morning of studies.

Members of the research group *Onderzoeksgroep Thomas van Aquino* convened five times in 2006, each time on the first Monday of the month. Parts of dissertations by junior research fellows were discussed, as well as preliminary versions of articles based on papers that were presented at the conference of the Institute in December 2005 and that will be published in the conference volume as part of the publication series of the Institute. A number of meetings were also spent on reading texts by Thomas Aquinas.

4. The Board of the Institute and the Foundation

The Board of the Institute convened on 7 March. During this meeting the board said good-bye to prof. K.W. Merks, who became professor emeritus already in 2005. The *Thomas Instituut te Utrecht* owes him many thanks for presiding the Board since the establishment of the Institute in 1990. During the meeting the Board also discussed the new situation of the Institute after the merger of the Catholic Theological University at Utrecht and Tilburg University, and consequently becoming a part of the newly erected Faculty of Catholic Theology (of Tilburg University), based primarily in Utrecht.

The Board of the Thomas Foundation convened on 11 April and on 21 November. The Board discussed the establishment of a chair extraordinary for research into Thomas' theology at the *Thomas Instituut te Utrecht* and the appointment of Henk Schoot as professor to this chair as well as the statutory and juridical implications of the chair within the newly established Faculty of Catholic Theology at Utrecht, as part of the University of Tilburg.

5. *Jaarboek Thomas Instituut te Utrecht*

The *Jaarboek Thomas Instituut te Utrecht 2005* was timely published in 2006. It contains studies, which are based on the paper presentations during the international conference of the Institute in December 2005. The Editorial Board convened on 9 May. There were no personnel changes in the Editorial Board.

6. **Series of Publications**

In the year under review the committee who had organised the international conference of the Institute in December 2005 – Herwi Rikhof, Henk Schoot, Harm Goris and Cristina Pumplun – were preparing the conference volume, which will contain articles based on lectures given and papers presented at the conference in 2005, *Transcendence and Immanence in the Thought of Thomas Aquinas*.

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

31 December 2006

Faculty of Catholic Theology at Utrecht

Staff	Prof. dr. P. van Geest Dr. H.J.M.J. Goris Prof. dr. H.W.M. Rikhof Dr. H.J.M. Schoot Prof. dr. F.J.H. Vosman Prof. dr. J.B.M. Wissink
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Candidates for a Doctorate	Drs. S. Mangnus Drs. F.A. Steijger Drs. S. Wiersma
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<i>Tilburg University</i>	Prof. dr. R.A. te Velde (University of Amsterdam, Philosophy)
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<i>Radboud University Nijmegen</i>	<p>Dr. P.J.J.M. Bakker (Philosophy) Prof. dr. H.A.G. Braakhuis (Philosophy) Prof.dr. M.J.F.M. Hoenen (Philosophy) Dr. C.J.W. Leget (UMC St. Radboud, Ethics) Prof. dr. P.G.J.M. Raedts (History) Prof. dr. P.J.M. van Tongeren (Philosophy) Dr. W.G.B.M. Valkenberg (Theology) Dr. A.C.M. Vennix (Philosophy) Prof. dr. mr. B.P.M. Vermeulen (Law)</p>
<i>Utrecht University</i>	<p>Dr. A. Vos (Theology) Prof. dr. A. Orbán (Arts/Late Latin)</p>
<i>Other members of the Institute</i>	<p>Prof. dr. F.J.A. de Grijs (Catholic Theological Universit of Utrecht, emeritus) Dr. S. Gradl Dr. M.-R. Hoogland c.p. Drs. Tj. Jansen s.j. Dr. F.G.B. Luijten Prof. dr. K.W. Merks (Tilburg University, emeritus) Drs. P.L. van Veldhuijsen</p>

8. Research programmes and research projects in 2006

The projects referred to are carried out by members of the Institute. The research programmes consist of several projects.

The hidden presence of God in Scripture and Sacrament seen in the light of Thomas Aquinas

(Faculty for Catholic Theology at Utrecht)

The God of the Medieval Arabic Philosophers

-H.J.M.J. Goris

“Ut credentes vitam habeatis”. Faith in Thomas Aquinas’ In Ioannem

-S. Mangnus

The Mystery of the Trinity

-H.W.M. Rikhof

Christ-Revelation and the Religions

-H.J.M. Schoot

God’s Hidden Presence in the Sacrament

-F.A.Steijger

The Concept of Trinity and Reconstruction of Identity in Christian Theology of Interreligious Dialogue (also part of the research programme of the Faculty of Theology at the Radboud University Nijmegen, entitled: “Religious identity interactions in a plural and secularized society”)

-W.G.B.M. Valkenberg

The meaning of the term ‘passion’ (and its connotations) in handbooks of moral theology

-F.J.H. Vosman

The Pugio Fidei by Raimundus Martini (1220-1284)

-S. Wiersma

Transcendence and Transcendentals

(University of Tilburg)

Metaphysics in Aquinas and the Thomist tradition

-R.A. te Velde

Individual projects*Augustine's perspective on God*

-P. van Geest

Den Tod im Leben sehen. Martin Luthers Beitrag zu einem erneuerten Umgang mit Tod und Sterben

-S. Gradl

Spirituality in palliative care

-C.J.W. Leget

Current meaning of Aquinas' ethics

-K.-W. Merks

Subject and normativity (programme)

-P.J.M. van Tongeren

The question of the eternity of the world in Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, Siger of Brabant and Boethius of Dacia

-P.L. van Veldhuijsen

The Project of a hermeneutic philosophy

-A.C.M. Vennix

Design of a Practical Ecclesiology

-J.B.M. Wissink

9. Publications in 2006

This list contains all publications by members of the *Thomas Instituut te Utrecht* 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 whose research has been located at the Institute.

Scientific publications

Geest, P.J.J. van - Comunidad, infidelidad, perdón y continencia. *De adulterinis coniugiis* y posteriores evoluciones en la espiritualidad matrimonial de Agustín - Revista Augustinus 202/203 (2006) 273-291

Geest, P.J.J. van - Stellig maar onzeker. Augustinus over de wereld en God - Vrije Universiteit/Amsterdam (2006)

- Goris, H.J.M.J. - Veranderlijkheid van de waarheid - Rudi te Velde (ed.), Thomas van Aquino: over waarheid (*Q.D. De veritate* q.1]. Vertaling en essays - Valkhof Pers/Nijmegen (2006) 230-247
- Goris, H.J.M.J. - A Reinterpretation of Aquinas' Correspondence Definition of Truth - Maria Cândida Pacheco, José Francisco Meirinhos (eds.), Intellect et imagination dans la Philosophie Médiévale. Actes du XIe Congrès International de Philosophie Médiévale de la Société Internationale pour l'Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale (S.I.E.P.M.), Porto, 26-31 août 2002, 3 vols. (Rencontres de philosophie médiévale, 11) - Brepols Publishers/Turnhout (2006) vol. 3, 1431-1446
- Leget, C.J.W. - Wie zeggen de mensen dat ik ben? Over rationaliteiten, normativiteit en het imago van de geestelijk verzorger - Tijdschrift Geestelijke Verzorging 9/40 (2006) 16-24
- Merks, K.W. - Himmlische oder irdische Bürgerschaft? Christen als Staatsbürger - M. Heimbach-Steins, R. Wielandt, R. Zintl (Hg.), Religiöse Identität(en) und gemeinsame Religionsfreiheit. Eine Herausforderung pluraler Gesellschaften - ERGON/Würzburg (2006) 105-135
- Merks, K.W. - Ethik und Politik. Aspekte eines Paradigmenwechsels - Theologie der Gegenwart 49 (2006/4) 242-255
- Rikhof, H.W.M. - The Holiness of the Church - M. Poorthuis, J. Schwartz (eds.), A Holy People. Jewish and Christian Perspectives on Religious Communal Identity - Brill/Leiden-Boston (2006) 321- 335
- Rikhof, H.W.M. - Luther und die Trinitätstheologie - Neue Zeitschrift für Systematische Theologie und Religionsphilosophie 48 (2006) 74-82
- Schoot, H.J.M. - Over Jezus. Een Naam die leven geeft - Lannoo/Tielt (2006)

- Valkenberg, W.G.B.M. - Sharing Lights on the Way to God. Muslim-Christian Dialogue and Theology in the Context of Abrahamic Partnership - Rodopi/Amsterdam-New York (2006)
- Velde, R.A. te - Aquinas on God. The 'Divine Science' of the *Summa Theologiae* - Ashgate/Aldershot (2006)
- Velde, R.A. te - Thomas van Aquino: over waarheid [*Q.D. De veritate* q.1]. Vertaling en essays - Valkhof Pers/Nijmegen (2006)
- Vennix, A.C.M. - Waarheid en gelijkwording - Rudi te Velde (ed.), Thomas van Aquino: over waarheid [*Q.D. De veritate* q.1]. Vertaling en essays - Valkhof Pers/Nijmegen (2006) 131-165

Professional and/or popular publications

- Geest, P.J.J. van - [with R. van de Loo] Sources of spirituality of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre: Augustine of Hippo and Francis of Assisi - *Annales Ordinis Equestris Sancti Sepulchri Hierosolymitani* 9 (2004-2005) 37-42
- Geest, P.J.J. van - Inburgering in de Stad van God - *Liturgiekrant/ Pax Christi Nederland* (2006) 4
- Geest, P.J.J. van - Augustinus zou het liefst over God hebben gezwegen - *Centraal Weekblad* (23-06-2006) 8-9
- Geest, P.J.J. van - Ook de bisschoppen juichen - *NRC Handelsblad* (11-07-2006) 18
- Geest, P.J.J. van - Iemand wordt gekend in de mate waarin zij of hij wordt lief gehad - *Trouw/De verdieping* (23-10-2006) 6
- Geest, P.J.J. van - Voorwoord - H. Groeneveld, Een schat in aarden vaten. *Religie in Berkel en Rodenrijs* - Utrecht (2006) 9

- Goris, H.J.M.J. - Thomas van Aquino op de golven van de tijd - Herademing 52 (2006) 36-40
- Hoogland, M.-R. - Thomas van Aquino en het welzijn van de mens - Pastorale Verkenningen. Tijdschrift voor het justitiepastoraat: 'Christelijke Gods- en mensbeelden' (2006/3) 3-5
- Hoogland, M.-R. - De Almachtige is de Liefdevolle - Communio (2006) 41-52
- Leget, C.J.W. - Het christelijk sterven - M. Pijnenburg, C. Leget (eds.), Intercultureel sterven: een professioneel ethische uitdaging - Damon/Best (2006) 46-54
- Rikhof, H.W.M. - Haydns *Die Schöpfung*. Een eredoctoraat theologie voor Haydn? - Benedictijns Tijdschrift 67 (2006) 19-35

Academic lectures

- Geest, P.J.J. van - De *Vita S. Augustini* van Possidius - Lecture as part of a series of lectures about 'Hagiografie', Faculty of Letters/Radboud University Nijmegen, 21 March 2006
- Geest, P.J.J. van - Who's talking? Is Gabriel Biel (+1495) indebted to Thomas Aquinas, or is Augustine his implicit source? - Lecture at the conference 'After Augustine', Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS), Wassenaar, 23-26 May 2006
- Geest, P.J.J. van - Het nut en de noodzaak van de theologie - Lecture at the Faculty of Humanities/Tilburg University, 27 October 2006
- Goris, H.J.M.J. - Interreligieuze Dialoog in de Middeleeuwen en nu - Lecture at the protestant congregation at Hilversum and the local mosque, 7 April 2006

- Goris, H.J.M.J. - Being and Necessity: Avicenna and Aquinas on how to distinguish God from the world - Lecture at the conference 'Belief and Metaphysics', University of Nottingham's Centre of Theology and Philosophy and Istituto de Filosofia Edith Stein, Granada, 15-18 September 2006
- Goris, H.J.M.J. - Theologische antropologie vanuit rooms-katholiek perspectief - Lecture at the GTSV Voetius, Utrecht, 21 November 2006
- Gradl, S. - Vom Wert der christlichen Werte für die Gesellschaft - Lecture at 'Haus der Kirche', Dresden, 20 September 2006
- Hoogland, M.-R. - Job: leven door het lijden heen - Three lectures at Zoetermeer and Haastrecht, March and April 2006
- Hoogland, M.-R. - Justice: God and Creation / Living Justice - Lectures at the 3rd Conference of North European Passionists, Larne (N.-Ireland), 28 August 2006
- Hoogland, M.-R. - Ik wil het ervaren: over de gaven van de Geest en geloofsbeleving - Lecture given at Haastrecht, 12 October 2006
- Leget, C.J.W. - Deugdehiek bij Thomas van Aquino - Lecture at the Stedelijk Gymnasium Nijmegen, 15 March 2006
- Leget, C.J.W. - Presentie, deugden en palliatieve zorg - Lecture at 'Presentieplatform', Utrecht, 17 March 2006
- Rikhof, H.W.M. - Bemerkingen bij G. Lukken: *Theologische (theologisch-liturgische) reflectie over het ritueel landschap* - Lecture during the day of studies 'Wilde Rituelen', Luce (Institute for Postacademic Education, FK TU), Utrecht, 19 May 2006
- Rikhof, H.W.M. - Lecture during the day of studies 'Franciscus gedreven door de Geest', Centre for Franciscan studies, Utrecht, 2 June 2006

- Rikhof, H.W.M. - Das gemeinsame Priesterum der Gläubigen und das Priestertum des Dienstes. Wie liest man *Lumen Gentium* 10? - Lecture during the 200th anniversary of Linz seminary, Linz, 25 October 2007
- Schoot, H.J.M. - Thomas van Aquino over de verzoenende werking van het lijden en sterven van Christus - Lecture for the 'Thomas-gezelschap' at the Ariënskonvikt, Utrecht, 26 January 2006
- Schoot, H.J.M. - Verrijzenis van Christus, de Hemelvaart van de Heer, en de Wederkomst van de Heer - Three lectures at the 'Thomas a Kempisleerhuis', Utrecht, February and March 2006
- Schoot, H.J.M. - De theologische methode van Thomas van Aquino - Lecture during the Mastersprogram 'Theologische Tekstlezing Thomas van Aquino', Nijmegen, 21 March 2006
- Schoot, H.J.M. - De betekenis van Christus voor het geloof van de pastor en het pastoraat - Introduction for the 'Cura Dekenaat IJssellanden', 24 May 2006