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

On 29 June 2007, the *Thomas Instituut te Utrecht* organised a morning of studies on the occasion of the publication of a book by a member of the institute, Pim Valkenberg, affiliate professor at the Faculty of Theology at Loyola College, Baltimore (USA): *Sharing Lights on the Way to God - Muslim-Christian Dialogue and Theology in the Context of Abrahamic Partnership* (Rodopi: Amsterdam/New York 2006). The author gave a presentation about central ideas of his book, where he seeks to give form to a theology that hyphenates two traditions that have not only been in constant conflict during most of their historical encounters but are also presented as opposite blocks in the threatening ‘clash of civilizations’ at the beginning of the third millennium: Islam and Christianity. Based on experiences of dialogue between the three Abrahamic faiths, Valkenberg analyzes historical and contemporary processes of interreligious dialogue between Christians and Muslims in order to arrive at a concept of dialogue as ‘mutual emulation’. He develops a model in which comparative theology and interreligious dialogue are connected by studying the theological and spiritual sources of his Muslim dialogue partners.

Gerrit Steunebrink (Faculty of Philosophy at Radboud University Nijmegen) answered first with a lecture about the philosophy of an ethics-centered dialogue between Islam and Christianity. Then Henk Schoot (*Thomas Instituut te Utrecht*)
gave a reaction on Valkenberg’s book: “Towards an Islamic-Christian theology”, in which he situates Valkenberg’s second great book in his theological authorship, and discusses some major aspects of it. Twenty people attended the morning of studies.

Members of the research group Onderzoeksgroep Thomas van Aquino convened eight times in 2007, each time on the first Monday of the month to discuss parts of dissertations by junior research fellows and to read texts by Thomas Aquinas.

On 2 July the research group spent a day away discussing Gavin d’Costa’s Theology and the Public Square: Church, University and Nation (Oxford, 2005).

2. **Chair for Theology of Thomas Aquinas**

Henk Schoot, who in 2006 had been appointed extraordinary professor to the Chair for Theology of Thomas Aquinas, held his inaugural lecture on 26 January 2007 entitled: Heilig, heilig, heilig. Pleidooi voor de heiligheid van de theologie (“Holy, Holy, Holy. A plea for the holiness of theology”; English translation published in Jaarboek 2006 Thomas Instituut te Utrecht). There has been quite some public interest around his inaugural lecture, resulting in interviews in two Dutch daily newspapers. During the year under review further research at the chair concentrated around the subject of Christ’s Satisfaction and Passion.

3. **The Board of the Institute and the Foundation**

The Board of the Institute convened on 20 February, 27 March and 15 May. Among other issues the situation of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht as part of the new Faculty of Catholic Theology (Tilburg University) has been discussed during these meetings. There were no changes to the composition of the Board of the Institute.
The Board of the Thomas Foundation convened on 3 April and on 11 November. The Board discussed the authorisation of the regulation of the Chair extraordinary for Theology of Thomas Aquinas and the position of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht as part of the Faculty of Catholic Theology (Tilburg University). During the meeting on 11 November the Board of the Foundation said good-bye to prof. A.G. Weiler as chairman. The Thomas Foundation and the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht owe him many thanks for presiding the Board of the Foundation since 1993. At the end of the meeting prof. Weiler handed the chairmanship on to the new chairman, prof. dr. J.H.A. Lokin, professor for Legal History – especially Roman law and its history – at Groningen University.

4. **Jaarboek Thomas Instituut te Utrecht**

The Jaarboek Thomas Instituut te Utrecht 2006 was timely published in 2007. The Editorial Board convened on 16 January and 24 April. There were no personnel changes in the Editorial Board.

5. **Series of Publications**

In the year under review the twelfth volume was published in the series of the institute: Fáinche Ryan, *Formation in Holiness. Thomas Aquinas on Sacra doctrina*, Publications of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht, Volume XII, xii + 217 pp.

6. **Translation Series**

The Editorial Board of the Translation Series convened on 29 August. During this meeting the manuscript of the forthcoming fourth volume of the series was discussed: Carlo Leget’s Dutch translation of parts of *quaestiones* 10, 11, 40, 64, 124 and 188 of the *STh* II-II, presented with Latin texts as well.
7. Members of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht
31 December 2007

Faculty of Catholic 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. S. Mangnus
Drs. F.A. Steijger
Drs. S. Wiersma

Tilburg University (Department of Religious Studies and Theology)
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. 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 Tongerken
(Philosophy)
Dr. A.C.M. Vennix
(Philosophy)
Prof. dr. B.P.M. Vermeulen
(Law)
8. Research programmes and research projects in 2007

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 of Catholic Theology, Tilburg University)

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. The guiding principle is systematic theological in character. The overall theme of the hidden presence of God is studied in several
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*.

As from 2008, because of developments related to the foundation of the new Faculty of Catholic Theology – to which the *Thomas Institute te Utrecht* belongs – the research of the institute will be carried out within a program of a wider scope.

*The God of the Medieval Arabic Philosophers*
- H.J.M.J. Goris

“*Ut credentes vitam habeatis*. Faith in Thomas Aquinas’ In Ioannem
- S. Magnus

*The Mystery of the Trinity*
- H.W.M. Rikhof

*Christ-Revelation and the Religions*
(Chair for Theology of Thomas Aquinas)
- H.J.M. Schoot

*God’s Hidden Presence in the Sacrament*
- F.A. Steijger

*Metaphysics in Aquinas and the Thomist tradition*
- R.A. te Velde

*The Pugio Fidei* by Raimundus Martini (1220-1284)
- S. Wiersma

*Tilburg University (Department of Religious Studies and Theology)*

*The meaning of the term ‘passion’ (and its connotations) in handbooks of moral theology*
- F.J.H. Vosman
**Individual projects**

*Gabriel Biel, a devout theologian. Research into the interrelatedness of spirituality of the Devotio Moderna and academic theology in the work of Gabriel Biel*
  - 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

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

*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 2007**

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


Veldhuijzen, P.R. van - Transcendentale noties van werkelijkheid. Giovanni Crisostomo Javelli over transcendentia - Jaarboek 2006 Thomas Instituut te Utrecht 26 (2007) 105-139


Professional and/or popular publications


Geest, P.J.J. van - De Regel van St. Augustinus vandaag - Abdijleven 51/1 (2007) 6-12


Academic lectures

Geest, P.J.J. van - Stellig maar onzeker. Augustinus over de wereld en God - Inaugural lecture at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, 8 June 2007


Geest, P.J.J. van - De Katholieke identiteit in de vroege kerk - Lecture for members of staff of the Dutch broadcasting societies KRO and RKK, Hilversum, 8 November 2007

Geest, P.J.J. van - Augustinus in gevecht met God - Lecture during a day of studies of Luce (Institute for Postacademic Education, FKT), Utrecht, 16 November 2007


Hoogland, M.-R. - Thomas’ denken: nieuw in zijn tijd, vernieuwend in onze tijd? - Lecture at the House of Studies (Dominican Order), Zwolle, 12 oktober 2007


Rikhof, H.W.M. - The theology of St Thomas Aquinas - Guestlectures at the University of San Tomas, Manilla, 11-17 January 2007

Rikhof, H.W.M. - Doop en Doopsel - Lecture for the Order of the Holy Grave, Dijnselburg, 1 April 2007

Rikhof, H.W.M. - History and developments of the RC Church and Theology in the Netherlands - Lecture, Bovendonk, 19 May 2007

Rikhof, H.W.M. - God ter sprake; Het geheim van God - Symposium ‘God ter Sprake’ - Faculty of Catholic Theology (Tilburg University), Utrecht, 13 June 2007

Rikhof, H.W.M. - De liturgie van sacramentsdag - Presentation at the Diocesan Council of Priests, Den Bosch, 5 September 2007

Rikhof, H.W.M. - Thomas van Aquino - Three lectures at the days of study about spirituality of the Diocese Den Bosch, Helvoirt, 8 October 2007

Rikhof, H.W.M. - Thomas van Aquino - Three lectures during the lecture series ‘God waar moet ik dat van denken’, Bellem (Belgium), 9 October 2007
Schoot, H.J.M. - Naar een Islamitisch-Christelijke Theologie - Lecture at the day of studies of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht, Utrecht, 29 June 2007

Valkenberg, W.G.B.M. - Islam: submission and responsibility - Lecture at the first conference of the European Society for Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies, Birmingham (UK), 13 April 2007


Valkenberg, W.G.B.M. - Nicholas of Cusa and the Relation between Learned Ignorance and a Faithful Christian Interpretation of the Qur’an - Lecture at the Trialogue conference, Tantur/Jerusalem, 20 June 2007

Valkenberg, W.G.B.M. - Presentations of Sharing Lights on the Way to God at the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht and the Islamic University in Rotterdam, Utrecht/Rotterdam, 29 June 2007
