

for the greater glory of God — *ad maiorem Dei gloriam* (A.M.D.G.)

O Creator ineffable, who of the riches of Thy wisdom didst appoint three hierarchies of Angels and didst set them in wondrous order over the highest heavens, and who didst appoint the elements of the world most wisely: do Thou, who art in truth the fountain of light and wisdom, deign to shed upon the darkness of my understanding the rays of Thine infinite brightness, and remove far from me the twofold darkness in which I was born, namely, sin and ignorance. Do Thou, who givest speech to the tongues of little children, instruct my tongue and pour into my lips the grace of Thy benediction. Give me keenness of apprehension, capacity for remembering, method and ease in learning, insight in interpretation, and copious eloquence in speech. Instruct my beginning, direct my progress, and set Thy seal upon the finished work, Thou, who art true God and true Man, who livest and reignest without end. Amen

Why study physics? St. Thomas Aquinas says (C.G., lib. 2 cap. 2):

1. through meditating on His works we are able somewhat to admire and consider the divine wisdom;
2. it leads us to admire the sublime power of God, and consequently begets in men's hearts a reverence for God,
3. inflames the souls of men to the love of the divine goodness, and
4. bestows on man a certain likeness to the divine perfection.

Physics helps others because (*idem*, lib. 2 cap. 3)

1. through ignorance of the nature of creatures men are sometimes so far misled as to deem that which can but derive its being from something else to be the first cause and God, for they think that nothing exists besides visible creatures;
2. they ascribe to certain creatures that which belongs to God alone;
3. through ignorance of the creature's nature something is withdrawn from the divine power in its working on creatures;
4. man, who is led by faith to God as his last end, through ignoring the natures of things, and consequently the order of his place in the universe, thinks himself to be beneath certain creatures above whom he is placed.

"For the invisible things of him, from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made; his eternal power also, and divinity" (Romans 1:20).

*Nothing is in the intellect that is not first in the senses.*

*A small error in principle is a big error in conclusion.*

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