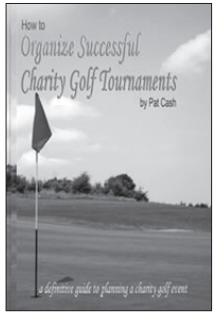


Christmas Reading Supplement 2007

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HOW TO ORGANIZE SUCCESSFUL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENTS, by Pat Cash, \$20.00, www.golfcharity.com, 70 pages.

This practical book, written by a local resident, offers clear instructions on raising cash for charity using a golf tournament. It takes us through the basic decision-making process, from the initial plan to the end of the tournament, and ends with a chapter on "Post Tournament Action." The author offers practical, clear examples for his major points and assumes that readers have basic-to-no accounting skills.



The book is to the point: set clear financial outlines and goals, and never lose sight of raising money. Cash also points out the importance of having fun and making new friends: "The post-game banquet should provide players with a relaxing, enjoyable time where they can party and acknowledge each other's efforts on the golf course."

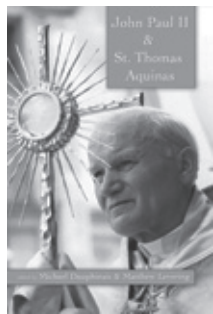


JOHN PAUL II & ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, edited by Michael Dauphinais & Matthew Levering, 259 pages hardcover, 1-888-343-8607, www.sapietia-press.org.

John Paul II & St. Thomas Aquinas is a collection of scholarly essays by different authors. It makes a very important contribution to the understanding of Pope John Paul II's teachings. One writer in the book notes that the encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* "with its biblically centred argumentation draws upon Aquinas's theology of law at the very hinge of its discussion."

Cardinal Avery Dulles writes that in *Love and Responsibility*, a book on sexuality Pope John Paul wrote before he was Pope, "From Aquinas he takes over the idea that love is ordered to that which is objectively true and good. He formulates a personalistic norm to the effect that one may never use other persons as means to an end."

"Wojtyla grounds this principle in the metaphysical insight that the person has inviolable intrinsic dignity."



Cardinal Dulles thus highlights the bridges that Pope John Paul made between Thomism and personalism. This is important because central to Catholic thinking is the constant connection of its theology and traditional philosophical methods with modern ways of thinking. John Paul II succeeded in tying a medieval thinker, St. Thomas Aquinas, with a most modern philosophy.

Pope John Paul II was schooled in the philosophy of St. Thomas

Aquinas and the centuries of development of the philosopher's thought, known as Thomism or neo-scholasticism. He was also schooled in more recent philosophy, especially personalism, which emphasized the importance and dignity of the human individual, though personalism often differs from Western individualism by emphasizing spiritual values over materialistic ones.

Thus the late Pontiff's writings are usually a mix of Thomism and personalism. He emphasizes the eternal, unchanging truths of the Church, in the style of Thomism, but applies these truths to the individual, and strives to show how they amplify the dignity of the person. His *Theology of the Body* is the best example of his mixture of the eternal truth with the individual human.

John Paul II & St. Thomas Aquinas acquaints us with Pope John Paul's major books and encyclicals by taking this philosophical reading of them. In this way, the book is a great way to review and deepen our knowledge of writings that we think we've fully digested.

Cardinal Dulles writes of *Veritatis Splendor* that it "invokes the authority of St. Thomas in maintaining that natural law is a participation in the eternal law of God."

"Although he speaks of natural law and divine law, he avoids all legalism. He accepts from St. Thomas the idea of natural law as the light of natural reason imprinted upon our minds by God."

This book does more than unearth Pope John Paul's links with
Continued on Page 10

'For today in the city of David, a Saviour has been born'

In silent wonder and across the years, Oblate Brother Odule Laflamme gazes at Baby Jesus in this crib scene taken in Attawapiskat, Ontario, in the Diocese of Moosonee.



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Seeking God

*O God, You are my God,
 earnestly I seek You,
 my body longs for You
 in a dry and weary land
 where there is no water.
 My lips will glorify You.*

Psalm 63:1 & 3

*Let us then approach the throne
 of grace with confidence,
 so that we may receive mercy and
 find grace to help us
 in our time of need.*

Hebrews 4:16

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