

SACRED STORY

THE STORY OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS (REMEMBERED JAN. 28, DIED IN 1274)

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: ST. THOMAS THOUGHT FOR GOD.

THE MATERIAL

- **LOCATION: THE MYSTERY OF PENTECOST SHELF, SECOND SHELF, UNDER GETTING READY FOR PENTECOST**
- **PIECES: ST. THOMAS AQUINAS BOOKLET, SAINT STAND, TWO MINIATURE BOOKS (ARISTOTLE AND THE BIBLE), AN OX, SOME STRAW**
- **UNDERLAY: GREEN**

BACKGROUND

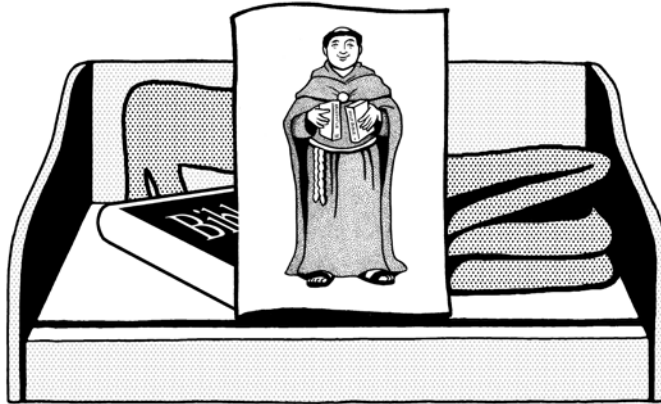
We remember St. Thomas on the day that he died, January 28, 1274. He was born in Italy and became a priest as a young man. He is important for his concise synthesis of Christian thought, which blended revelation and reason.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

St. Thomas Aquinas's story sits on a small, shallow tray about 8" square, with sides about 2" deep. It has a groove in the front to slide the "saint booklet" in so the children can see it when they approach the Mystery of Pentecost shelf.

The booklet is 4.25" x 5.5". The cover has an image of St. Thomas on it that matches the saint figure used in the introductory lessons on the communion of saints. The second page has a map of the world on it, with Italy, Thomas's home, highlighted and labeled. It also has an image of the flag of Italy. The third page has a time line beginning with the year 1 AD and ending with the year 2000 AD. It has an arrow indicating when Thomas lived. The rest of the book contains the story of the life of Thomas.

Behind the booklet in the tray are placed the objects used to help us remember Thomas's life: two miniature books labeled *Aristotle* and *Bible*, an ox and some straw. The underlay is a 12" square piece of green cloth and is folded on top of the objects.



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS TRAY

A NOTE ABOUT DATES FOR THE SAINTS

There is scholarly debate about the dates for the lives of many saints. We have had to make decisions about these dates for pedagogical reasons. We hope the children will continue to learn more about the saints all their life long, including their dates. The basis for the dates used in the saints lessons is how they are remembered liturgically. This has been established by custom in the Roman Catholic, Anglican and other traditions. We usually follow the dates that are found in the Episcopal publication called *Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2006*. This book is also a reference for remembering saints for most days in the year and for children (and adults) to continue to learn more about the saints, using this liturgical orientation.

You can order this book at www.Cokesbury.com
or by calling: 1-800-672-1789.