

February 28, 2023

The Spirituality Committee presents  
a Book Review of

## THOMAS MORE ON STATESMANSHIP

By Professor Gerard B. Wegemer

*Thomas More on Statesmanship*, a book of 191 pages, discounting the Introduction and the Notes, surprised me in its relevance to our own political world. I was expecting a history book touting the various positions St. Thomas More held while serving King Henry VIII. But no, this book is not a mere history book. Rather, this book is based on a thorough reading and understanding of St. Thomas's words in poems, epigrams, letters and literature. Prof. Wegemer weaves together what St. Thomas More believed "Statesmanship" to be.

We learn of More's belief in reliance on reason, humility, education, and virtue for both true Statesmen and good citizens. For More, only fools give up the freedom given us by God with our free will for worldly trinkets so one must be vigilant not to be deceived by appearance or pretense.

More teaches us in his works that humility is accepting God's rules and works, while pride leads to tyranny. More reaches his understanding, as reflected by Wegemer, by examining the Bible, and writers such as Augustine, Cicero, Plato and Socrates. Of course, Wegemer discusses More's Utopia in some depth and in relation to the works of those same aforementioned greats.

Wegemer does visit More's own career and illustrates through examples how More relied on law, and the power of the Stateman in the law, to resolve disputes where reason and rhetoric failed. Wegemer does not neglect the major dispute between More and Luther - illustrating the difference between reason supported by More and revolution incited by Luther. And, lastly, Wegemer addresses More's career as a Statesman in light of his belief that one owes more allegiance to his conscience than to any law.

*Thomas More on Statesmanship* is a scholarly book, and one that is suitable for those with a genuine interest in getting to know St. Thomas More. Written by Professor Gerard B. Wegemer, Associate Professor of literature at the University of Dallas, this book is available on Amazon, and at Catholic University of America Press.

Enjoy!

*Linda Carroll*

Chair of the Spirituality Committee of the Catholic Bar Association

