



have such great value. Neither Novak nor the other discussants were willing to accept this line of argument.

Rather, it seems Aquinas' concern for truth must be taken very seriously. Truth is indeed as valuable and as important as he claims it is. Having said this, one can nevertheless insist that persecuting heretics (by jailing or killing them) harms the cause of truth more than it helps. The fallibility of the human mind is such that we inevitably do much of our best and most profound learning by making mistakes. The process of advancing knowledge by criticizing mistakes has characterized the entire history of science, philosophy, and theology itself. While this process is painful and even at times harmful (insofar as some may persevere in error), nevertheless for us humans it is a necessary part of the path to deeper insight.

#### **1996 AQUINAS LECTURE**

William A. Wallace, O.P., will deliver the 1996 Aquinas Lecture entitled "The Modeling of Nature." Father Wallace's visit

is particularly welcome given recent and ongoing graduate student research in the philosophy of science.

#### **PROGRAM REVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY AT UST**

All members of the graduate faculty of the Center also teach in the University of St. Thomas undergraduate Philosophy program. During this past year, it was the turn of the undergraduate philosophy program to undergo a periodic program review. Part of that process was to have an external reviewer evaluate faculty, teaching, institutional resources, and curriculum. The reviewer made the following points: 1) the University Mission Statement expresses high expectations for the role of philosophy in the undergraduate curriculum. It not only attests to the value of philosophical study for its own sake in the tradition of Catholic education, it also insists that philosophy have an integrating function with respect to the rest of the liberal arts curriculum.

Although not a Thomist herself, the reviewer praised the Thomistic orientation of the program, because "it couples an appreciation of classical philosophical sources with an active engagement of contemporary culture, mores, and philosophies." She praised the quality of teaching and the curriculum. She found both design and execution to be well-suited to the "liberating" purpose of the liberal arts.

The strength of the undergraduate philosophy program at the University of St. Thomas is a great asset to its graduate program. Graduate students who come to study at the Center discover kindred spirits in many of the undergraduates. Some graduate students, while writing their doctoral dissertations, also have the opportunity to teach courses in the UST undergraduate program. They are enthusiastic about doing so.

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*The Center for Thomistic Studies is the Graduate Philosophy Program of the University of St. Thomas. Thomas A. Russman, ofm.cap., Director.*