

and loving. Only by living a fully human life, a life of reason and the virtues, do we truly reflect God's good and so share in it, for only then do we ourselves become good" (196). Jensen's Aquinas seems to offer limited room for grace: "By living out the life of reason we come to possess God in this life. As Aristotle says, we must develop that divine element within us" (196).

The lack of scriptural references, the focus on Aquinas the philosopher apart from Aquinas the theologian, and the multiple references to Aristotle might disappoint some readers. By focusing on Aristotle and on Plato's dialog in the *Republic* between Thrasymachus and Glaucon, the author seems to draw more on classics scholarship than on Christian ethics.

Yet for those who accept this approach, the reference to the Greeks has the heartening benefit of offering us the possibility of moral excellence. Excellence in all its forms is a forgotten virtue in our society, which so values the victim.

Like any good teacher, Jensen uses mistakes as his key teaching points. In this way, he strikes at the heart of the *Kulturkampf*—that

is, current attempts by the state to control the Church. He speaks to its liberal representatives in the manner of Pope St. John Paul II, urging us not to compromise with them while at the same time treating their concerns as legitimate, inviting them to see Christ and his Church as the answer and not the obstacle. Jensen thus addresses at length the false division between, on the one hand, doing what is morally right according to the natural law and to Christian tradition and, on the other, doing with what feels good. The morally correct ultimately feels good because it is more fulfilling. The life of pleasure sets us up for disappointment, and the author shows us why. He does not shy away from pointing to secular society's painful failures: "Why are suicides so prevalent; why is everyone running off to psychological treatment; and why do we always need more, more, more?" (198–199).

In addressing contemporary issues with Thomistic ethics, Jensen shows the timelessness of the saint's perspective.

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Books Received

A Couple's Guide to Fertility, R. J. Hunegar and Rose Fuller. Northwest Family Services, 2015.

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When Breath Becomes Air, Paul Kalanithi. Random House, 2016.

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