



New  
Direction  
the Foundation for European Conservatism

# SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS



**YEARS OF  
EUROPEAN  
HERITAGE**

**15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> January 2026 | Toulouse | France**



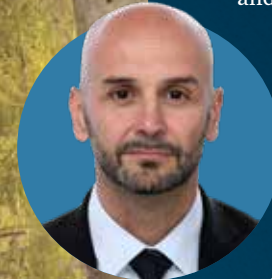
# New Direction

the Foundation for European Conservatism

New Direction – Foundation for European Conservatism is the official foundation of the European Conservatives and Reformists family at the European level. Founded in 2009 under the patronage of Margaret Thatcher, New Direction is the intellectual home of Europe's growing conservative movement, giving a voice to national movements that promote the rule of law, traditional values, free markets, and respect for the principle of protecting national sovereignty.

Through research, reports, lectures, conferences, and working groups, New Direction helps to inform the work of conservative lawmakers at the European, National, and regional level. At the same time, New Directions Summer University and series of Academies helps to bring conservative principles to a new and younger generation. By equipping politicians and activists with the tools they need, New Direction stands ready to help take the movement forwards.

[@ndconservatism](https://newdirection.online)



Dear Friends,

As President of New Direction – Foundation for European Conservatism, I am happy to welcome you to this special event to mark the eight-hundredth anniversary of one of the most important theological, philosophical, and political thinkers of the Western Canon, St Thomas Aquinas.

St Thomas Aquinas, born in the Kingdom of Sicily around the year 1225, was a leading figure of the Scholastics Movement, a religious order that helped to lift Europe out of the dark ages and into the light. By revisiting the texts of antiquity, and combining it with the study of scripture, the Scholastics helped to shape much of how we think about the world today.

At New Direction, we are proud to honour the legacy of Christian theology, and the part that it has played in the making of European conservative philosophy, and in underpinning the culture of Western civilisation. I would like to thank MEP Laurence Trochu for her work on bringing about this project, and I wish you all fruitful discussions.

**Nicola Procaccini MEP**  
President of New Direction,  
Co-Chair of the ECR Group



# Saint Thomas Aquinas A MESSAGE FOR OUR TIMES

**E**ight centuries ago, one of the most brilliant minds our civilization has ever produced was born. A link between the Masters of Antiquity and the challenges of our time, Saint Thomas Aquinas perfectly embodies what the Christian West was at the height of its intellectual, artistic, and civilizational production.

By choosing to follow in his footsteps to inspire our political action, and to work on the relevance of his legacy, I wanted to highlight a return to a form of common sense. Doctor Angelicus provides an answer to every question, one that is certainly informed by Revelation, but which is also the fruit of thoughtful reflection by human intelligence and the faculties it provides.

For those of us who are responsible for making laws, he reminds us that they must be “ordered to the common good,” itself defined as “a more divine and noble end than the good of a single person.” At a time of tyranny from minorities, the omnipotence of individual rights, and the distortion of charity, we find in St. Thomas the authority of a thought that is just, proportionate, and perfectly suited to our times, since it is based on an unchanging reality, that of our human nature.



**Laurence TROCHU**  
MEP

With Aristotle, we therefore recognize the Thomist assertion that man is a political animal, and that the organization of the city is a natural inclination, not a corruption of who we are. Our Western world is withering away from its rejection of this assertion and is constantly deconstructing what has made it great.

Rediscovering the message of St. Thomas, rather than a return to the sources of an idealized past, is a necessity for a common future. “Without orientation toward the common good, the multitude dissolves,” he reminds us.

May these days, organized with the New Direction Foundation, be an opportunity for all of us to rediscover the relevance of his message and, beyond that, the wonders of our civilization.

Thursday  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
*Couvent des Jacobins*

3:15pm WELCOME SPEECH

**Laurence Trochu, MEP**  
*and Member of New Direction*

3:30pm

**Mass at the relics of  
St Thomas Aquinas**

Friday  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
*Salle Sénéchal*

10am INSTITUTIONAL REMARKS

Board member of New Direction

12:45pm BREAK

10:05am Welcome Speech

**Laurence Trochu, MEP**  
*and Member of New Direction*

2:30pm FIRST ROUND TABLE

**St. Thomas Aquinas and  
international relations**

**Fulvio di Blasi, attorney, philosopher,**  
*and expert on St. Thomas Aquinas*

**Jurgis Klotiš, MP and Board**  
*Member of New Direction*

**George-Mihail Neamțu, MP**

**Karol Karski, Professor at The University**  
*Of Warsaw, Member of the Advisory Council*  
*of New Direction and former MEP*

10:15am LECTURE

**The life of  
St Thomas Aquinas**

**Brother Ghislain-Marie Grange,**  
*professor of Philosophy and Theology at the*  
*Stadium of the Dominican Province of Toulouse*

4pm BREAK

10:45am LECTURE

**What influence does  
Thomism have on  
Catholic engagement  
in Europe?**

**François Marie Portes, lecturer**  
*at IPC, the independent Faculty of*  
*Philosophy and Psychology*

4:30pm SECOND ROUND TABLE

**The concepts of State  
and Fatherland in Saint  
Thomas Aquinas**

**Bernard Callebat, Professor at ICES**  
**Stephen Bartulica, MEP and President**  
*of Political Network for Values*

**Denis Sureau, French essayist and publisher**

11:45am LECTURE

**Making humans visible**

**Rémi Brague, Philosopher and Historian**

6:00pm CLOSING REMARKS





## Stephen Nikola BARTULICA

Stephen Nikola Bartulica is a Croatian philosopher and politician, Member of the European Parliament since July 2024, and member of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR). With a doctorate in political philosophy, he has taken an interest in the moral and Christian foundations of public life. A former member of the national parliament, he regularly speaks on issues of freedom, natural law and human dignity. His thinking is rooted in a Thomist and personalist perspective applied to contemporary European issues.



## Rémi BRAGUE

Rémi Brague is a philosopher and member of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques of the Institut de France. Professor Emeritus at Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne University and former holder of the Romano Guardini Chair at the University of Munich, he is one of the world's leading specialists in ancient and medieval philosophy. His work focuses on cultural transmission between the Greek, Jewish, Christian and Islamic worlds. The author of numerous internationally translated works, he has profoundly renewed our understanding of the Christian intellectual heritage, particularly Thomism. He continues to be intellectually active today through publications and lectures.



## Bernard CALLEBAT

Bernard Callebat is a lawyer and lecturer in canon law and philosophy of law. His work focuses on the study of ecclesiastical law, natural law and their theological foundations. His approach is based on the reception of St Thomas Aquinas' thinking in the legal tradition of the Church. A regular speaker at conferences on law, theology and the history of institutions, he analyses the relevance of Thomism in contemporary legal and ecclesiastical fields.



## Fulvio DI BLASI

Fulvio Di Blasi is an Italian philosopher and jurist specialising in ethics, natural law and Thomistic philosophy. He holds a PhD in philosophy of law and has published numerous works on natural law, moral anthropology and the Aristotelian-Thomistic heritage. He is a regular speaker at international conferences on contemporary issues in morality, law and bioethics. His work is part of a rigorous defence of philosophical realism inspired by St Thomas Aquinas, applied to current debates on rationality and normativity.



## Ghislain-Marie GRANGE

Brother Ghislain-Marie Grange, a Dominican, teaches philosophy and theology at the Studium of the Dominican Province of Toulouse. He holds a doctorate in theology, is a member of the editorial board of the Revue Thomiste, and is director of studies at the convent in Toulouse.



## Karol KARSKI

Prof. Karol Karski is a former Member of the European Parliament, where he served on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and worked extensively on EU external relations and security policy. He was also a Member of the Sejm (lower house of parliament) and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. A legal scholar by training, he has been active in academic teaching and research since the early 1990s, holding posts at several Polish institutions, including the University of Warsaw and the Committee on Legal Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Since 2013, he has been Head of the Department of Public International Law at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw. His academic and public work has focused on European integration, sovereignty, and the Christian and philosophical foundations of Europe's legal and political order.



## Jurgis KLOTIŅŠ

Jurgis Klotiņš is a Latvian politician and member of Parliament (Saeima) since 2022, committed to issues of culture, identity and Christian heritage. Active in several cultural and ecclesiastical initiatives, he participates in public debates on historical memory and the spiritual foundations of society. His intellectual engagement is rooted in a Christian and conservative sensibility. In this lecture, he reflects on the relevance of medieval and Thomist thought in contemporary political and cultural life.





## Mihail NEAMȚU

Mihail Neamtu is a Romanian philosopher, theologian and politician. He holds a PhD in theology from King's College London and is the author of numerous essays on Christianity, European culture and political philosophy. Elected to the Romanian Parliament in 2024, he is a recognised intellectual figure of Christian conservatism in Central and Eastern Europe. His work explores the dialogue between Eastern patristic tradition and Western thought, particularly Thomism, in a reflection on the common good, freedom and political responsibility.



## François-Marie PORTES

François-Marie Portes is a philosopher holding a PhD in medieval philosophy from the University of Paris-Sorbonne. His doctoral dissertation, devoted to the conceptions of women in the Middle Ages, offers an epistemological analysis of medieval university authors, with particular attention to the thought of Saint Thomas Aquinas and its dialogue with the Aristotelian legacy. He is the author of *Woman in the Middle Ages: Aristotle Against the Gospel*. A lecturer at ICES and IPC, he teaches logic, ethics, and the history of medieval philosophy. Alongside his academic work, he is actively engaged in intellectual dissemination, notably through digital platforms, where he brings ancient and medieval Thomistic thought into dialogue with contemporary philosophical and cultural debates.



## Denis SUREAU

Denis Sureau is a French essayist, publisher and Catholic intellectual. For several decades, he has devoted his work to the study and dissemination of Christian political and social thought, particularly that of Saint Thomas Aquinas. Author of books and syntheses on political theology, the common good and Christian engagement in society, he has also edited intellectual publications devoted to these themes. His work highlights the contemporary relevance of Thomism for reflection on political, social and moral life.



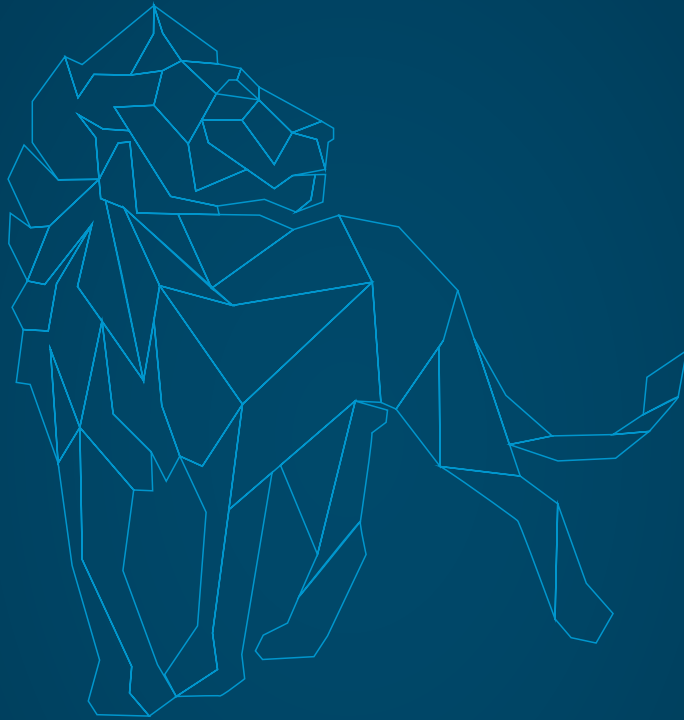
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