

Metoděj Habáň (1899-1984): A Probe into the History of Czech Neothomism

Abstract

The thesis is focused on the depiction of the life and work of Metoděj Habáň (1899-1984), Czech Dominican priest and philosopher. It follows two main goals: First, it strives to present accurate reconstruction of Habáň's life and his involvement in the Czech Church and society. Secondly, it presents Metoděj Habáň's thinking as a specific type of Thomism and analyse his work in the context of the paradigmatic changes, which the Church and society went through in the 20th century. The thesis is therefore divided into two main parts – first is focused on Habáň's life, second on his work. In the first chapter it presents main sources of inspiration for his work and thinking. In the following chapters it describes his life journey, beginning with his studies and spiritual formation within the Dominican order. It continues with his role in the inner life of the order in the position of Novice Master and Prior Provincial (1938-1942). Attention is also paid to his involvement in the public life of the interwar society. In the period after the second world war we follow Metoděj Habáň to Litoměřice, a town in northwest Bohemia and we describe his imprisonment in the 1950s and subsequently his involvement in public life in the 1960s. His biography is concluded by his involvement in underground activities in 1970s. In the second part of the thesis we focus on his main works and on their interpretation, which shows that it represents an independent part of a modern philosophical discourse.

Keywords

Dominican order, Thomism, Thomistic psychology, Czech Church history of the 20th century