

Canonization of Saint Thomas Aquinas

Abstract

This thesis inquires into the canonization process of Thomas Aquinas, in relation to specific circumstances and general usage of the era on the field of canonizing saints. While at the grave of the reverend master, miracles were produced and the popular cult was rising, on western universities, a doctrinal dispute has flared up which touched Thomas' doctrine, as well. The case has not been resolved until nearly fifty years, when the pope John XXII has shown interest in canonizing one important personality of Dominican order. The choice fell on Thomas. The minor friars, protected by the Roman king Louis IV the Bavarian, opposed but the pope got his purpose through, and so Thomas' learning became the leading stream in theology and thinking. The aim of this thesis is to approach period specificities of the cult of saints and canonization processes, to outline a brief history of Thomas' way to canonization and following occurrences, and to try to figure out broader context of the process, evaluating the importance of particular aspects at the same time. The thesis is based on canonization documents and relies on relevant sources and specialized literature.

Keywords

Canonization, canonization process, cult of saints, Thomas Aquinas, relics, translation, dispute, dominicans, Avignon, pope.