



PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS

ST THOMAS AQUINAS' PRAYER BEFORE STUDY — CREATOR INEFFABILIS

Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

For light before study, an exam or any work of the mind



LATIN

Creator ineffabilis,
qui de thesauris sapientiae tuae
tres Angelorum hierarchias designasti,
et eas super caelum empyreum miro
ordine collocasti,
atque universi partes elegantissime
distribuisti:

Tu, inquam, qui verus fons luminis et
sapientiae diceris,
ac supereminens principium,
infundere digneris super intellectus mei
tenebras
tuae radium claritatis,
duplices, in quibus natus sum, a me
removens tenebras,
peccatum scilicet et ignorantiam.

ENGLISH

Ineffable Creator,
who from the treasures of thy wisdom
hast appointed three hierarchies of
Angels,
and hast set them in wondrous order
above the highest heaven,
and hast most beautifully arranged the
parts of the universe:

thou, I say, who art called the true fount
of light and wisdom
and the supreme first principle,
vouchsafe to pour upon the darkness of
my understanding
a ray of thy brightness,
taking from me the twofold darkness in
which I was born,
that is, sin and ignorance.

Tu, qui linguas infantium facis disertas,
linguam meam erudias,
atque in labiis meis gratiam tuae
benedictionis infundas.

Da mihi intelligendi acumen,
retinendi capacitatem,
addiscendi modum et facilitatem,
interpretandi subtilitatem,
loquendi gratiam copiosam.

Ingressum instruas,
progressum dirigas,
egressum compleas.
Tu, qui es verus Deus et homo,
qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

Thou who makest eloquent the tongues
of little children,
instruct my tongue,
and pour upon my lips the grace of thy
blessing.

Give me sharpness to understand,
capacity to retain,
method and ease in learning,
subtlety in interpreting,
and abundant grace in speaking.

Instruct the beginning,
direct the progress,
perfect the end:
thou who art true God and man,
who livest and reignest for ever and ever.
Amen.

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