

Susan Keefe, Ph.D.

sent to Hans Apr. 20, 2011

To: Hans Hillerbrand
Subject: RE:

Dear Hans,

According to the volume in the Paulist Press series of Classics in Western Spirituality called Albert and Thomas: Selected Writings, edited by Simon Tugwell and Leonard Boyle, New York/Mahwah, 1988, on p. 265-6, in their introduction, they relate: "Something happened to him while he was saying Mass, we are told, and thereafter he neither wrote nor dictated another word. Reginald was afraid that too much study had driven him out of his mind and urged him to resume his work on the Tertia Pars, but Thomas simply said, 'Reginald, I can't.' When pressed, he added, Reginald, I can't, because all that I have written seems like straw.' After this Thomas hardly spoke and appeared to be in a stunned condition. When urged to explain what was going on, Thomas said, 'Everything I have written seems like straw by comparison with what I have seen and what has been revealed to me'."

The footnote to this passage (n. 630, p. 344) says: "Bartholomew heard the story from a friar who heard it from Reginald (FVST, pp. 376-8, Ferrua, pp. 318-20)."

Earlier, in note 1 (p. 291) the editors say that "the sources for the life of Thomas are mostly contained in Fontes Vitae Sancti Thomae Aquinatis, edited by D. Pruemmer and M. H. Laurent, published in fascicles attached to Revue Thomiste 1911-1937 (= FVST). The major sources are conveniently available also in A. Ferrua, Thomae Aquinatis Vitae Fontes Praecipuae (Alba, 1968) (= Ferrua)...The most important sources are the 1319 Naples canonization process and the biography of Thomas by William of Tocco, who had known Thomas at the end of his life..."

The "Bartholomew" referred to above is Bartholomew of Capua. On p. 243 the editors say that "In 1303 we have evidence that Bartholomew of Capua and, apparently, William of Tocco were collecting stories about Thomas and, since Bartholomew also passed on at least one such story to the newly elected Dominican pope, Benedict XI, who heard it 'carefully and with great enthusiasm', it can be inferred that some people were hoping to interest the pope in getting Thomas canonized; but nothing came of it."

So, it looks like the original source is Reginald, via a friar, via Bartholomew. Reginald of Piperno was Thomas' lifelong companion, who later became his permanent official socius (p. 211).

We do not seem to have either FVST or Ferrua in the Divinity School library, if you wanted to check Tugwell.

I hope you have a very holy and blessed Triduum,

Warmest,

Susan