

THE DYNAMIC AND ALIVE THOMISM OF FATHER PENIDO.

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Abstract: The aim of this paper is to present a short biography and bibliography of Maurílio Teixeira-Leite Penido [Abbé Penido or Father Penido], a Brazilian Catholic philosopher and theologian, known as ‘Theologian and Apostle of Liturgy’. He became the most famous Brazilian theologian Thomist.

Keywords: Father Penido; Theologian; Thomist; Brazilian.

Resúmen: La intención de este artículo es presentar una breve biografía e bibliografía de Maurílio Teixeira-Leite Penido [Abbé Penido o Father Penido], un filósofo e teólogo católico brasileño, conocido como “Teólogo y Apóstol de la Liturgia”. Él se convirtió en lo más famoso teólogo tomista brasileño.

Palabras-clave: Padre Penido; Teólogo; Tomista; Brasileño.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY.

Maurílio Teixeira-Leite Penido [Abbé Penido or Fr. Penido] is a Brazilian Catholic philosopher and theologian, known as ‘Theologian and Apostle of Liturgy’. He is the most famous Brazilian theologian Thomist. He was born into a noble family of the south-west of Brazil, in Petrópolis [Rio de Janeiro] on 2 November 1895.

When his father died, he moved to Paris with his mother in 1906. It was there that father Penido received his early education. In 1914 Penido went to *French Seminary* in Rome. In June 1915 he received the bachelor’s degree in Scholastic Philosophy at *Pontifical Gregorian University*.

On November 1915 he moved to Suisse. He went to Suisse attracted by the Thomistic studies at the *University of Freiburg*. In 1918 he received his Doctorate in Philosophy. In 1922 Penido was ordained priest and in 1928 he received his Doctorate in Theology - *Le Rôle de l’Analogie en Théologie Dogmatique* - at *University of Freiburg*.

Since 1928 he was Professor at *University of Freiburg*. There he wrote his most famous book: *Le Rôle de l’Analogie en Théologie Dogmatique* [Vrin, Paris, 1931]. At this time he wrote: *Dieu dans le Bergsonisme* [Desclée de Brower, Paris, 1936] and *La conscience religieuse* [Téqui, Paris, 1936].

In 1938 Father Penido came back to Brazil to live in Rio de Janeiro [Copacabana]. In 1939 he became Professor at the *University of Brazil*. In 1944 his book *O Corpo Místico*, a commentary on the Pío XII Encyclical *Mystici*

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Corporis Christi, takes 'Thomas Aquinas' doctrine to fight the extremism of the liturgical movement in Brazil. In 1958 he retired and left the *University of Brazil*.

In 1954 Father Penido became Professor of theology at *Seminar Saint Joseph* in Rio de Janeiro. At this time – in spite of his poor health condition degraded by Parkinson's disease – Father Penido still taught and offered spiritual assistance to the Sisters Carmelites. Father Penido died at the *Seminar Saint Joseph*, in Rio de Janeiro, on June 23rd, 1970.

FATHER PENIDO'S THOUGHT.

The most important element of his philosophical and theological thought is his interpretation of the 'Thomas Aquinas' doctrine of analogy, established in his book *Le Rôle de l'Analogie en Théologie Dogmatique*. His doctrine supposes Cajetan's interpretation of Thomas Aquinas.

For him, analogy is the central and universal key, without which it is impossible to understand any metaphysical thing and speculative theology. For this reason he is called the *Theologian of analogy*. He professes a dynamic and alive Thomism.

His interpretation and use of Aquinas' analogy was important among Thomists like Mandonnet, Maritain, Journet and many others. On the history of analogy in Thomism, Father Penido plays an outstanding position in theological analyses. In 1937 he edited an excellent paper *Pour une philosophie thomiste de la religion* in which he proposes some approaches to the Aquinas' doctrine of religion.

His moral doctrine was completely inspired upon the Doctor Angelicus. In many works, like in his book *Conscience religieuse*, he came back to Aquinas' doctrine of morality. In his mystical thought, St. John of the Cross is the *via spiritualis*. He dedicates a book to the interpretation of deep spirituality of St. John of Cross: *Itinerário Místico de S. João da Cruz* [Vozes, Rio de Janeiro, 1949].

Anyway, his papers and books follow a Thomistic inspiration, and analogy is the method, instrument and bridge between metaphysical and theological questions in his thought.

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