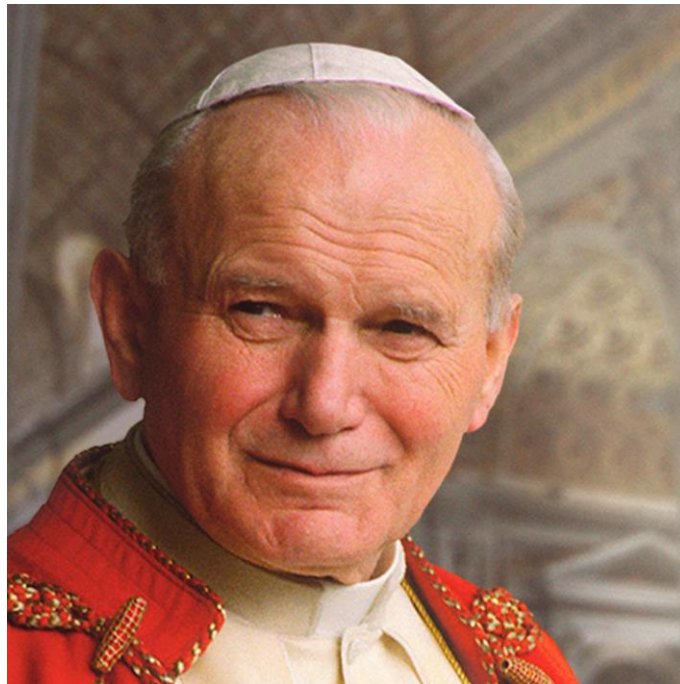
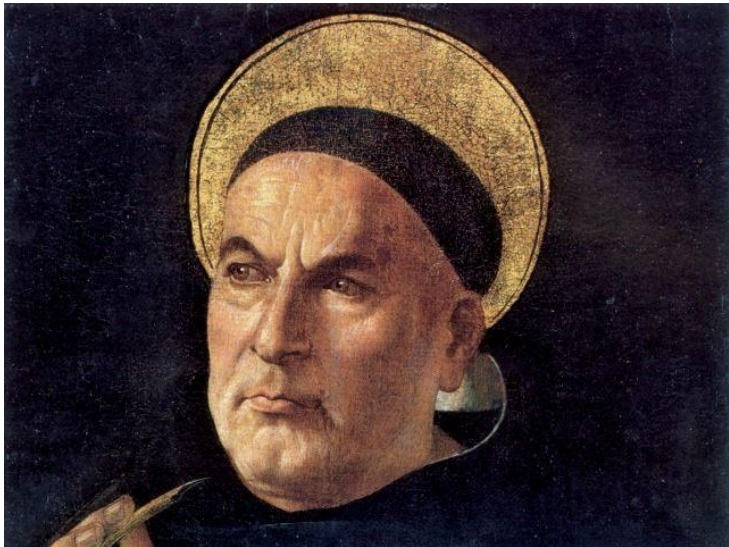


The Attributes of God

Who God Is and What We Know About Him



1. Mercy

- Mercy is the greatest attribute of God (cf. *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, by St. Faustina Kowalska, and *Dives in Misericordia*, by St. John Paul II)
- Matthew 20:1-16 Mercy transcends Justice

2. Absoluteness

- “I AM WHO AM” or “I AM HE WHO IS”
- Exodus 3:13-15



- Ipsum Esse Subsistens (St. Thomas Aquinas)

3. Infinity

- God is without any limit.
- An actual infinity of countable things is impossible. But God is pure act.

4. Spirituality

- God is immaterial and outside of space.

5. Unity

- God is simple.
- God is unique.

6. Eternity

- God has neither beginning nor end.
- God is outside of time.
- God lives in an all-encompassing present; every event and being is present to God.

7. Transcendence/Immanence

- God is far above and beyond any creature.
- God is innermost in every creature, permeating each creature's entire being.

8. Intelligence/Omniscience

- God understands himself, and every conceivable idea, concept, or design.
- God knows everything there is to know about himself and about every single existing thing.

9. Omnipotence

- God is almighty, able to do anything that is not intrinsically contradictory

10. Goodness

- God is supremely good, utterly desirable, and devoid of any evil whatsoever.

How do we know that God is personal?

Effects, no matter how far removed, can never be greater than their causes.

If persons exist now, they had a first cause.

Persons are greater than non-persons.

The first cause cannot be less than personal.

The first cause is a Person. (Three Persons, actually, but we'll get to that later.)