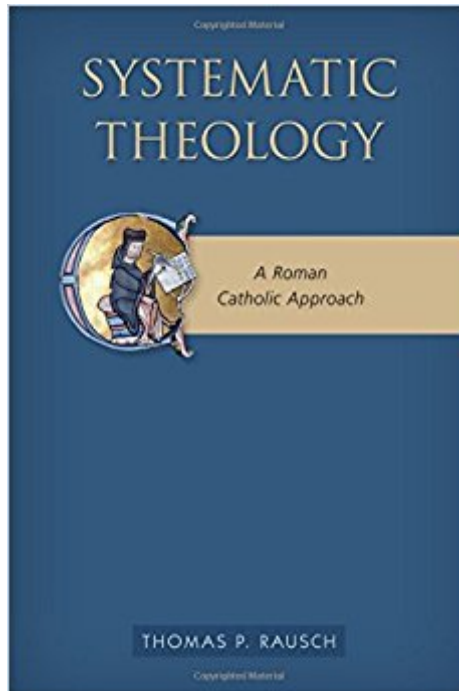




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# Systematic Theology: A Roman Catholic Approach



## Synopsis

Systematic theology seeks to understand and render more intelligible the central doctrines of faith and to show how they are related to each other. It tries to demonstrate how these doctrines are rooted in Scripture and develop in the history of the church; most important, it strives to more adequately express and sometimes reinterpret the church's doctrinal tradition, always in the interest of better communicating the mystery of salvation and bringing it into a dialogue with culture. The present text is intended to be concise and accessible, an introduction that explores basic themes in Catholic systematic theology from a biblical, historical, and contemporary perspective, always aware of today's theological pluralism.

## Book Information

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"In the same clear and careful way that Richard McBrien helped Catholics of the 1980s understand the richness of their doctrinal tradition, Tom Rausch offers in this volume a way for Catholics to navigate that same tradition in this second decade of the twenty-first century. Rausch pays close attention, however, not only to the tradition's content but also to its context of postmodernity, cultural diversity, gender awareness, and sensitivity to sexual orientation. Although sometimes controversial, Rausch is always thorough and fair. This will be a helpful book for students and teachers alike." Stephen Bevans, SVD; Louis J. Luzbetak, SVD, Professor of Mission and Culture, Emeritus; Catholic Theological Union, Chicago

Covering every major topic in Catholic theology with his signature accessibility and insight, this treatment of systematic theology is Thomas Rausch's chef d'oeuvre. Students and teachers looking for a reliable overview of

historical and contemporary approaches to theology will find no single volume better than this."Michael Downey, editor of *The New Dictionary of Catholic Spirituality*"Thomas P. Rausch, one of American Catholicism's finest writers, provides a solid introduction to the study of systematic theology, one that is attentive to its complex historical evolutions and contemporary face, while taking seriously its faith-filled, ecclesial, and contextual character. Educators and students alike will welcome his balanced presentation of the plurality of contemporary systematic theologies that carry forward the pastoral effort of mediating the meaning of a life in communion-with the Christian God, with other human persons in the church and society, and with the whole of creation-to the women and men of our time."Catherine E. Clifford, Saint Paul University, Ottawa"Rausch has produced a first-rate introduction to Catholic systematic theology. This book provides a cogent and up-to-date summary of the conversation in every major branch of systematic theology while also explaining the methods, biblical bases, historical development, and ecumenical perspectives that inform the debates. Rausch's writing is clear and engaging, making this text an excellent book for undergraduates. At the same time, it provides substantive contributions useful to advanced scholars. This book should be the top choice for anyone who wants to get the lay of the land's in contemporary Catholic theology."Mary Doak, Associate Professor, Theology and Religious Studies, University of San Diego"Thomas Rausch is a masterful teacher. With this book he offers a clear, well-informed introduction to contemporary Catholic systematic theology. Rausch insightfully maps its key areas, major figures, and frontier issues."Robert P. Imbelli, Associate Professor of Theology Emeritus, Boston College, Author of *Rekindling the Christic Imagination*"Informed and informative, thoughtful and thought-provoking, descriptively explanatory and instructively illuminating. . . . Highly recommended for clergy, seminary, and academic library Christian studies collections."James A. Cox, *The Midwest Book Review*"In this very readable text, Father Tom Rausch succeeds in offering a clear and balanced treatment of this complex and challenging material."Catholic Library World"He writes for those who need both a horizon tour of systematics and a first glance at those writers who have addressed themselves to the main themes in systematic theology. I could see this book to be a serviceable handbook for those beginning theological studies at the level of the master's degree. Along with the helpful reading suggestions at the end of each chapter, the book has a quite thorough index of names and topics."Lawrence S. Cunningham, University of Notre Dame, *Worship*

Thomas P. Rausch, SJ, is the T. Marie Chilton Professor of Catholic Theology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. A specialist in ecclesiology, he has published twenty books and

numerous articles and has long been active in ecumenism. He co-chairs the Los Angeles Catholic/Evangelical Committee and the Theological Commission for the Archdiocese. From 2010 to 2014 he was a consultor to Jesuit Superior General Father Adolfo Nicolás for ecumenical affairs.

A great overview of Catholic systematic theology for those who want to have a general idea. This is not an encyclopedia as Thomas Rausch notes in the introduction, but it is helpful for the beginner a clue and invitation to explore deeper issues of theology.

Well worth reading.

I wanted to read a good explanation of Catholic theological thought. This book procurement I was looking for. Easy to read even without a knowledge of the theological thinkers covered.

Excellent review.

I am Catholic. This helped me to learn more about my faith. Well written and current.

Still reading it. A bit laborious in spots. Got to take your time with this.

Good, haven't read much yet. Being Anglican I will have to sift out the strong RC thought, but we have so much in common, that was the main reason for ordering this volume.

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