

Leonardo Polo Institute of Philosophy



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Memorial on the 3rd Month Anniversary of Leonardo Polo's Death

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Condolences, Memories and the Legacy of Leonardo Polo

It was a sorrowful day on February 9, 2013 upon hearing the news of the passing of Leonardo Polo, a man who will become known as one of the greatest thinkers of history. Is this an exaggeration? Is it possible that he went "beyond" and built upon the philosophy of Aristotle and Aquinas? I always like to claim that, though he never considered himself a personalist, Leonardo Polo "put legs under the table of personalism." Leonardo Polo travelled the mind like Marco Polo travelled the world.

While studying at the University of Navarre during the academic year of 1993-1994, I was fortunate to take the class entitled, "Theory of Knowledge" given by Leonardo Polo. His class was simply delivered or shall I say "thought out loud." He inspired me to love to think and taught me how to savor ideas for which I am very grateful. Watching him teach or think gave me a love for learning; I learned to love to learn. In this way I was inspired always to desire to search for the truth and to be motivated to gladly rethink things, which I believe to be the most challenging task after praying. By his presence and example I came to be enamored with the never ending and fascinating quest of the person.

The lessons that he imparted were not a rehash of some theories or ideas of other thinkers, but they were original thoughts based upon original thoughts of the greatest thinkers of all time. There were phrases that he would say that captivated and summarized great thinkers and ideas like, "Kant thought with his imagination," or his theory of quadruple causality that showed me a clear difference in the final cause between the person and the rest of creation: freedom. But his insights into the person based upon the real distinction between the act of being and the essence was his greatest accomplishment.

Yet, he was more than just a thinker of ideas. Don Leonardo was a man who knew the value of love. I remember him in class one day stretching out his arm and pointing his finger toward the sky saying, "You can reach 'much higher' by loving than by thinking." He has reached his final destiny. Now he enjoys seeing the real depths of the Person. He has gone far beyond abandoning the mental limit!



- Fr. Mark Mannion (Chicago, IL, USA)

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