

Divine Causality and Human Free Choice: Domingo Báñez, Physical Premotion, and the Controversy De Auxiliis Revisited. By Robert Joseph Matava. Brill's Studies in Intellectual History, 252. Boston: Brill, 2016. Pp. xi + 365. \$194.

It was about time that a theologian would try to tackle the controversies on grace again. It is all the more exciting that Matava does so not merely by a detailed historical analysis of Báñez's concept of physical premotion which he contrasts with Molina's solution, but also by a profound systematic discussion of their merits. It is hardly surprising that scholars have shied away from the topic, because Báñez's work is not translated and his Latin not easy to penetrate. Moreover, this study illuminates the Thomistic tradition by showing how and why Báñez arrived at the concept of "physical promotion" and also that he insisted on absolute faithfulness to Aquinas. The basic question of the scholarly debate between Báñez and Molina is of course that over grace and human freedom, and M. shows with amazing mastery of the sources how interpreters have misunderstood Báñez (especially the term "physical") while also noting his limitations. This becomes obvious in the discussion of Lonergan's solution to the grace/freedom problem (213–242), which hitherto scholars have seen as the last word on the topic. It is indeed fascinating to see that neither Báñez nor Molina could foresee Lonergan's critique that the physical promotion creates a *res media* between God and human action which means that either the human action doesn't follow with infallible certainty and is free, or follows with certainty and isn't free, or as M. summarizes it, "God, as transcendent creator, does not use means in causing. Strictly speaking, there is no *res media* between God and his effects, just the dependence of God's effects on God" (222). Yet, M. is not happy with Lonergan's solution either and subjects it to a thorough critique, also in the light of recent scholarship on Aquinas, and argues that the "total personal creation" view of human freedom was first suggested by Antonin Sertillanges, David Burrell, and Germain Grisez (278–319).

M.'s book is no easy read; it is highly technical and it demands careful reading. Yet the reward is that one is masterfully guided through the "battlefield" of one of theology's most exciting controversies. After reading this book, one better understands why the controversies on grace were the last time Catholic theology held the center stage in a worldwide intellectual debate.

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Homo Sapiens: Die Krone der Schöpfung. Herausforderung der Evolutionstheorie und die Antwort der Philosophie. By Martin Rhonheimer. Wiesbaden: Springer, 2016. Pp. 287. \$59.99.

The number of books that deal with the challenges evolution poses to tradition, philosophy, and anthropology are legion; yet, there are not many books that offer a sound defense of the full compatibility of evolutionary biology and the Christian philosophical