

14 March 1976, 'Cuse.

Dear Dr. Capps!

As I return from mid-term break and begin to think back into work, writing you seems like a good idea. Reasons if needed range from the sentimental to the scientific...

As a specialist in Augustine and Aquinas, would you (per-haps) be able to tell me where I can find their major inquiries into the notion of life as sacramental? I've been able to find a couple of commentaries so far. They have informed me that Aquinas' notion of the indelible marks of the spirit (character baptismatis, confirmationis, ordinis) is from Augustine. Since the Aquinian paradigm is central to my dissertation, I should be able to document it ab origine--or as close to such as possible. I know from the works of Gerson and Biel that the three-fold view of the divine vocation (evangelion) as preparatory preaching, philosophical theology, dogma is closely related in the medieval purview. But I cannot make any move toward outcomes until the etiology is clearer...Could you if you would help by pointing me through to the textual sources of the character discussion in Aquinas and Augustine? Do you sense an earlier development of that particular formulation?

If I stay in the saddle and proceed at an even pace, I should be defended by the end of August--meantime, job-search. Mary plans her comps for early September. She is working hard as Hopper's assistant this term--lecturing and so on. She still plans to do her dissertation "on something related to autobiography and Augustine;" says she'll write soon about her paper for you.

We miss you and Lois! yet anticipate avocado..! and hope someday soon to see y'all (including Lisa, Laura and Todd). Please tell Todd I've not forgotten my promise if and when he is still into competitive swimming. I remain then faithfully yours,

Jeff Stewart.

