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The Absolute Predestination of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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Editor's note:

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The following list of ABBREVIATIONS was prepared by Father Carol to accompany his article:

ABBREVIATIONS FOR PERIODICALS AND OTHER SETS

- AAS—Acta Apostolicae Sedis
AAV—Acta Academiae Velehradensis
ABM—Archivos - Bibliotecas - Museos
ACAAL—Actas del Congreso Asuncionista Franciscano de América Latina, 1948 (Buenos Aires, 1950)
ACMB—Congrès Marial de Bruxelles, 1954 (Bruxelles, 1955)
ACNM—Atti del Congresso Nazionale Mariano dei Frati Minori d'Italia, 1947 (Roma, 1948)
AdC—L'Ami du Clergé
Ang—Angelicum
Ant—Antonianum
AOFM—Acta Ordinis Fratrum Minorum
APAR—Acta Pont. Academiae Romanae S. Thomae Aq.
Aptm—Apostolicum (Tsinanfu)
ASC—Alma Sociâ Christi
ASCSI—Acta Secundi Congressus Scholastici Internationalis Oxonii et Edimburgi 11-17 sept. 1966 celebrati. Studia Scholastico-Scotistica III (Romae, 1968)
ATh—L'Année Théologique
Bibl—Biblica
BSFEM—Bulletin de la Société Française d'Etudes Mariales
BTSS—Bulletin trimestriel des anciens élèves de S. Sulpice (Paris)

The Absolute Predestination of the BVM

173

- CCMF—Compte-rendu du Congrès Marial de Fribourg (Blois, 1903)
- CCMIZ—Cuarto Congreso Mariano Internacional de Zaragoza, 1908 (Madrid, 1909)
- CF—Collectanea Franciscana
- ChF—Cahiers Franciscains
- CFS—Collectanea Franciscana Slavica
- CML—Congrès Marials Nationaux. VII^e Congrès, Lyon, 1954 (Lyon, 1955)
- CMNL—Congrès Marial National de Lourdes, 1930 (Lourdes, 1931)
- Cmp—Compostellanum
- CMVP—Congrès Marial du Puy-en-Velay, 1949 (Paris, 1950)
- CPCMM—Crónica del Primer Congreso Mariano-Monfortiano, Barcelona, 1918 (Totana, 1920)
- Crd—The Cord
- Ctr—Culture (Québec)
- DBibl—Dictionnaire de la Bible
- DT(PI)—Divus Thomas (Placentiae)
- DTC—Dictionnaire de Théologie Catholique
- Dvts—Divinitas
- EC—Enciclopedia Cattolica
- EcF—L'Ecole Franciscaine
- EdisF—Estudis Franciscans
- EF—Etudes Franciscaines
- EM—Estudios Marianos
- EMF—Estudios Marianos. Teses apresentadas ao Congresso Mariologico Lusso-Espanhol na Fatima, 1944 (Fatima, 1945)
- EmR—Ecumenical Review
- EphM—Ephemerides Mariologicae
- ER—The Ecclesiastical Review
- ETL—Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses
- EstF—Estudios Franciscanos
- FAT—Franciscan Approach to Theology; Franciscan Education-

- al Conference 8 (Washington, 1958)
- FEC—Franciscan Educational Conference
- FF—La France Franciscaine
- FHF—Franciscan Herald and Forum
- FLDF—Fünfte Lektorenkonferenz der deutscher Franziskaner
(Sigmaringen, 1930)
- FMC—Fêtes Mariales de Chartres (Chartres, 1927)
- FS—Franciscan Studies
- FzS—Franziskanische Studien
- Ggm—Gregorianum
- HPR—Homiletic and Pastoral Review
- IER—Irish Ecclesiastical Record
- IMd—La Inmaculada y la Merced (Roma, 1955)
- Int—Interest (Washington, D.C.)
- ItF—L'Italia Francescana
- JB-1—Jean-B. du Petit-Bornand, O.F.M.Cap., Essai sur la primauté de Jésus-Christ et sur le motif de l'Incarnation (Paris, 1900)
- JB-2—Jean-B. du Petit-Bornand, O.F.M.Cap., Sur la primauté de Notre-Seigneur Jésus-Christ et sur le motif de l'Incarnation. Notes Additionnelles (Paris, 1922)
- JEUO—Journées d'Etudes Université d'Ottawa, 1957: La Maternité spirituelle de la B. Vierge Marie, II (Ottawa, 1958)
- JSEM—Journées Sacerdotales d'Etudes Mariales, 1943 (s.l., 1948)
- JSM—Journées Sacerdotales Mariales, 1951 (Dinant, 1952)
- JTS—Jahrbuch der Theologischen Schule
- JTSt—Journal of Theological Studies
- KM—Katholische Marienkunde, ed. P. Sträter (Paderborn, 1947)
- Kyrl—Kyrilliana (Cairo)
- LM—Lexikon der Marienkunde
- LTPh—Laval Théologique et Philosophique
- Maria—Maria. Etudes sur la Sainte Vierge, ed. H. du Manoir

- MC—Mémorial Catholique
MCMZ—Memoria del Congreso Mariano Nacional de Zaragoza, 1954 (Zaragoza, 1956)
ME—Maria et Ecclesia
MF—Miscellanea Francescana
MIPC—Maria Immacolata nella Provincia dei Frati Minori Cappucini di Lombardia (Milano, 1955)
Mm—Marianum
MS—Marian Studies
MSO—Mary in the Seraphic Order, XXXV Franciscan Educational Conference (Washington, D.C., 1954)
MSR—Mélanges de Science Religieuse
NCE—New Catholic Encyclopedia
NG—Naturaleza y Gracia
NRM—Nouvelle Revue Mariale
NRT—Nouvelle Revue Théologique
OrFr—Orate Fratres
Ornt—Orient (Toulouse)
Pareri—Pareri dell'Episcopato Cattolico... sulla definizione dogmatica dell'Immacolato Concepimento della B.V.M. (Roma, 1851-1854)
PC—Palestra del Clero
PCCM—Primer Congreso Pan-Americano de las Congregaciones Marianas, 1921 (Santiago de Chile, 1922)
PCMB—Premier Congrès Marial Breton, Josselin, 1904 (Paris, 1905)
PCSJ—Provincial Chronicle of St. John the Baptist Province, Special Marian Issue (Cincinnati, 1952)
PFC—Points fondamentaux du christianisme en général et du catholicisme en particulier, ed. Migne (Paris, 1862)
PS—Priestly Studies
QSF—Quaderni di Spiritualità Francescana
RB—Revue Biblique
RdR—Revue du Rosaire
RDS—Revue Duns Scot

- REB—Revista Eclesiástica Brasileira
 RET—Revista Española de Teología
 Rjs—Reflejos
 Rgl—Reglense (Chipiona-Cádiz)
 RHR—Revue de l'Histoire des Religions
 RI—Regina Immaculata (Rome, 1955)
 RIJL—La Rotauté de l'Immaculée. Journées d'Etudes Université Laval, 1955 (Ottawa, 1957)
 RSR—Revue de Science Religieuse
 RSPT—Revue des Sciences Philosophiques et Théologiques
 RTFR—Round Table of Franciscan Research
 RTh—Revue Thomiste
 RUP—Repertorio Universal del Predicador
 SC—Studia Catholica
 SCMB—Segundo Congresso Mariano Nacional (Braga, 1954)
 SF—Studi Francescani
 SL—Spiritual Life
 Spz—Sapienza
 SR—La Settimana Religiosa (Genova)
 Stm—Studium (Montréal)
 SV—San Vigilio (Trento)
 TCC—The Teaching of the Catholic Church, ed. Smith (New York, 1961)
 TCMB—Troisième Congrès Marial Breton, Guingamp, 1910 (St. Brieuc, 1911)
 TFAM—La teologia, fondamento dell'ascetica mariana (Milano, 1948)
 Theol—Theologica
 Tondini—A. Tondini, Le encicliche mariane (2 ed., Roma, 1954)
 VD—Verbum Domini
 VDA—Vers le dogme de l'Assomption (Montréal, 1948)
 Vgl—Virgo Immaculata
 Vglia—Vigilia (Budapest)
 VF—La Vie Franciscaine (Paris)

VIHD—La Vierge Immaculée. Histoire et Doctrine (Montréal,
1954)

VyV—Verdad y Vida

WuW—Wissenschaft und Weisheit

THE ABSOLUTE PREDESTINATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

A cursory survey of our manuals of theology reveals that only a relatively small number of authors preface their treatise *De Beata Virgine* with a serious discussion of Our Lady's predestination. The omission is rather regrettable, for it is precisely the stand we take on this subject that will set virtually every other mariological thesis in its proper perspective. The unique place held by Mary in the overall hierarchy of beings making up the entire creation is bound to give cohesion and unity to the scientific structure of the Marian tract.

By "predestination" we mean the eternal act of God's will determining the existence of a rational creature and ordaining it to grace and glory. Several questions are usually discussed by theologians in connection with Mary's predestination.¹ The only one that concerns us here is the exact place assigned to her in the internal hierarchy of the divine decree relative to the universe. Briefly: whether or not Mary was willed (predestined) by God with a *logical priority* over all other creatures.

Since Mary's predestination is but one aspect of the broader question of Christ's own predestination, the former must perforce be treated within that frame of reference. As everyone knows, the question of whether or not Christ was predestined prior to all other creatures has been heatedly debated among theologians for centuries; it is, admittedly, one of the most intricate in Catholic theology, especially from a historical point of view. The mere cataloguing of authors according to the various opinions is in itself a formidable task, since their theories are often misrepresented by their interpreters and commen-

¹ Cf. J. B. Carol, O.F.M., *Fundamentals of Mariology* (New York, 1956) 21-25.

tators.² Perhaps a lifetime would be needed to disentangle this "selva enmarañada," to use Aldama's apt description.³

And yet, despite the difficulties involved, the problem deserved to be treated, if for no other reason, because of its inherent importance. Let us put it this way: Many cruel wars have been fought over *geographical* frontiers. Are we to think that, when there is a question of limiting Christ and Mary's *spiritual* frontiers, the subject becomes less important?⁴ The plurisecular controversy over the "motive" of the Incarnation would suggest otherwise.

Incidentally, this so-called "motive"⁵ of the Incarnation is often treated under the heading of Christ's "primacy." Obviously, the two ideas involved here are not always conceptually co-extensive; they are, nevertheless, intimately related.

The term "primacy" can refer to the state of holding the highest place or rank within a given order and/or to the state of being logically or chronologically first. For the Scotists, Christ holds the absolute and universal primacy: (a) in the order of dignity, (b) in the order of divine intention, and (c) in the order of causality. From the fact of Christ's absolute and universal primacy, as taught in *Col.* 1:18, the Scotists argue

² Good examples are given by Chrysostome [Urrutibéhéty], O.F.M., *Le motif de l'Incarnation et les principaux thomistes contemporains* (Tours, 1921), esp. 283.

³ J. A. de Aldama, S.J., in *EM* 25 (1964) 41.

⁴ It is well known, for instance, that many Thomists, as a result of their views on Christ's predestination, do limit His meritorious influence as regards the Angels and our first parents *ante lapsum*.

⁵ J.-F. Bonnefoy, O.F.M., has repeatedly reminded theologians that nothing can move or motivate God to act, besides His own free will. Nor is it correct to speak of original sin as being the *occasion* or the *condition* of the Incarnation. The order of the universe does not result from conditions or occasions, but from relations of cause and effect (cf. St. Thomas, *Summa theol.* I, q. 48, a. 1, ad 5). Nevertheless, since God is infinite wisdom, He always has a *reason* for acting. Hence, we should speak of the *reason* for the Incarnation, rather than its motive, occasion or condition. Cf. *The Predestination of Our Blessed Lady, in Mariology*, ed. J. B. Carol, O.F.M. (Milwaukee, 1957), II, 156-157.

to His having been predestined first in the order of divine decrees *ad extra*. One group of Thomists opines that Christ's primacy is absolute and universal only in the order of dignity. A second group holds that His primacy is absolute also in the order of *final* causality (technically called *finis cuius gratia*), but not in the order of material causality (*finis cui*), as will be indicated shortly.

The specific purpose of this essay is rather limited. We propose to offer: (a) a synopsis of the various opinions on the primary reason for the Incarnation and (b) a list of modern authors (nineteenth and twentieth centuries) who, in our judgment, have endorsed, at least in substance, what is commonly known as the "Franciscan" viewpoint relative to the role of Christ and His Mother in the internal hierarchy of the divine decree concerning the universe.

PART ONE

VARIOUS THEORIES ON THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THE INCARNATION

In the brief description that follows we purposely refrain from indicating the reasons or arguments *pro* and *con*, which the reader can easily find in any manual of dogmatic theology.⁶

THEORY (A). *Thomists* (1st Group):

For this group, the order of predestinations (*signa rationis*) is substantially this:

- 1) God decrees to create the universe in order to manifest His goodness.

⁶ A fairly good reference here would be A. Michel's article *Incarnation*, in *DTC* 7 (1921) 1498-1499 (for the Scotistic viewpoint) and 1501-1505 (for the Thomistic viewpoint).

The Absolute Predestination of the BVM

181

- 2) God decrees the permission of Adam's sin.
- 3) God decrees to become man (Incarnation) in order to redeem man.

Conclusion: The only primary reason for the Incarnation is man's Redemption. Hence, if Adam had not sinned, there would have been no Incarnation.⁷ The theory is subscribed to by most of the traditional followers of St. Thomas Aquinas.⁸

THEORY (B). *Thomists* (2nd Group):

- 1) In the order of final causality, Christ is willed first.
- 2) In the order of material causality, the Redemption is willed first.

Conclusion: The Incarnation is the *finis cuius gratia* of all creation, but the Redemption is the *finis cui* of the Incarnation. If Adam had not sinned, there would have been no Incarnation. The theory is endorsed by not a few Thomists, among whom are Cardinal Cajetan, the Salmanticenses, Capreolus, Medina, Gonet, and others.⁹ Those who subscribe to theory (A) and

⁷ G. Friethoff, O.P., suspects that it may be even *heretical* (!) to assign to the Incarnation any reason other than man's redemption. Cf. *Ang* 15 (1938): 13. He forgets that, for St. Thomas, the ultimate reason for the Incarnation is God's infinite goodness (cf. *Summa*, III, q.1, a.1). We have it on the authority of Benedict XIV that Dominicans and Franciscans were forbidden by Pope Sixtus IV to call one another "heretics" in this connection, since, as he put it, the opinions held by both groups "are based on piety, the authorities of faith, and reasons." *De beatif. et canoniz.*, lib. 2, cap. 28, n. 10. Ref. in *JB-1*, 8. Incidentally, Pope Paul VI had the highest praise for Scotus' teaching on Christ's universal primacy. Cf. his *Alma parens*, in *AAS* 58 (1966) 609-610.

⁸ Cf. *JB-1*, 29-31, where the more prominent supporters are named.

⁹ "Gonet, Salmanticenses et communius AA. addunt ad distinctionem supra relatam ex Cajetano, aliam distinctionem inter finem *qui* seu *cuius gratia* et *finem cui*. In genere causae finalis *cuius gratia* Deus prius voluit et vidit Christum quam alias res; at in genere causae materialis et in genere causae finalis *cui* prius voluit et vidit permissionem peccati quam Christum. Datur igitur mutua causarum dependentia, et in ordine *intentionis* prius fuit decretum incarnationis decreto creationis, dum in ordine *executionis* decretum creationis fuit prius." Thus J. Solano, S.J., *De Verbo Incarnato*, https://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian_studies/vol31/iss1/16

theory (B) claim to base their opinion on the teaching of St. Thomas.¹⁰

THEORY (C). *Scotists*:

The Scotists arrange the order of predestinations as follows:

- 1) God decrees the existence of Christ, independently of any other circumstance, in order to have someone who will love Him in a most perfect way.
- 2) God decrees the existence of angels and men, with Christ as their final, exemplary and efficient (meritorious) cause.
- 3) God decrees the rest of the universe for the glory of Christ.
- 4) God decrees the permission of Adam's sin.
- 5) God decrees that Christ will come *in carne passibili* as Redeemer.

Conclusion: Even if Adam had not sinned, God would have become incarnate, not as Redeemer, of course, but as King of all creation. The theory is held by most followers of Bl. John

in *Sacrae Theologiae Summa* (ed. 3, Matrini, 1956) 15-16. On the Salmanticenses, cf. T. Deman, O.P., *Salamancae* (Théologiens de), in *DTC* 14, 1029-1030. Deman states that the Salmanticenses, Godoy, Gonet and other Thomists incorporated into their own theory "the best of the Scotistic thesis." On the internal contradictions of Cajetan's position, cf. Chrysostome [Urrutibéhéty], *op. cit.*, 108ff. and 165; on the contradictions of the Salmanticenses, cf. *ibid.*, 124-149.

Among recent exponents of Theory (B) we may mention R. Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P., *Causae ad invicem sunt causae*, in *Ang* 9 (1932) 21-42; id., *De motivo Incarnationis*, in *APAR* 10 (1945) 7-13, where he seems to follow Suárez. For an extensive critique, see Rocca-Roschini, *De ratione primariae existentiae Christi et Deiparae* (Romae, 1944) 143-167. Later on, in his book, *The Mother of the Savior and Our Interior Life* (Dublin, 1948) 23-29, Garrigou-Lagrange substantially agrees with Bonnefoy's views on the place of Christ and Mary in the divine decree. On the author's interpretation of Christ's triple causality, cf. J. B. Bonnefoy, O.F.M., *Il primato di Cristo nella teologia contemporanea*, in *Problemi e orientamenti della teologia dommatica* (Milano, 1957) II, 218-219.

¹⁰ For a good explanation of the views held by St. Thomas himself, cf. M. D. Meilach, O.F.M., *St. Thomas Aquinas and the Primacy of Christ*, in *Int* 1 (n. 1, 1960) 22-27; Chrysostome, *op. cit.*, 417-443.

Duns Scotus, O.F.M. (d. 1308),¹¹ and also by not a few outside the Franciscan Order, for example, A. Catharinus, O.P., A. Salmerón, S.J., St. Francis de Sales, etc.¹²

THEORY (D). *The "Conciliatory Opinion":*

This theory, which claims to harmonize Thomists with Scotists, was advanced by Francisco Suárez, S.J. (d. 1617). According to him, there are *two total* adequate reasons for the Incarnation:

- 1) The intrinsic excellence of the mystery itself, and
- 2) The Redemption of the world.

Conclusion: Even if Adam had not sinned, the Incarnation would have taken place, since either reason would have sufficed

¹¹ For Scotus himself, whose stand is often misrepresented, cf. his *Opus Oxoniense*, lib. III, d. 7, q. 3: ed. C. Balić, O.F.M., *J. D. Scotti, Doctoris Marialis, Theologiae Marianae elementa* (Sibenici, 1933) 1-10; id., *Duns Scotus Lehre über Christi Prädestination im Lichte der neuersten Forschungen*, in *WuW* 3 (1936) 19-35; A. B. Wolter, O.F.M., *Duns Scotus on the Predestination of Christ*, in *Crd* 5 (1955) 366-372; A. Martini, O.F.M., *Sul motivo primario dell'Incarnazione*, in *SF* 6 (1934) 3-33, 288-318, being an answer (how successful?) to Déodat Marie de Basly, O.F.M., *Le vrai motif de l'Incarnation: Scot aussi loin des scotistes que des thomistes*, in *RDS* 9 (1911) 149-151, 167-171, 180-182, 198-201, 213-215, continued in *EcF* 10 (1912) 14-17, 33-34, 37-41, 49-53, 62-64. Of particular importance here is Bonnefoy's *La question hypothétique: Utrum si Adam non peccasset . . . au XIII^e siècle*, in *RET* 14 (1954) 327-368. Incidentally, Scotus himself did not apply to Mary his views on Christ's predestination. The first to do so were his disciples John de Bassolis (d. 1333) and Francis de Mayronis (d. 1330). Again, the first to deduce the Immaculate Conception from Mary's absolute predestination was pseudo-Lull (actually an anonymous Franciscan from Aragón) in *De immaculata beatissimae Virginis conceptione*, written in 1394 but first published in Seville, 1491. Cf. *EM* 16 (1955) 125-126. See also C. Balić, O.F.M., *La prédestination de la Très-Sainte Vierge dans la doctrine de Jean Duns Scot*, in *FF* 19 (1936) 114-158.

¹² A list of the more prominent followers of Scotus is given by A. Michel, *art. cit.*, in *DTC* 7 (1921) 1495-1496, and also by L. M. Bello, O.F.M., *De universali Christi primatu atque regalitate*, in *AOFM* 52 (1933) 293-311.

to bring it about.¹³ This opinion never found a sufficient number of adherents to form a School—not even within the Society of Jesus.

CONTEMPORARY ATTEMPTS

Besides the above-mentioned conciliatory opinion of Suárez, there have appeared in more recent times a few theories endeavoring to bring about at least a substantial harmony between Thomists and Scotists.

The first attempt was made in 1911 by Galtier.¹⁴ Some have understood him as reviving the Suarezian theory; actually, at least since 1947, his opinion coincides substantially with the one held by Bonnefoy.¹⁵ For this reason we may here dispense with a discussion of his views. A second attempt was made in 1937 by Bonnefoy (d.1959) who, in turn, influenced a third theory proposed by Servite Fathers Rocca and Roschini in 1941. The latest is by American philosopher-theologian William H. Marshner. Let us say a word about each.

THEORY (E). *J.-F. Bonnefoy*¹⁶

As arranged by this author, the order of predestinations

¹³ Suárez, *De Incarnatione*, disp. 5, sect. 4, n. 7; *Op. omnia* (ed. Parisiis, 1856) XVII, 241; cf. Disp. 5, sect. 2, n.16; *ed. cit.*, XVII, 223. On the weaknesses of Suárez's position, cf. Chrysostome, *op. cit.*, 115. At any rate, later in life, the Doctor Eximius seems to have abandoned some of his previously held views, as appears from his *De Angelis*, lib. 7, cap. 13, n. 9; *ed. cit.*, II, 883-884.

¹⁴ Paul Galtier, S.J., *Le vrai motif de l'Incarnation*, in *NRT* 43 (1911) 44-57, 104-124; in a later book, *Les deux Adam* (Paris, 1947) he admits (p. 102, n.1) the weak points of Gonet's theory concerning the famous *finis qui* and *finis cui*. In his art. *Primato di Cristo*, in *EC* 10 (Vatican City, 1953) 5-6, he simply gives the various opinions without expressing his own. On Galtier, cf. A. O'Neill, in *SF* 1 (1914-1915) 252-255; Michel, in *DTC* 7 (1921) 1505, and L. Ciappi, O.P., *Il motivo dell'Incarnazione e "Les deux Adam" du P. Galtier*, in *Spz* 3 (1950) 92-107.

¹⁵ Cf. Galtier, S.J., *Les deux Adam* (Paris, 1947) esp. 87, 92, 100-124.

¹⁶ Actually, Bonnefoy is not the "author" of this theory, though he is,

should be conceived as follows:

- 1) God decrees the Incarnation as the highest possible communication of His goodness in order to have someone who will love Him in a supreme way.
- 2) God decrees the existence of Mary, Christ's associate, so that Christ may have a most perfect beneficiary with whom He may share His goodness and happiness.
- 3) God decrees the existence of angels and men, so that Christ and Mary may have beneficiaries on whom they may bestow their gifts.
- 4) God decrees the existence of the material universe, destined to be the throne and footstool of His Son (Acts 9:49).
- 5) Since it is more noble to dispense one's own gifts than those belonging to others, God decrees that Christ and Mary will earn (merit) such gifts for their beneficiaries.
- 6) Since the most excellent way to show one's love is to lay down one's life for the loved ones (John 15:13), God decrees Christ's sufferings and death, with Mary's share therein.
- 7) Since it is more noble and perfect "to forgive" than "to give," God decrees (with a permissive will) the fall of our first parents so as to make possible the Redemption (and Coredeemption) from sin, as the "perfect gift" to Christ's and Mary's beneficiaries.¹⁷

admittedly, the one who has developed it fully and systematically with a solidly biblical and theological justification. We will have an opportunity to mention many of his predecessors in this matter. Meanwhile, cf. our remarks in *Reflections on the Problems of Mary's Preservative Redemption*, in *MS 30* (1979) 78-79.

¹⁷ Cf. Bonnefoy's *art. cit.* in Carol's *Mariology* (Milwaukee, 1957) II, 160-169; id., *La primauté du Christ selon l'Écriture et la Tradition* (Rome, 1959); tr. by M. D. Meilach, O.F.M., with the title: *Christ and the Cosmos* (Paterson, 1965); id., *L'Immaculée dans le plan divin*, in *EphM* 8 (1958) 5-61. The accusation is sometimes made that those who distinguish various *signa rationis* within the one, single decree of divine predestination are indulging in "anthropomorphism." Cf. *EphM* (1979) 137. The accusation goes back to L. Molina, S.J., who, in his *Comment. in primam divi Thomae partem* (ed. Venetiis, 1602) q. 23, a. 4-5, disp. 1, mem. 7 writes: "...ex-

To the hypothetical question, "Would the Incarnation have taken place if Adam had not sinned?" Bonnefoy answers: The problem should not be formulated hypothetically, since God has not revealed what He might have done (or not done) in an order of things different from the one He actually chose.¹⁸ Bonnefoy's views have been endorsed, at least in their substance, by a couple dozen modern authors, among whom are Alonso, Bertetto, Leblond, O'Neill, and E. Schmidt.¹⁹

THEORY (F). *Rocca-Roschini*

The essence of this theory may be formulated thus:

The primary reason for the Incarnation is: God's free elec-

terminanda omnino videntur instantia [signa rationis] Scoti. . ." Yet he himself presents the order of divine intentions by such terms as *antequam*, *praeterae*, *tunc vero*, and *denique*, the very figures of chronological succession which he condemns in others. While we must always emphasize that there is no chronological "before" or "after" in God's mind, the fact remains that the causal order existing in the divine mind cannot be adequately expressed by us humans without recourse to categories of time and space; otherwise our discourse will be simply unintelligible. Incidentally, if the accusation is valid against the Scotists it is valid likewise against the Fathers of the Church and the Scholastics (including the Angelic Doctor), to say nothing of the Sacred Scriptures themselves. Cf. Bonnefoy, *Christ and the Cosmos*, 12-13. The above observation has been endorsed by M. J. Nicolas, O.P., in *RTb* 51 (1951) 663-670, by M. R. Gagnebet, O.P., in *Ang* 28 (1951) 391, and by P. Galter, S.J., in *Ggm* 32 (1951) 596-598. Ref. in Bonnefoy, *op. cit.*, 19, n.31.

¹⁸ Cf. Bonnefoy, *art. cit.*, in *RET* 14 (1954) 327-368; id., *Raison de l'Incarnation et primauté du Christ*, in *DT(P1)* 46 (1943) 103-120; S.-M. Leblanc, O.F.M., *La fausse et la vraie position d'un problème théologique*, in *Stm* 1 (1946) 3-7.

¹⁹ For the exact reference to these authors, see the second part of this paper. We may mention here that the characteristic feature of Bonnefoy's theory, namely, that the decree concerning the Redemption *preceded* (logically) the absolute decree concerning the Fall, had many supporters in the past, for example: Gonzalo Sánchez Lucero, Didacus Granado, S.J., Petrus de Lorca, O.Cist., Petrus de Cabrera, O.S.Hier., Joannes P. Nazarius, O.P., Franciscus Amicus, S.J., Franciscus Palanco, Ord Minim., Thomas Muniessa, S.J., Philippus Aranda, S.J., Joannes Prudencio, O. de M. and others. Cf. P. de Alcántara Martínez, O.F.M., in *EstF* 55 (1954) 207-212, 225-227.

tion of the present order, in which the Incarnation is decreed *independently* of Adam's sin but *connected* with it.²⁰

To the hypothetical question, "Would God have become incarnate if Adam had not sinned?," the authors answer: We do not know for certain, since God has not revealed to us what He might have done (or not done) in an order different from the one He actually chose.²¹

THEORY (G). *W. H. Marshner*²²

First: In a logically early moment God knows, through His *scientia simplicis intelligentiae*, all possible worlds, with different ones presumably having different things to recommend them.

Second: Among these possible worlds which God understands, there is one in which a race is raised to friendship with Him through capitulation in its first parent. Still through His *scientia simplicis intelligentiae*, He understands the possible loss of that friendship, and its possible restoration through the Logos, become incarnate.

Third: God prefers this possible world because of the infinite glory resulting from the redemptive Incarnation which is a feature of it.

Fourth: God chooses to create this particular world, and through His *scientia visionis*, He now knows all that His creation will contain relative to each efficacious decree.

Formally speaking, the main difference between the above schema and what I take to be (*salvo meliori iudicio*) the Scotist

²⁰ I. M. Rocca-G. M. Roschini, O.S.M., *De ratione primariae existentiae Christi et Deiparae* (Romae, 1944) 172p. The book incorporates the authors' previous articles in *Mm* 3 (1941) 3-31, 151-168, 301-371, and includes answers to their critics, such as Berti, Perrella, Veuthey, Bonnefoy, etc.

²¹ Rocca-Roschini, *op. cit.*, passim.

²² Prof. Marshner's theory is here published for the first time and with his kind permission. Actually, it is only a condensed schema of a more elaborate presentation which the author hopes to publish eventually.

schema, is that the divine volition, in proceeding *ad extra*, begins not with an Incarnation willed in isolation, but willed within a set of possible worlds of which the Incarnation is a feature, although the set is chosen *because* of that feature (i.e., the Incarnation). Note that in such a schema:

- 1) The reason God chose to create a world such as ours is so that the Incarnation might occur.
- 2) Since the Incarnation is the final cause of creation, it should form the content of the very first of God's efficacious decrees *in ordine intentionis*.
- 3) The Incarnation thus chosen first, and for the sake of which all else will follow, is already a redemptive Incarnation.
- 4) Adam, his fall, and his descendants are already *praeintellecta* (as opposed to *praevisa*) as features of a merely possible world which might be made to exist for the sake of a redemptive Incarnation.
- 5) There is no particular difficulty about picking a possible descendant of Adam (who will exist if she is chosen to cooperate in the Incarnation) as a second criterion for choosing to create the possible world in which she will exist.
- 6) Mary's existence as Theotokos-Coredemptrix would thereby form a secondary and further-determining reason for the creation of just *this* world.
- 7) The predestination of Mary's existence and privileges could thereby form the secondary content of the very first of God's efficacious decrees *in ordine intentionis*.
- 8) Mary, who had already been *praeintellecta* as a descendant of fallen Adam, is now *praevisa* as such a descendant. But this does not mean that she is now included in Adam's moral headship and thus subject to the universal law of sin, because there are no subjections to laws outside efficacious decrees, and neither Adam nor his fall has yet been efficaciously decreed.
- 9) When Adam is efficaciously decreed in solidarity with "many," he and they are decreed for the sake of Christ and

- Mary. Her logically antecedent predestination prevents Mary from being among the "many."
- 10) Nevertheless, *de potentia ordinata*, God could have actualized a theologically possible world one of whose features could have been God's prevision of Mary as contracting original sin.
 - 11) Therefore, while utterly exempt from all *debitum peccati* (because efficaciously decreed with a logical priority to the absolute prevision of the Fall) her predestination is nevertheless a redemption because she was *praeintellecta* (and could have been *praevisa*) as forming part of a theologically possible world in which she could have contracted original sin.
 - 12) Finally, the Mary who was *de facto* predestined as Mother of the Savior, and about whom the *debitum* controversy is waged, is not the "Mary" who could have contracted original sin in a theologically possible world. The latter "Mary" was the object of God's *scientia simplicis intelligentiae*, never the object of His *scientia visionis*.

It scarcely needs to be mentioned that in *all* the theories we have discussed, it is always understood that Our Blessed Lady was predestined "in one and the same decree" with Christ.²³ As a consequence, for the Thomists, if Adam had not sinned, Mary would not have existed—a conclusion logically rejected by the exponents of Theory (C) above.

PART TWO

MODERN SUPPORTERS OF THE "FRANCISCAN" VIEWPOINT

Following is a list of modern authors who, in our judgment,

²³ This is also the teaching of the Church: Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus*, in Tondini, 32; Pius XII, *Munificentissimus Deus*, in *AAS* 42 (1950) 768; Vatican II, *Lumen gentium*, n.61 (Abbott ed., New York, 1966) 91; Paul VI, *Marialis cultus*, in *AAS* 66 (1974) 136.

endorse the various elements of the Franciscan thesis concerning Christ's and Mary's place in the divine decree of creation. In order to simplify matters, the following codes will be used at the end of each reference:

C(M)EC—Christ (Mary), the exemplary cause of all things.

C(M)FC—Christ (Mary), the final cause of all creation.

C(M)FEC—Christ (Mary), final-exemplary cause of all creation.

FBT—Follows substantially Bonnefoy's theory.

FST—Follows Scotistic theory.

MPF—Mary predestined first (with Christ), before all creatures.

MPIF—Mary predestined independently of the Fall.

Acri, F., *Dialettica serena: Disputa in religione con un teologo non filosofo* (Rocca S. Casciano, 1917) 101-103: FST.

Adalbertus a Postioma, O.F.M.Cap., *De praedestinatione B. M. Virginis apud Joannem M. Zamoro, O.F.M.Cap.* In *MF* 58 (1958) 225-229: MPF.

Adeodatus, P., *Vergine Santa, d'ogni grazia piena* (s.l., 1948) 19-21: MPF.

Affelt, F., O.F.M., *The Marian Doctrine of St. Bernardine of Siena*. In *MSO* (1954) 222: FBT.

Agnini, F., Bp. of Luni-Sarzana, Letter to Pius IX (1849). In *Pareri* 1 (Roma, 1851) 304: MPF.

Albergamo, B. M., O.F.M., *Il fine primario dell'Incarnazione nell'opera d'un Terziario ingiustamente dimenticato*. In *SF* 11 (1939) 180-183: FST.

Aldama, J. A. de, S.J., *Consecuencias de la inclusión de María en el orden hipostático*. In *EM* 25 (1964) 41-45: FBT.

Alejandro de Villalmonste, O.F.M.Cap., *La Inmaculada y el débito del pecado*. In *VyV* 12 (1954) 49-101: FST.

———, *María Inmaculada, exenta del débito del pecado original*. In *Vgl* 11 (1957) 94-136: FST.

———, *María y los Angeles*. In *ME* 20 (1959) 401-437: FST.

- Allegra, G., O.F.M., *Il primato di Cristo in S. Paolo e in Duns Scoto (Dialogo col P. Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.)*. In *ASCSI* III, 219-258: FST.
- Allen, W. F., *The Predestination of Mary in the Light of Modern Controversy*. In *MS* 2 (1951) 178-192: Reveals his admiration for the Bonnefoy theory (Cf. p. 192, n. 34).
- Alonso, J. M., C.M.F., *De quolibet débito a B. M. Virgine prorsus excludendo*. In *EphM* 4 (1954) 227 and 237: FBT.
- , Address in 1954 Roman Congress. In *Vgl* 11 (1957) 465: MPIF.
- . *Constitutivo formal del privilegio de la Concepción Inmaculada de María*. In *MCMZ* 496: MPIF. Cf. also 485 and 487.
- Ambrosij, F., *Discorsi teologico-morali in lode di Maria Vergine (Ascoli, 1843)* I, 51-58: MPF, MFEC.
- Ameri, H., O.F.M., *De debito peccati originalis in B. V. Maria deque ejusdem redemptione apud theologos Concilii Basileensis*. In *Vgl* 11 (1957) 192: MPIF.
- Amor Ruibal, A., *Maria Mater et universalis hominum Mediatrice* (Manuscript c. 1921): MPIF.²⁴
- Amorós, L., O.F.M., *La realeza de María en el "Mariale" atribuido a San Alberto Magno*. In *EM* 17 (1956) 138: MPIF. Cf. *MCMZ* 853.
- Anonymous, *Ragionamento dedicato all'Immacolata Concezione*

²⁴ His ms. began to be published in the journal *Compostellanum* 1 (1956), but we have been unable to locate it. Our information is based on J. M. Delgado Varela in *EM* 17 (1956) 380-381; 20 (1959) 88-89. See also Rainerio de Nava, O.F.M.Cap., *El primado de Cristo y María en Escoto y Amor Ruibal*, in *Cmp* 4 (1959) 365-369. Here in the United States, the name Angel Amor Ruibal means nothing to most people, but in Europe he was widely regarded as one of the most talented and brilliant philosopher-theologians of the century. When Pope Benedict XV ordered the formation of three theological commissions (one in Belgium, one in Spain, one in the Vatican) to examine critically and scientifically the question of Our Lady's universal Mediation, Prof. Amor Ruibal was selected to work on the Spanish commission.

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- Anonymous, *Novus Adam, nova Eva.* In *Aptm* 8 (1937) 300-303: MPIF.
- Anonymous, *Inmunidad de la "deuda" del pecado original.* In *RUP* 4 (1931) 175: MPIF.
- Antoine de Sérent, *L'Immaculée Conception et les franciscains de Bretagne.* In *PCMB* 482-483: MPIF.
- , *Encore la primauté du Christ.* In *EF* 46 (1934) 492-496: FST.
- Aperribay, B., O.F.M., *Primado de Jesucristo en la Escuela Franciscana.* In *VyV* 5 (1947) 401-417: FST.
- , *La redención preservativa en la bula "Ineffabilis."* In *EstF* 55 (1954) 88: MPIF.
- , *María en la Sagrada Escritura según los exégetas y teólogos franciscanos.* In *EM* 23 (1962) 222ff: MPIF.
- Archangelus a Roc, O.F.M.Cap. Address during the 1954 Roman Congress. In *Vgl* 11 (1957) 493-497: MPIF.
- Arduini, P. R., O.F.M., Bp. of Alghero, Letter to Pius IX (1851). In *Pareri* 7 (Roma, 1852) CXLII: MPF.
- Artaud, V. D., *La Vierge Marie* (5 ed. Paris, 1921) 5-6: MPF, MFC.
- Assouad, N., O.F.M., *Necessarium Adae peccatum.* In *SF* 7 (1935) 217-229: MPIF.
- , *Lacune en Mariologie.* In *Mm* 19 (1957) 150: MPF.
- Aubron, Père, S.J., Exchange of views after Heris' lecture. In *BSFEM* (Paris, 1938) 36-38: FST.
- Auriault, J. J., S.J., *La place de l'Immaculée Conception dans la synthèse théologique.* In *CMNL* 218: MPIF.
- , *La maternité divine.* In *FMC* 172: FST.
- Azevedo, D. de, O.F.M., *A Imaculada e o Redentor.* In *Theol* 1 (1955) 334: MPIF.
- Baier, D., O.F.M., *The Franciscan Office of St. Mary of the Angels and the Mediation of Grace.* In *OrFr* 10 (1936) 402: MPIF.

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- Balić, C., O.F.M., *La prédestination de la Très-Sainte Vierge dans la doctrine de Jean Duns Scot*. In *FF* 19 (1936) 114-158.
- , *Duns Skotus Lehre über Christi Prädestination im Lichte der neuersten Forschungen*. In *WuW* 3 (1936) 19-35.
- , *Marie, Mère de Dieu et Mère des hommes, dans la pensée de l'Eternel*. In *JEUO* 164-166: MPIF.
- Baraúna, G., O.F.M., *De natura Corredemptionis marianae in theologia hodierna (1921-1958) disquisitio expositivo-critica* (Romae, 1960) 75: FST.
- Barbieri, C., *Maria. Vita di Nostra Signora, Maria Santissima* (Milano, 1918) 5-6: FST.
- Baril, H., O.F.M., *La préservation de la tache originelle en Marie*. In *VIHD* 215-219: MPIF.
- Bartolomei, T.M., O.S.M., *La predestinazione di Maria insieme col Cristo*. In *EphM* 10 (1960) 261 and 272: FBT.
- , *Le radici del mutuo amore tra i Sacri Cuori di Gesù e di Maria*. In *Mm* 22 (1960) 477: MPF.
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- Basetti-Sani, G., O.F.M., *Il primato di Cristo in S. Cirillo*. In *Kyrl* (1947) 139-196: FST.
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- Beaubien, R.M., O.F.M., *Your Mass and Your Life*, tr. Cooper (Montréal, 1960) 10-21: FST.
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- , *Padre Remigio Buselli, O.F.M., e il movimento assunzionistico contemporaneo.* In *ACNM* 410: MPIF.
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- Bettoni, E., O.F.M., *Nothing for Your Journey*, tr. Malina (Chicago, 1959) 71-104: FST.
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The Absolute Predestination of the BVM

195

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- , *Marie dans l'Eglise, ou la primauté de la Sainte Vierge*. In *BSFEM* 11 (1953) 51-73.
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- , *The Predestination of Our Blessed Lady*. In *Mariology*, ed. J. B. Carol, O.F.M. (Milwaukee, 1957) II, 154-176.
- , *Il primato di Cristo nella teologia contemporanea*. In *Problemi e Orientamenti di Teologia Dogmatica* 2 (Milano, 1957) 123-236.
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- Bonomelli, G., Bp. of Cremona, *Il pulpito di Nostra Donna di Parigi* (Torino, 1893) 47-48: MPIF.
- Borgianelli, E., S.J., *La maternità divina e le conseguenti prerogative* (Napoli, 1874) 362-371: MPIF.
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The Absolute Predestination of the BVM

197

Incarnation conditions the Fall, not the other way around.²⁵

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Braso, G. M., O.S.B., *Liturgy and Spirituality*, tr. L. J. Doyle (Collegeville, Minn., 1960) 56-76: FST.

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Brouillard, C., O.F.M., *Les motifs de l'Incarnation d'après saint Anselme*. In *ChF* 2 (1932-1933) 21-52: FST.

Brunot, A., S.C.J., *St. Paul and His Message*, tr. Matthews (New York, 1959) 123-127: CFC.

Bryant, J. D., *The Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed*

²⁵ J.-F. Bonnefoy, O.F.M., in *Un essai récent sur le plan divin de la création* (Paris, 1953) tells us that Bouëssé admits virtually all the elements of the Scotistic thesis (p. 33). Bonnefoy's brochure, which first appeared in *MF* 52 (1952) 425-460, is well worth reading in its entirety.

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- Burgio, C., O.F.M., *Le ragioni dell'Incarnazione secondo S. Leone Magno*. In SF 37 (1940) 81-94: FST.
- Burney, C., *Christ as the arché of creation: Prov. 8, 22; Col. 1, 15-18; Gen. 3, 14*. In JTS 27 (1925-1926) 160-177: FST.
- Burón Alvarez, C., O.E.S.A., *Causalidad de María en nuestra predestinación según el P. Bartolomé de los Rios, O.E.S.A.* In EM 1 (1942) 304: The author arranges the *signa rationis* the same as Prof. W. H. Marshner (See Part One above).
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- Caesari, Th., Ord. Cist., Letter to Pius IX (1852). In *Pareri* 9 (Roma, 1852) 287: MPIF.
- Caggiano, A. M., O.F.M., *De mente Joannis Duns Scoti circa rationem Incarnationis*. In Ant 32 (1957) 311-334: FST.
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The Absolute Predestination of the BVM

203

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³¹ According to *JB-1*, 320, n.2, Gréa follows a conciliatory theory like that of Jourdain (q.v.). If so, it is virtually indistinguishable from the theory later proposed by Bonnefoy.

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³³ Here is a summary of the author's views: Christ and Mary were predestined prior to every other creature (p.1-26); Mary's predestination was the cause of all other predestinations (p.62-66). On p. 34 he gives the following *signa rationis*: 1) Christ and Mary are predestined as Redeemer and Coredemptrix; 2) Adam is predestined and his sin is permitted so as to make the redemption possible; 3) predestination of all the elect; 4) decree concerning the rest of the universe. *Objection* (p. 35): The above arrangement is not possible because the existence of a Redeemer presupposes the existence of sin. *Answer*: It need not be so. The existence of sin is accidental and depends on the existence of Redeemer; in God's mind, sin is relegated to a later decision. On p. 20: Mary was predestined "ante praevium peccatum," . . . "non tamen ante praeviam Redemptoris . . . necessitatem."

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The Absolute Predestination of the BVM

217

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³⁵ See comments by Bonnefoy, *Sa Sainteté Pie XII et la primauté du Christ et de la T.-S. Vierge*, in *SF 12* (1940) 2-6; D. J. Unger, *The Absolute Primacy of Christ and Mary according to Pope Pius XII*, in *FS 8* (1948) 417-420.

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The Absolute Predestination of the BVM

227

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The Absolute Predestination of the BVM

233

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⁸⁶ We are indebted to Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., for having verified this reference.

CONCLUSION

At the close of this survey, a few brief observations would seem to be in order.

1) Concerning the number and religious affiliation of the authors mentioned: To our knowledge, the above list is by far the most complete ever assembled.³⁷ Our survey, which covers only the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, includes 504 authors. Of these, many are well-known and respected professional theologians;³⁸ others would fall under the category of spiritual writers. It is not always feasible to draw the dividing line. The distinction should not be emphasized, nor will it be by those who are familiar with the history of Marian doctrines, particularly the Immaculate Conception.

Of the 504 authors mentioned, 214 belong to the Franciscan Order. That should surprise no one, since the doctrine of Christ's and Mary's absolute and universal primacy has always been cherished by the spiritual sons of the Poverello. The remaining 290 belong to various Religious Orders (Jesuits, Benedictines, Mercedarians, etc.) and to the diocesan clergy, with a few lay writers added. This should dispose of the claim sometimes made that the Franciscan viewpoint is endorsed only by the members of the Seraphic Order "*and a few others.*"³⁹ Never-

³⁷ We take this opportunity to convey our thanks to our distinguished colleague, Father Michael D. Meilach, O.F.M., who graciously allowed us to incorporate into our survey not a few of the entries he himself had used in the bibliography he compiled for Bonnefoy's book, *Christ and the Cosmos*.

³⁸ Which hardly verifies the judgment of L. Thomassinus, according to whom, those who adopt the Franciscan theory must be suffering from hallucinations (!). Cf. his *Dogmata theologica III: De Incarnatione*, lib. 2, cap. 5, n. 1 (ed. Parisiis, 1866); ref. in *JB-1*, 35, n. 1.

³⁹ According to E. Hugon, O.P., the Franciscan thesis is held only by "a few mystics full of idealism." Cf. his *Le motif de l'Incarnation*, in *RTb* 21 (1913) 279. Equally discouraging was C. Pesch, S.J., in his *Praelectiones Dogmaticae IV: De Verbo Incarnato* (ed. 3, 1903): "By now [the Franciscan opinion] hardly has any supporters." In fairness to the author,

theless, let us not indulge in the numbers game. As everyone knows, the large number of those adhering to a given thesis is not necessarily an index of its truth.⁴⁰ Let us say simply that, in our case, it is rather significant and hence not to be summarily dismissed.

2) Concerning the positions taken by our authors: We note that not everyone in our survey explicitly refers to *all* the elements which make up the "Franciscan" theory.⁴¹ Nevertheless, if a theologian states, e.g., that Mary was willed (predestined) by God *first* among creatures, we may infer that, according to him, Mary was predestined independently of Adam's fall. Again, if a theologian claims that Christ and Mary are the final and/or exemplary cause of all creation, we must assume that, according to him, they were predestined with a logical priority over the rest. It is true that some Thomists (followers of Theory B above) do speak of Christ as being the final cause of all creation, and yet they subordinate His very existence to the Fall. With all due respect, we suggest that their posture is illogical because it clashes with the principles of the *philosophia perennis*.⁴² At any rate, since the authors in our list do not refer to

we must mention that later on (ed. 4-5, Friburgi Brig., [1922] 229) he acknowledges that "tot et tanti doctores" endorse the Scotistic viewpoint. G. Bonomelli's appraisal of the situation is more encouraging; in his *Il pulpito di Nostra Donna di Parigi* (Torino, 1893) 47-48, the distinguished Bishop of Cremona expressed the opinion that the Franciscan thesis was gaining so many followers that the Church would eventually sanction it as it did the question of the Immaculate Conception. According to Dom Feuling, O.S.B., *Katholische Glaubenslehre* (Salzburg, 1937) 427, the number of those who follow the Franciscan thesis is *still* increasing.

⁴⁰ Melchior Canus, O.P., said it well: "Non enim numero haec judicantur sed pondere." *De locis theologicis*, lib. 8, cap. 4, concl. 1 (ed. Patavii, 1762) 213.

⁴¹ For us, the quintessence of the Franciscan position is that Christ and Mary were willed or predestined by God *logically prior* to, and thus independently of, every other creature. Other aspects of the question either lead to it or follow from it.

⁴² Cf. St. Thomas, *Summa theologica*, I, q. 105, a. 5: "Semper enim imperfectum est propter perfectius;" *Contra Gent.*, 2, c. 44, 1: "Quanto aliquid

the subordination just mentioned, we assume (*donec contrarium probetur*) that they, logical with themselves, imply that Christ and Mary were predestined independently of the Fall.

At this point we would call the reader's attention to what many will consider a strange anomaly. A few of the authors who explicitly teach Mary's predestination independently of Adam, happen to be "debitists." That is to say, they hold that, since Our Lady was conceived according to the ordinary laws of generation, she should have been included in Adam's moral solidarity. This is what is commonly known as a *debitum debiti* or *debitum remotum*.

Is their stand illogical? From their viewpoint it is not, although from ours it certainly is. Let us explain briefly. The authors now under discussion, like many theologians of old, understand the transmission of original sin *via physica*, i.e., by way of a libidinous generation and the consequent communication of the *caro infecta*. They believe that in this fashion they can better safeguard Mary's preservative redemption. Those who explain the transmission of original sin *via legali vel juridica*, may or may not demand a *debitum* in Mary, depending on the place they assign to her in the divine decree of predestination.⁴³ It seems to us that if Mary was predestined with a logical priority over Adam, the (logically) later decree concerning his sin could in no way affect her retroactively without implying mutability in the divine mind.⁴⁴ In other words, by the

est melius in effectibus, tanto est prius in intentione agentis;" *Summa theol.*, III, q. 56, a. 1, ad 3: "Semper enim id quod est perfectissimum est exemplar ejus quod est minus perfectum." Father Chrysostome (*op. cit.*, 439-443) has shown that the Scotistic theory is actually based on the principles of the *philosophia perennis* as formulated by the Angelic Doctor

⁴³ Cf. P. de A. Martínez, O.F.M., *Las primeras elaboraciones de los conceptos de redención preservativa y el débito del pecado*, in *EM* 16 (1955) 127-128; id., *La Inmaculada Concepción según las doctrinas de Juan de Cartagena y Juan de Serrano*, in *Vgl* 7/2 (1957) 240-241.

⁴⁴ Cf. our art., *Reflections on the Problem of Mary's Preservative Redemption*, in *MS* 30 (1979), esp. 83-84.

time Adam's sin comes into the picture (humanly speaking), Mary is *already* chosen by God as immaculate and full of grace. There is simply no room here for a *debitum* of any kind. Hence according to *our* viewpoint, the authors alluded to are illogical.

Not a few theologians in our survey follow the traditional Scotistic theory to the effect that, even if Adam had not sinned, Christ would have come anyway, but *in carne impassibili*. We agree with them, of course, that Christ was predestined independently of the Fall, but we do not believe (for reasons indicated above) that the matter should be formulated in a hypothetical way. As to the distinction between *caro passibilis* and *caro impassibilis*, we are of the opinion that it should be discarded as going counter to God's immutability.⁴⁵

Concerning the last three theories summarized in the first part of this essay (i.e., Bonnefoy, Rocca-Roschini, Marshner) we note that they all agree on three important points: a) Christ and Mary hold an ontological primacy (not only a primacy of honor) over all creation; b) They were predestined with a logical priority over the rest of the predestined; and c) as a result of the above, they were predestined independently of Adam's sin. In this sense the three theories are thoroughly "Franciscan." The difference in the arrangement (or number) of the *signa rationis* is accidental and in no way affects the substantial agreement. Nevertheless, if we must express our preference among them, our choice falls on the theory so ably and cogently presented by Prof. Marshner.

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⁴⁵ Cf. Bonnefoy, *L'Immaculée dans le plan divin*, in *EphM* 8 (1958) 15.