Tomasz Ćwiertniak

Katowice, on June 12, 2023

SUMMARY

doctoral dissertation entitled

The Existential Thomism of Mieczysław A. Krąpiec and Consequential Thomism of Mieczysław Gogacz. A comparative analysis.

Supervisor in the doctoral dissertation: prof. Ign. dr hab. Piotr Świercz

The subject of the dissertation is a comparison of the approaches proposed by two leading Polish representatives of Existential Thomism: Mieczysław Albert Krąpiec (the main representative of the philosophical Lublin School) and Mieczysław Gogacz (the initiator of a variety of Existential Thomism known as Consequential Thomism). In their work, both scholars sought to develop key philosophical issues in the fields of metaphysics, epistemology and philosophical anthropology based on the existential understanding of being.

So far, no comparative analysis of the approaches proposed by M.A. Krąpiec and M. Gogacz has been made in the literature. From this perspective, confronting the ideas of both authors seems to be particularly interesting and, simultaneously, opens up the field for many valuable discoveries.

There are several areas within which it is necessary to compare the approaches presented by both authors. In the case of metaphysics and epistemology, the following issues come to the fore: the question of the starting point of knowledge, understanding metaphysics, the former's formal object and research method, the question of transcendental properties of being, the structure of being, internal and external causes of being, and finally the problem of the Absolute (God) in philosophy. In the philosophy of man, the following areas should be compared: the understanding of man as a personal being, the problem of the existential structure of man, the philosophical understanding of the body and soul, as well as the issue of personal relationships and community life.

This dissertation is based on a critical analysis of source texts and secondary literature. This enables, first of all, the identification and presentation of both authors' views, above all in the fields of metaphysics (the basic philosophical discipline), philosophical anthropology and the theory of knowledge. The presentation of Krąpiec's and Gogacz's positions, essentially devoid of critical and polemical elements, is an introduction to the next step, which is a comparative analysis of how individual issues are approached by each author. This allows for the identification of common points and discrepancies, as well as the main difficulties and aporias

related to the proposals of both scholars. In the last phase, it becomes possible to outline the prospects for further research, enabling the perceived difficulties and aporias to be overcome.

The work's first chapter, which is of an introductory nature, shows the history of Thomism, emphasizing the changes that have taken place throughout history in the understanding of existence (esse) and its role in being. It makes it possible to understand the role played by the existential Thomism trend in discovering the authentic face of the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas.

The second chapter is a presentation of key issues that make up the philosophical output of M.A. Krąpiec, especially in the fields of metaphysics and philosophical anthropology. The third chapter is analogous to the second, presenting the main theses of M. Gogacz's Consequential Thomism.

The next two chapters are devoted directly to a comparative analysis of both authors' approaches. Due to the extensiveness of the issues raised, this analysis has been divided into two chapters. The fourth chapter summarizes how both scholars solve particular key issues in the fields of metaphysics and epistemology. In the fifth chapter, a comparative analysis was made in the fields of the philosophy of God and philosophical anthropology. The conclusion of the dissertation indicates the most important achievements and original solutions of both authors, as well as outlines directions and prospects for further research.

Key words: Mieczysław Albert Krąpiec, Mieczysław Gogacz, Thomas Aquinas, Thomism, philosophy, metaphysics