

Bernard Wuellner S.J. (1904-1997)

was a U.S.-born Thomist philosopher. His *Dictionary of Scholastic Philosophy*^[1], which is still in print, was indispensable to generations of philosophy students.

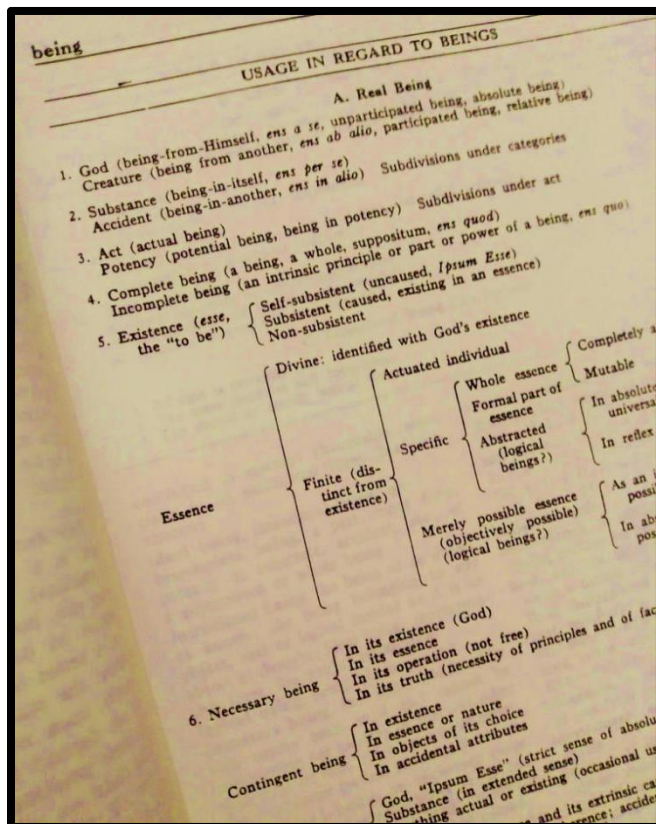
Life

Growing up in Cincinnati, Wuellner attended St. Xavier High, a school run by the Society of Jesus. It would prove to be a momentous time in his life, as he would enter their novitiate in 1920 and be ordained a priest in 1933.

He received his Ph.L. from Saint Louis University in 1929 and an S.T.L. from St. Mary's College, Kansas. A busy academic career would follow: University of Detroit Mercy (1938-1943), where he was chairman of the philosophy department, John Carroll University (1953-1959) and Xavier University (1952-1953, 1962-1963, 1969-1979). His most productive years as a writer and editor, however, were spent at Loyola University (1943-1952, 1959-1962), in Chicago.^[2]

Philosophy

Though he was not overly concerned with identifying himself as a Thomist, Fr. Wuellner's first two books are suffused with the teachings and method of the Angelic Doctor. Reflecting on his profession he did, however, maintain that



no set of purely philosophical answers to the problems of life suffices for actual living in our historical situation. The facts of history and of theology must be faced by the philosopher, for he lives in their presence. No philosopher can today roll back the ages, don the chiton of Aristotle or the toga of Cicero, and pretend to explore for truth in some make-believe universe to which the good news of Christ crucified and glorified has not penetrated.^[3]

This quote from A Christian Philosophy of Life, shows Wuellner's thought in transition, i.e. he signalled his intention to follow an Incarnational line of inquiry in his musings. In this regard he became part of an enduring discussion, commonly associated with Aquinas and fellow Doctor of the Church Bonaventure, about the relationship between

faith, theology and philosophy.

Books

Dictionary of Scholastic Philosophy, Editiones Scholasticae (reprint), 1956.

Summary of Scholastic Principles, Editiones Scholasticae (reprint), 1956.

A Christian Philosophy of Life, Montana Literary Licensing (reprint), 1957.

Wuellner, Bernard and Kacmarcik, Frank, The Graces of Christmas (Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing, 1958).

Wuellner, Bernard and Kacmarcik, Frank, The Graces of the Risen Christ (Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing, 1960)

The Philosophical Search for God (Cincinnati: Xavier University Press, 1962).

Select Articles

“Entropy - The End of Life,” *Modern Schoolman* 4 (3):35-37, 1927.

“Entropy the End of Life Part II,” *Modern Schoolman* 4 (4):58-60, 1928.

“Holism and Evolution,” *Modern Schoolman* 5 (1):14-14, 1928.

“Religious Perspectives of College Teaching,” *Jesuit Educational Quarterly*, October 1, 1952.

References

1. This work contains about 1,600 entries, as well as charts and diagrams. Wuellner gives prominence to Aristotle and Saint Thomas, but attention is also given to concepts originating with later philosophers, such as Scotus and Suarez.
2. "Celebrate the Eternal Life of Bernard Wuellner, SJ, 92," *Contact Magazine*, Summer, 1997
3. Wuellner, A Christian Philosophy of Life, p.vi.