Translator's Foreword

Exegi monumentum aere perennius

Horace, *Odes* III, 30

'Monumental' is a word that combines the meanings of massive, important, and lasting. It has been applied to Lonergan's great philosophical work *Insight: A Study of Human Understanding*. I think it is very likely to be applied to his two-volume theological work *De Deo Trino*, 'The Triune God.'

As related in the Editors' Preface, Lonergan's work on the Trinity took final form in 1964. If after more than forty years it has not yet received much recognition, the reason is obvious: it was written in Latin, an impenetrable barrier today to all but a very few.

The Latin of this second volume combines the different layers of Lonergan's own Latinity. He first studied Latin as a schoolboy at Loyola High School in Montreal (1918–22), then as a young Jesuit at Guelph (1922–26) and at Heythrop, England (1926–30), where he did further studies in the Greek and Latin classics for the University of London degree. By this time he would have become completely at home in classical Latin (not to mention Greek), able to compose in the style of Cicero or Livy or even in the taut elliptical style of Tacitus.

During the next stage of his studies, in Rome (1933–40), Lonergan would have listened to lectures all delivered in Latin, sometimes quite elegant Latin, for that was the custom at the Gregorian University in those days. He read extensively in the writings of Augustine, Aquinas, and the medieval Scholastics, as well as books and articles on scholastic philosophy and theology written in 'modern' Latin that

were common in Roman Catholic seminaries in the last century. Then, from 1940 on, when it became his turn to take the professorial chair, first in Canada and later in Rome (1953–65), he delivered his lectures mainly in Latin and composed also in Latin the various *supplementa*, as he called them, to accompany and augment his lectures. The style of these minor works, where clarity was the prime consideration, was neat and simple and straightforward – very good Latin, but not classical.

The Latin in this book steers a middle course between these different styles, the classical and the scholastic textbook style. Needless to say, it is excellent Latin throughout, perhaps tending more towards the classical in such parts as the first chapter, and more scholastic in style in the appendices, especially 1, 2, 2A, and 2B, which began life as a *supplementum* to the Roman lectures. There is a parallel variety in vocabulary, from strictly classical expressions to scholastic terminology, with occasional words like *specializare* and *historicismus*, coined by a kind of back-formation from modern languages.

Finally, I should like to express my gratitude to the editors: to Daniel Monsour for his helpful comments and suggestions about the translation, especially with regard to Lonergan's English vocabulary; and to Robert Doran, whose invitation to me to undertake this translation has allowed me to have a part in making this monumental work available to a much wider readership.

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