General Editors’ Preface

This volume and volume 23 record Bernard Lonergan’s classes and some of his institutes on theological method, and in doing so present much of the data on his development between the publication of *Insight* and the completion of *Method in Theology*.

The material has been divided according to language. The present volume contains a record of his English lectures on method delivered at institutes in 1962 (Regis College, Toronto), 1964 (Georgetown University), and 1968 (Boston College), while volume 23 contains a record of Latin courses on method offered at the Gregorian University between 1958 and 1962.

These two volumes do not, of course, exhaust the data available on the composition of *Method in Theology*, for (1) there are in the Lonergan Archives handwritten schematic notes on other courses offered at the Gregorian in 1963 and 1964 that could not conveniently be transcribed into book form, (2) there are lectures on other topics that contain valuable information on Lonergan’s development during these years, and (3) there are recordings of the major institutes on the book *Method in Theology* from 1969 (Regis), 1970 (Boston College), and 1971 (Milltown Park, Dublin). These additional sources can and must all be consulted if one wishes to assemble a relatively complete record of the available data. And that presents little difficulty, since (1) and (3) will be available online by the time this volume is published, and the lectures in (2) can be found scattered in several volumes (mainly 6 and 18) of Lonergan’s Collected Works.

The accessibility of relevant online material, however, does not stop with (1) and (3). The present volume is the most ‘interactive’ yet published in the Collected Works series. Not only are the audio recordings from which
the lectures of 1962 and 1968 were transcribed now available on the website www.bernardlonergan.com, in work done by Greg Lauzon, but also PDF files available on the same website represent the autograph of some of the lectures in the 1964 institute at Georgetown. Assistance in identifying these items was provided by Ivo Coelho, whose book *Hermeneutics and Method* presents, among other things, a remarkably clear and accurate account of this complex period of Lonergan’s development.

The present volume, even when read on its own without consulting either what will be volume 23 or the archival material, enables the reader to sketch in at least broad outline the development of Lonergan’s ideas on such key notions as horizon, conversion, and meaning, as well as the movement from the division of theology into positive, dogmatic, and systematic (parts 1 and 2) to the division in terms of operational or functional specialization (part 3). Much of the material to be discussed in later chapters on the functional specialties of interpretation and history was already in place in 1962, as is clear especially from the appendix (a manuscript on hermeneutics distributed at the Regis institute), but the structure of functional specialization clearly had not yet emerged; we know from other data that it emerged only in February 1965.

As I have indicated, parts 1 and 3 of the present volume are transcripts made from the digital audio restoration done by Greg Lauzon, who worked from the original tapes. The first footnote in each chapter provides the call number on www.bernardlonergan.com for the recorded lectures.

As for part 2, we are extremely grateful to the late Avery Cardinal Dulles, s.j., for allowing us to publish in this volume his notes from the Georgetown lectures, and to Patrick Brown of Seattle University for alerting us to the existence of these notes and for supplying me with a copy and a digital transcription. Prior to the discovery of these notes, interested scholars were able to rely on the notes of Sister Rose St Mary Wilker, which have been available for some time in the library of the Lonergan Research Institute in Toronto. Sr Wilker’s notes are now available online on the same website (www.bernardlonergan.com). Cardinal Dulles’s notes provide yet another source to help us fill a lacuna regarding the precise order and content of the lectures that Lonergan delivered at Georgetown University in 1964. Moreover, the information provided by Ivo Coelho allows us to correlate large segments of these notes with archival material to which the reader now has direct access through the website.

Recordings were made in 1962 and 1968 not only of the lectures but also of question-and-answer sessions, here referred to as ‘Discussions.’ In many

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instances the questions were based on the lectures either of the same day or of earlier days, but they were not restricted to these contents.

The appendix, ‘Hermeneutics,’ is an extremely valuable document in that it fills another gap; namely, it shows more clearly than does the chapter on interpretation in *Method in Theology* the relation between the hermeneutic theory of chapter 17 of *Insight* and that which is presented in *Method*; or perhaps more precisely, it contains toward the end the materials from chapter 17 of *Insight* that were later differentiated into the functional specialties of history and dialectic, but, if I may speculate for a moment, it also offers, precisely because of its connection with the hermeneutics of *Insight*, perhaps a more hopeful view of the possibility of a moment of explanation in historical studies themselves than is found in the two chapters on history in *Method in Theology*.

As is customary in many of the volumes of the Collected Works, we conclude the book with a Lexicon of Latin and Greek Words and Phrases. The editorial conventions (*Chicago Manual of Style*, *Oxford American Dictionary*, etc.) with which readers of the Collected Works are familiar remain in place in the present volume. I wish to thank Robert Croken for his careful and repeated reading of the manuscript and for the many suggestions that have helped in the editing. Fr Croken has since retired from many years of work at the Lonergan Research Institute, and I wish to thank him for his dedication to promoting the Lonergan legacy. I wish to thank also my fellow General Editor Frederick Crowe for his continued inspiration, which lies behind the entire series of volumes in the Collected Works. Terrance Quinn provided invaluable advice on a complex mathematical formula, for which I am very grateful. Finally, I cannot write a preface such as this without mentioning once again the contribution, tangible and intangible, that Marquette University has made to my work as General Editor.

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