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more on

### The Supernatural Nature of Nature

Hans Boersma's *Heavenly Participation: The Weaving of a Sacramental Tapestry*\* (2011) is published by Eerdmans. He describes it as a "somewhat more popular account—with a particular eye toward an evangelical audience" of his 2009 book, *Nouvelle Théologie and Sacramental Ontology: A Return to Mystery*\* (Oxford). That work was a study of the Roman Catholic theological movement christened *nouvelle théologie*, which arose in the decades leading up to the Second Vatican Council. Among the members of the movement were Henri de Lubac, Hans Urs von Balthasar, Henri Bouillard, Marie-Dominique Chenu, Jean Daniélou, and Yves Congar. Boersma writes that among this group, "Henri de Lubac holds a place of prominence for me: I know few theologians who are as careful as de Lubac was with his sources; I know few theologians who, like de Lubac, were able to maintain their love for the very church that silenced them; I know few theologians who were as consistent as de Lubac was in maintaining a sacramental approach throughout their careers; and I know few people who have done as much as de Lubac has for the recovery of an authentically sacramental interpretation of Scripture." Boersma mentions a number of works that introduce readers to de Lubac's thinking, including David Grumett's *De Lubac: A Guide for the Perplexed*\* (T. & T. Clark/Continuum, 2007); Rudolf Voderholzer, *Meet Henri de Lubac*\* (Ignatius, 2008); and Bryan C. Hollon, *Everything Is Sacred: Spiritual Exegesis in the Political Theology of Henri de Lubac*\* (Cascade/Wipf and Stock, 2008).

Books on Hans Urs von Balthasar are more numerous; just this year, Baker Academic, a venerable evangelical publisher, brought out *A Key to Balthasar: Hans Urs von Balthasar on Beauty, Goodness, and Truth*\* by Aidan Nichols, who has emerged as something of a one-man cottage industry on this subject. He has also written the five-part Introduction to Hans Urs von Balthasar series published by Catholic University Press. See also Edward T. Oakes, S.J., *Pattern of Redemption: The Theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar*\* (Continuum, 1995) and *The Cambridge Companion to Hans Urs von Balthasar*\* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), edited by Oakes. An internet "archive" at [hansursvonbalthasar.blogspot.com](http://hansursvonbalthasar.blogspot.com) has a remarkable amount of material, including introductory essays and excerpts from Balthasar's writings. Since one of Hans Boersma's interests is to get conservative Protestants to take the insights of the *nouvelle théologie* movement more seriously—insights that have to do with questions of how we do theology and

### Disc 1

- 1 **Introduction**
- 2 **Thomas Albert Howard**, on why many nineteenth-century Europeans were nervous about the shape of American religious life
- 3 **Jean Porter**, on how natural law provides a rationale for the rule of law and for legislative and judicial authority
- 4 **Peter Augustine Lawler**, on how neither ancient philosophy nor modern science explain human nature (but the *Logos* does)

### Disc 2

- 1 **Hans Boersma**, on why Christians should reject the modern separation of Heaven and Earth and recover a "sacramental ontology"
- 2 **Felicia Wu Song**, on how online communication systems shape relationships and community
- 3 **Elias Aboujaoude**, on how life online makes us think we're bigger, badder, and smarter than we really are

\*An asterisk means that the book is in print; if you wish to purchase it from our friends at Splintered Light Books, call 1.800.979.3310.

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how we interpret Scripture, as well as with more fundamental questions about the nature of nature—it may be helpful to consult some Protestants who have been influenced by this movement or who show parallel concerns. Boersma mentions Peter J. Leithart's *Deep Exegesis: The Mystery of Reading Scripture*\* (Baylor, 2009) as an example. Also note the books from Baker Academic in the Evangelical Ressourcement series.

### Other Works Mentioned

Thomas Albert Howard's *God and the Atlantic: America, Europe, and the Religious Divide*\* (2011) was published by Oxford University Press. Also of note is Howard's essay, "Virtue Ethics and Historical Inquiry: The Case of Prudence," in the recent anthology *Confessing History: Explorations in Christian Faith and the Historian's Vocation*\* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2010), edited by John Fea, Jay Green, and Eric Miller. Jean Porter's *Ministers of the Law: A Natural Law Theory of Legal Authority*\* (2010) was published by Eerdmans, as were her previous works, *Natural and Divine Law: Reclaiming the Tradition for Christian Ethics*\* (1999) and *Nature as Reason: a Thomistic Theory of the Natural Law*\* (2005). Peter Augustine Lawler's *Modern and American Dignity: Who We Are as Persons, and What That Means for Our Future*\* (2010) was published by ISI Books. Felicia Wu Song's *Virtual Communities: Bowling Alone, Online Together*\* (2009) was published by Peter Lang. Also of interest is Sherry Turkle's *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*\* (Basic Books, 2011). Elias Aboujaoude's *Virtually You: The Dangerous Powers of the E-Personality*\* (2011) was published by W. W. Norton.

The **MARS HILL AUDIO** Journal is produced at our studio in rural central Virginia, outside of historic Charlottesville. The Journal is one of several audio products we distribute, all of them intended to encourage greater wisdom about interaction with contemporary culture.

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