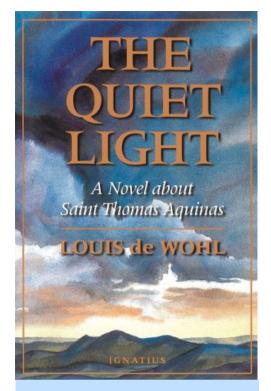
Discussion Questions for The Quiet Light

- 1. Who is Sir Piers Rudde? How does his character change throughout the story?
- 2. What happened between the Emperor Frederick and the Popes? Why does the Emperor burn down and destroy monasteries?
- 3. What is young Thomas Aquino like the first time Piers meets him?
- 4. Why was Thomas sent to the monastery when he was five years old? And why did he leave at 15 years old?
- 5. Discus the characters in Thomas's family: his mother, sisters, and brothers. What was their understanding and practice of the Catholic faith?
- 6. Why was he sent to the University of Naples? What did people think of him there?
- 7. What happens when Thomas joins the Dominicans? What does his brother mean when he said that by keeping him in the tower, they were opening a "Trojan horse"?
- 8. What happened to the Church and the Aquino family when the Emperor Frederick attacked Viterbo?
- 9. Discuss the character of Thomas's teacher, Master Albert. How did he influence Thomas?
- 10. What is Thomas's understanding of the relationship between faith and reason? Was this a revolutionary thought?
- 11. How dies Islam differ from Christianity in terms of faith and reason? What was the reason for the Crusades?
- 12. What were the "mendicant" orders and why did they have enemies? What happened when the mendicant orders were criticized in the document the *Dangers of Modern Times*?
- 13. This novel presented several of Thomas's famous philosophical arguments. Was there one that stood out to you?
- 14. What was the character of King Louis, who is also a saint now? How did his rule contrast with Emperor Frederick's rule?
- 15. What happened to Thomas that led him to believe that all his writing was like "straw"?
- 16. This is a historical novel—did you do any research to see how much of the story was factual versus how much was artistic license by the author?



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