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LEO J. ELDERS
STICHTING

Leo J. Elders Stichting

Zilkerduinweg 375
2114 AM Vogelenzang

info@leoelders.org
www.leoelders.org

Newsletter N° 2 (Spring 2025)

In this second Newsletter of the Leo J. Elders Foundation, we would like to inform you of our past, current and future activities.

Mission

The Leo J. Elders Foundation, founded on August 20, 2020, seeks to preserve and promote the work of the Dutch Thomist philosopher and theologian Leo J. Elders s.v.d.

The Foundation advances its mission through editing and publishing his unpublished writings as well through supporting research and publications which are conducive to the promotion of the scientific and spiritual value of his work. The Foundation wants to achieve this mission close consultation with the Diocese of Haarlem-Amsterdam.

Board and Advisory Board

The Board consists of Dr. J. Vijgen (chair), Dr. J. Verburgt (secretary), G. de Jong (treasurer) and Prof. A. Elders (board member).

The Advisory Board consists of H. Exc. J. Hendriks (Bishop of Haarlem-Amsterdam), Bruno Couillaud (IPC, Paris), Cajetan Cuddy O.P. (Dominican House of Studies, Washington D.C.), Dr. Lambert Hendriks (Major Seminary Rolduc), Prof. Dr. Carlos Augusto Casanova Guerra (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), Matthew Levering (University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein), Elisabeth Reinhardt (Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona) and Piotr Roszak (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torún).

Leo Elders Junior Scholar Award 2025

The Leo Elders Junior Scholar Award seeks to reward and encourage young scholarship on St. Thomas Aquinas in the spirit of the work of Leo Elders.

In 2025 the Foundation has hosted its second Junior Scholar Essay Contest. This second edition focuses on French-speaking scholars. The author of a single-authored winning paper will receive a \$750 award. The winning essay will be published in the esteemed *Revue Thomiste* and specially designated in the journal as winner of the contest. The deadline for submissions is **July 1, 2025**. All relevant information can be found in the attached document.

In 2023 the Foundation has hosted its first Junior Scholar Essay Contest. The first recipient of the Award was Mr. Elliot T. Polsky, PhD candidate at the Center for Thomistic Studies (University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX) for his submission “Why Are Accidents Included under Being per se?”.

Tour of the relics of St. Thomas Aquinas 2025

In the spring of 2025 the relics of St. Thomas visited the Low Countries (Kerkrade, Zwolle, Heiloo, Utrecht, Antwerp, Louvain). The tour was met with great enthusiasm, both in terms of faithful venerating the relics of the Angelic Doctor as well as in terms of activities (symposia, lectures, processions, etc.) that were organized by diocesan seminaries, the Order of Preachers and the Emmanuel Community. Fittingly the tour started at Rolduc Seminary where Leo Elders taught for four decades and also visited the Major Seminary of the Diocese of Haarlem-Amsterdam in Heiloo, the diocese where he was born and the seminary where he taught as well for about twenty years.

The Leo Elders Foundation gave financial support to the organization of the tour.

For this occasion, Jörgen Vijgen prepared a Dutch translation of fr. Romanus Cessario's excellent introduction *Sanctifying Truth. Thomas Aquinas on Holiness* as well as a Latin-Dutch edition of prayers by and for St. Thomas. Both publications were published by [Betsaida](#) in the Spring of 2025.

Dutch Summer School on Thomas Aquinas 2024

The Foundation financially supported, as it did in 2023, the ‘[Stichting Ludus Quaerens](#)’, which organizes summer schools in the Netherlands and Belgium in which texts of St. Thomas are read and discussed.

Figures du thomisme au XX^e siècle et prospectives thomistes au XXI^e siècle Toulouse 2025

As part of this conference, organized by the Dominicans of the Province of Toulouse May 22-24, 2025 in Toulouse, Jörgen Vijgen has been invited to give a lecture on Leo Elders' contribution to Thomism in the 20th century.

Philosophy manuals in Dutch

After the publication of [Reading Aristotle with Thomas Aquinas](#) in 2023, we started the preparations for the new and revised editions of the four manuals (metaphysics, natural theology, natural philosophy, ethics) Leo Elders originally wrote in Dutch and which were translated in many languages.

There are at least two reasons. First, the books are no longer available while there is a need for such manuals in the Dutch language. Second, and equally important, the copies of the author which he used for several decades, show a large number of revisions, corrections and additions which now can be inserted into a new edition.

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The project is a considerable one given the fact that there is no digital edition of the manuals on metaphysics and natural theology. Hence, these works require a considerable amount of editing, apart from the insertion of new elements.

The volume on metaphysics will be published in the coming weeks. It also contains a postface written by the editor, Jörgen Vijgen, in which he places the volume in its historical context, in particular the context of Thomism in the Low Countries.

The second volume on natural theology nearly ready to go to the publisher and will hopefully appear in 2026. Publisher Betsaida has agreed to publish the volumes.

Initial work on the volume containing the philosophy of nature has started.

Website

The website, besides news and information, contains a steadily growing list of his articles in pdf-format.

Dear friends of the Leo Elders Foundation,

Your gifts support these efforts directly by allowing this initiatives to take place. Thank you very much in advance.

Jörgen Vijgen (chair)

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