



Leo J. Elders Stichting

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Newsletter N° 3 (Summer 2026)

In this third 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. (1926-2019).

The Foundation advances its mission through editing and publishing his unpublished writings as well through supporting research and publications which are conducive to the promotion of the scientific and spiritual value of his work.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).

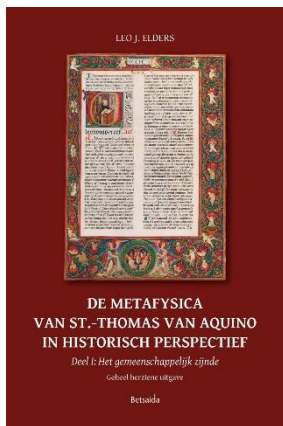
The Advisory Board consists of H. Exc. J. Hendriks (Bishop of Haarlem-Amsterdam), Bruno Couillaud (IPC, Paris), Cajetan Cuddy O.P. (Dominican House of Studies, Washington D.C.), Dr. Lambert Hendriks (Major Seminary Rolduc), Prof. Dr. Carlos Augusto Casanova Guerra (Pontificia Universidad Católica de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

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.

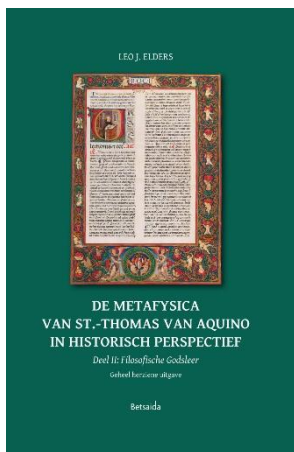
There are at least two reasons. First, the books are no longer available while there is a need for such manuals in the Dutch language. Second, and equally important, the copies of the author which he used for several decades, show a large number of revisions, corrections and additions which now can be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

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.



De metafysica van St.-Thomas van Aquino in historisch perspectief - Deel I: Het gemeenschappelijk zijnde, ISBN 978 94 93207 65 3

In the Fall of 2025, the Dutch publishing house Betsaida published volume I. In this second, revised edition all the annotations and additional notes found in the author's copy, the fruit of six decades of teaching metaphysics all over the globe, have been incorporated. It also contains a postface (pp. 369-374) 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.



De metafysica van St.-Thomas van Aquino in historisch perspectief - Deel II: Filosofische Godsleer, ISBN 978 94 93207 7 45

In the Summer of 2026, the second volume on natural theology was published. In an extensive postface (pp. 443-460), the editor Jörgen Vijgen and Jacco Verburgt, discuss the importance of both volumes within current metaphysical climate in the Low Countries. 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.

Centenary of the birth of Leo J. Elders

On the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Leo J. Elders S.V.D. in 2026, the Leo J. Elders Foundation is organizing a special symposium dedicated to Saint Thomas Aquinas on **October 29, 2026 in Utrecht**. Registration is possible via this [link](https://www.leoelders.org/?p=info&ids=doneren).

The keynote speaker will be Thomas Joseph White, O.P., Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. Several other distinguished speakers will also contribute to the symposium.

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During this event, the fully revised edition of Elders' two-volume major work, *The Metaphysics of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Historical Perspective*, published by Betsaida, will be officially presented.

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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