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## REFLECTIONS OF A WISE TEACHER: MY FATHER FRANK X. ALTIMARI

*Michael J. Altimari\**

My brothers and I are fathers because we have one.  
My sister and I are teachers because we have one.

Three short reflections of what my father teaches me.

1. In Genesis, God said unto Cain, Where is thy brother Abel? And Cain replies, How am I to know, am I my Brother's keeper? At this God replies with silence!<sup>1</sup> In that silence God is asking us all that question. My father teaches me that I am my brother's keeper.

2. The first statement in the writing of Aquinas is: Goodness is an essence.<sup>2</sup> Therefore it logically follows that everything else that exists was created by one of us. How my father expresses this paradigm to me is "Don't curse the darkness, light a candle." In other words instead of complaining, work to change what is evil and replace it with goodness. Remembering that goodness is an essence so everything else we create.

3. In Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis, an entire chapter is spent reflecting on one statement in the middle of the creed of our religion.<sup>3</sup> Begotten, not made the only son of the father. This statement which appears to be a paradox to the secular humanistic mentality is easily resolved by faith and faith only. My Father teaches me that with faith all is possible.

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\* Michael J. Altimari is the son of Judge Altimari, the youngest of four children, and is an Assistant Professor at Touro College School of Health Sciences.

<sup>1</sup> See generally Genesis 4:6-12.

<sup>2</sup> SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS, SELECTED POLITICAL WRITINGS, (J.G. Dawson trans., A.P. D'entres ed., Macmillan 1959).

<sup>3</sup> C.S. LEWIS, MERE CHRISTIANITY (1980).

So here we have 3 tools for the successful life:

Generosity and charity- I am my brothers keeper

The purpose of work and our professions- Goodness is  
an essence.

Faith- Begotten not made.