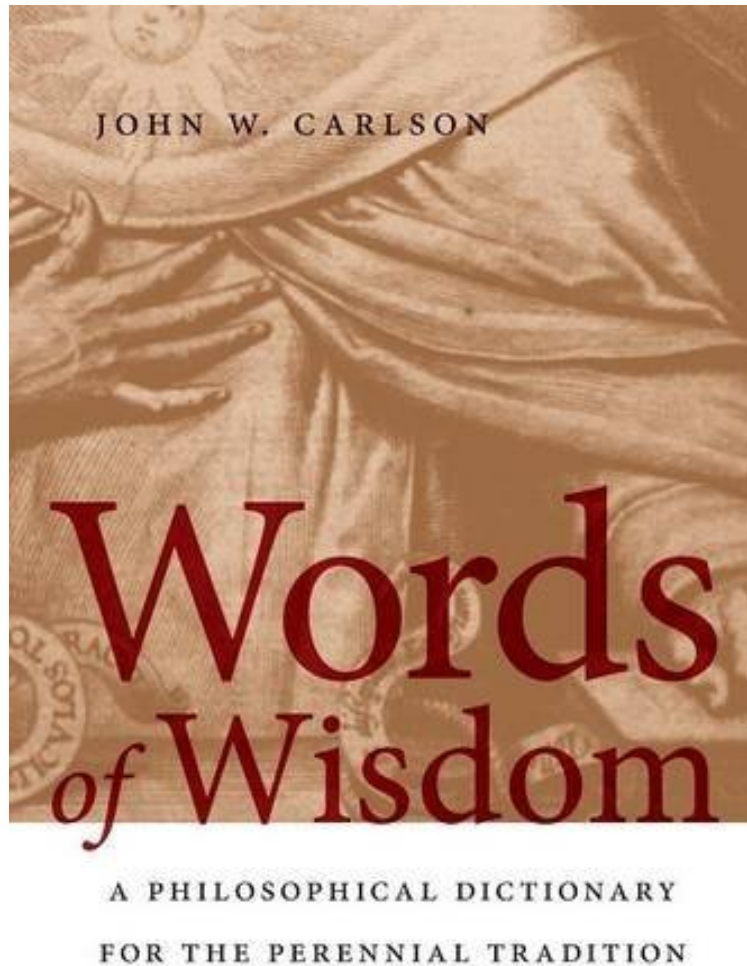


Words of Wisdom: A Philosophical Dictionary for the Perennial Tradition

John W. Carlson

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John W. Carlson : Words of Wisdom: A Philosophical Dictionary for the Perennial Tradition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Words of Wisdom: A Philosophical Dictionary for the Perennial Tradition:

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with much anticipation that I awaited the release of this book. This is quite an excellent resource and gift for those seeking to grow in wisdom. In our age of muddled thinking, this dictionary is indispensable. Clear, concise definitions are presented in both an accessible and rich text. Therefore seekers of truth and lovers of wisdom - professionals and armchair philosophers alike - will delight in these pages. I also had the pleasure of meeting the author at Notre Dame last year during a conference. Professor Carlson struck me as an authentic intellectual whose vocation of learning and teaching has culminated in this magnum opus. Who wouldn't be excited at the opportunity to benefit from the learning gained over a lifetime? Well, it is all right here. I highly recommend this book. No serious library - public or private - should be without this valuable resource.

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Like their predecessors throughout the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI have emphasized the importance of philosophy in the Catholic intellectual tradition. In his encyclical *Fides et ratio* (1998), John Paul II called on philosophers to have the courage to recover, in the flow of an enduringly valid philosophical tradition, the range of authentic wisdom and truth. Where the late pope spoke of an enduringly valid tradition, Jacques Maritain and other Thomists often have referred to the perennial tradition or to perennial philosophy. *Words of Wisdom* responds to John Paul's call for the development of this tradition with a much-needed dictionary of terms. As a resource for students in colleges, universities, and seminaries, as well as for teachers of the perennial tradition and interested general readers, *Words of Wisdom* occupies a unique place. It offers precise, yet clear and understandable accounts of well over a thousand key philosophical terms, richly cross-referenced. It also explains significant terms from other philosophical movements with which Thomism (and the Catholic intellectual tradition more generally) has engaged either through debate or through judicious and creative incorporation. Moreover, it identifies a number of theological and doctrinal expressions to which perennial philosophy has contributed. Finally, it provides a comprehensive bibliography of works by Aquinas in English, expositions and discussions of perennial themes, and representative examples from the writings of all philosophers and theologians mentioned in dictionary entries.

About the Author
John W. Carlson is professor of philosophy at Creighton University. He is the author of *Understanding Our Being: Introduction to Speculative Philosophy in the Perennial Tradition*.