At various times certain issues emerge while others fade. Discerning and facing the relevant issues is a central task for each individual as well as for each society or organization. The Aquinas Academy was founded by the Marist priest-philosopher, Fr Austin (“The Doc”) Woodbury, in March 1945. The issues that were dealt with at the Aquinas Academy in its early days are not exactly the same as the issues we need to deal with sixty years later. In the Diamond Jubilee Year of 2005, a group of Catholic academics addressed what they believed to be key issues for both Church and society in Australia today. This volume contains the eight lectures given.

The eight Lecturers and Lectures are as follows:

1. Assoc Professor James Franklin  (March 9 2005)
   “Traditional Catholic Philosophy: Baby & Bathwater”

2. Dr Bernadette Tobin  (April 13 2005)
   “The Genetic Future: How Might We Respond?”

   “Have We Lost Our Nerve? The Changing Theology of Mission”

4. John Thornhill SM, PhD  (June 8 2005)
   “The Event of Vatican II: The Real Promise”

5. Esther de Waal  (July 13 2005)
   “Living with a Monastic Heart: What Difference Might it Make?”

6. Tom Ryan SM, PhD  (August 10 2005)
   “Aquinas and Theology as Conversation”

7. Andrew Murray SM, PhD  (September 14 2005)
   “Democracy in the Church?!”

8. Michael Whelan SM, PhD  (October 12 2005)
   “Passionate About the Process, Detached About the Outcome: Living Creatively Within the Institution”

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