

Acknowledgements

The cover painting, “The American Thanksgiving Day Service, Westminster Abbey – 1944” by Frank E. Beresford, is provided through the Courtesy of the United States Air Force Art Collection. Frank Ernest Beresford was born in Derby, England in 1881 and died in 1967. His most famous work was “The Princes’ Vigil,” showing the four sons of King George V guarding their father’s coffin at the King’s lying in state in Westminster Abbey in 1936. It was named “Painting of the Year” by the Royal Academy. He painted for four years during World War II with the United States Army Air Force and was awarded the Exceptional Service Award of the United States Air Force for the painting used on the cover. We find in this painting some suggestive parallels with the work of Jacques Maritain. The sense of urgency to defend liberal democracy in speech and deed during the crisis of World War II sets the tone for much of Maritain’s work in political philosophy. The framing of the American Flag by the sacred symbols of Christendom also is found in Maritain’s admiration for the United States and his attempt to reconnect the case for liberty with the ancient and medieval philosophical tradition. Finally, the painting conveys something of Maritain’s attempt at “reassessing the liberal state” by depicting the important affairs of state in the more expansive context of the transcendent.

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