

## A DISCOURSE ON ANTONIO ROSMINI'S SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY WITH AN IMPRINT OF THE LAW

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### ABSTRACT

Theology cannot make progress unless it is prepared to turn to philosophy for assistance. The notions of the body of a person and of many matters essential to theology cannot be adequately expressed in isolation from philosophical teachings. An investigation into Rosmini's tenets of cosmology, ontology, anthropology and epistemology is essential for a study on his social philosophy. Each of these must enter into the other if the science is to be complete. In fact, Rosmini maintains, it is impossible to speak of being (God and man) in all its universal essence (ontology), without regard to the infinity and absoluteness of being (rational theology), just as it is impossible to consider the world philosophy (cosmology) without taking its cause into consideration. The centre and substance of Rosmini's social philosophy is the teaching about God. The divine characteristics of God spilled over onto man when God infused the soul within man. The soul which is the postulation of the intellect and rational capacity of man enables him to cling to justice and engage in moral ethical decisions when necessary. The natural law precepts which comprises of *sum cuique tribuere* (give to each what belongs to him) and *neminem laedere* (do no harm to another person) enables man to stake his claim to fundamental rights in the civil and political society. Thus the implications of Rosmini's social philosophy serve as a basis for the maintenance of the upholding of fundamental rights in society. Because of the divine characteristic instilled in man everybody and even the state must respect man's fundamental human rights in society.

**Keywords:** Rational theology, philosophy, ontology, epistemology, cosmology, *sum cuique tribuere*, *neminem laedere*, fundamental human rights.