

## PREFACE

In many of his later writings Bernard Lonergan speaks of what he calls the "startling" event of intellectual conversion. Virtually all of Lonergan's writings point to the nature and implications of this foundational event. Lonergan indicated that he himself experienced this radical event while studying in Rome in the mid-1930's.

What is intellectual conversion?

This book will try to answer this question by focussing on this event in Lonergan's early life. It traces the early influences on his work and the stages of his developing thought up to 1935-1936. It highlights what we know of this major event in his thinking at that time. In addition, it sets out the developing expression of his intellectual conversion in his writings during the late 1930's and the 1940's. It brings Lonergan's early story up to the clearest expression of the meaning of intellectual conversion in his major work, **Insight: An Essay on Human Understanding**, written between 1949 and 1953.

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writings:

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