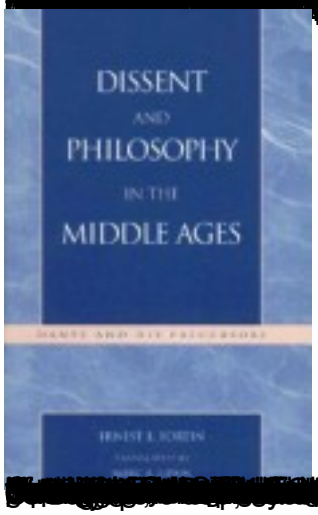


PROMINENT ASSUMPTIONIST Fr. Ernest Fortin was considered to be one of the leading political philosophers in the United States in the late 20th century, especially one interested in questions of faith and reason. Fr. Fortin was born and raised in Woonsocket, Rhode Island in 1923. He attended Assumption College and Laval University, graduating from Assumption College in 1946. He had joined the Augustinians of the Assumption/Assumptionists in 1944, and following graduation he attended the Angelicu in Rome for his theological education. He received his licentiate in 1950. He completed his doctorate at the Sorbonne in 1955 and his dissertation was published in 1959 under the title
Christianisme et culture philosophique au cinquième siècle: la querelle de l'âme humaine en Occident
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Following theological studies and ordination, he went to Paris, where he met Allan Bloom, another major political philosopher who quickly became his friend and colleague. It was Bloom who introduced him to the thinking of Leo Strauss, one of the greatest and most influential thinkers of the 20th century.

He returned to Assumption College to teach between 1959 and 1971, where he taught a vast array of courses in philosophy, theology, literature, and politics. In 1971, he moved to the department of Theology at Boston College, where he soon founded the Perspectives Program. Fr. Fortin was to stay at Boston College until he suffered a debilitating stroke in 1997. He served as chairman of the department for many years and oversaw the dissertation of numerous doctoral dissertation.


EVER ANCIENT,
EVER NEW
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the Soul, and the Church
MICHAEL P. FOLEY


DISSENT
AND
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MIDDLE AGES