

Estafia Jose Conrado

## Edith Stein's Inquiry into the Meaning of Being: A Dialogue between Faith and Reason

*Supervisor: Kurt Appel*

### **Abstract (English)**

The study is an exposition of Edith Stein's inquiry into the meaning of being, which is the focus of her masterwork, *Finite and Eternal Being: An Attempt at an Ascent to the Meaning of Being*. As a background of Stein's life, we have traced her journey from phenomenology to Christian philosophy. Her inquiry into the meaning of being begins with an exposition of the Thomistic doctrine of act and potency. She further inquires about the nature of our own being. She discovered the inescapable fact of our own being. In looking at our own being the idea of a pure being or a true being or eternal being is revealed. God's nature and our own are different. Being human is only a transition from one moment to another. The being of the ego is not all-embracing, but merely a received being, but still it is a being, making sense the term *analogia entis*. However, Stein believes that our conscious life cannot truly know who we are. She realizes that our inquiry into the meaning of being brings us to that being who is the archetype and author of all finite beings. This being has disclosed himself to us as a person, even a tri-personal being. Revelation, therefore, can deepen our understanding of being human.