Acknowledgments

Although writing is often seen as solitary work, authorship is a complex communal activity. It is my happy task, therefore, to acknowledge the many individuals and groups whose assistance made this book possible.

Thanks are due first to editor Jennifer Hammer at New York University Press, not only for her initial interest in this project but for her sustained follow-up, wise counsel, and keen eye. Her astute editorial recommendations helped me focus and reorganize the book's chapters at critical moments in their development. Gratitude is also due to Ms. Hammer's able assistant, Gabrielle Begue.

To all my colleagues and students in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame I owe a deep debt of gratitude. Their advice, wisdom, and generosity made my work a pleasure, not a burden.

To the staff of the Theodore M. Hesburgh Library at Notre Dame—and especially to Susan A. Feirick and her colleagues at the circulation desk—many thanks for their assistance, patience, and sense of humor.

Finally, to Demetrio, *mille grazie* for daily inspiration, insight, and encouragement: "Aquæ multæ non potuerunt extinguere caritatem, nec flumina obruent illam. Si dederit homo omnem substantiam domus suæ pro dilectione, quasi nihil despiciet eam" (Canticum canticorum 8.7).

