Abstract
This paper provides a context for the letter sent by the French philosopher Gabriel Marcel to Paulette Dieterlen, in which he expresses the disruption of his relation to his fellow philosopher Jacques Maritain. It also explores the common elements in Marcel’s and Maritain’s thought, summarizes their contributions and analyzes their differences. It concludes with some clues that might explain why these two Catholic thinkers remained estranged, even though the death of Maritain’s wife could have provided an opportunity for their reconciliation.

Keywords
Key words, Marcel, Maritain, Thomism, existentialism, being.