Jacques Maritain's Degrees of Knowledge

Degree of Knowledge	Area of Involvement	
Superrational Knowledge		
Mystical wisdom	"transcends the mode of concepts and analogy"	Sought via mystical contemplation: a direct experience of God as he is, it is granted as a gift by the Holy Spirit. A knowledge by "connaturality," it experiences by suffering and love what cannot be verbally conceptualized.
Theological wisdom	"the science of revealed mysteries"	Knowledge of the divine that is granted through and by faith (and is therefore beyond what can be obtained from the sensible alone); it is developed in a systematic and rational manner. This includes theology proper.
Rational Knowledge		
Speculative knowledge/ Metaphysical wisdom	Third degree of abstraction which is beyond the sensible	The realm of metaphysics; it practices reasoning by analogy about quality, substance, goodness, intelligible being, and the divine. It is the regulative of the levels below and provides for a philosophy of nature. Since it reasons upward to the divine, it includes natural theology.
Physico-Mathematics	Second degree of abstraction alongside the first	Focuses upon quantity, number, extension. While based on sensible things, once abstracted, it can be separated out and worked with independently. It makes a science of phenomena possible.
Natural philosophy (p*hysica*)	First degree of abstraction begins here	Seeks to abstract the nature of things from their sensible behavior. [Science (in the larger Aristotelian sense) is concerned with essences of things—what they *are*.]
Experimental science	"in terms of their empirical manifestations"	Knowledge of the sensible order; seeks to formulate laws that describe the behavior of material things—that is, as to *how* they function; it cannot describe the essence or nature of things. It is built upon pre-scientific experience.
Preconscious understanding	"knowledge by inclination"	Undergirds the artistic process, one's own subjectivity, and also prepares for the knowledge of God.