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MORAL THEOLOGY: PART I

At the School of Mary: Fall Semester 2025_{AD}

Instructor: Sister Bernadette-Marie of Jesus Christ Crucified, F.L.M.

Time: Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 P.M. (Central Time)

Class Demographic: Adult students (*mature high school students also welcome*)

Contact: schoolofmarywithflm@gmail.com

Class Description: In this course, we will study the moral theology of the Church. After first investigating the object, nature, and aim of moral theology, we will take a brief survey of the history and development of moral theology in the life of the Church. Thereafter, we will cover the foundations of moral theology by studying the end of man, the nature of human acts, good and bad human acts, virtues and vices, and the external and internal aids to human action. In other words, this course covers roughly the *Prima Secundae* of Saint Thomas's *Summa Theologiae*. The objective of this course is to grow in understanding of the nature of human actions so that we can grow in the practical application through lives of true virtue.

Class Texts – While there will not be any regularly assigned readings for this class, a list of suggested readings can be found at the end of this syllabus. The Sister Instructor is happy to provide more suggestions if desired.

Class Participation: It is requested that all students have their cameras **on** for the duration of the class. While the class is mostly lecture-based, questions are welcome.

Course Syllabus (*Subject to Change*)

	Topic
Class One <i>September 11</i>	Introduction to Moral Theology ▪ Object, nature, and aim of moral theology Brief History of Moral Theology ▪ Morality in Sacred Scripture ▪ Pauline Morality
Class Two <i>September 18</i>	Brief History of Moral Theology Continued ▪ Pauline morality ▪ Gospel Morality: Priority of the Sermon on the Mount ▪ Morality in the Fathers ▪ Divisions of the Summa ▪ William of Ockham and moral manuals
Class Three <i>September 25</i>	Ultimate End: Beatitude ▪ Aspiration for Beatitude ▪ Nature of Beatitude
Class Four <i>October 2</i>	Ultimate End: Beatitude Continued ▪ Attainment of Beatitude Begin Human Acts ▪ Human acts vs. acts of a human ▪ Four causes ▪ Moral Quality vs. Moral Responsibility ▪ Voluntary vs. involuntary ▪ The freedom of human acts

Class Five <i>October 9</i>	Human Acts Continued ▪ The nature and freedom of the will ▪ The movement of the will ▪ Acts of the Intellect ▪ Acts of the will ▪ Structure of the human act
Class Six <i>October 16</i>	Human Acts Continued ▪ Morality of human acts ▪ Kinds of cooperation ▪ Double Effect ▪ Moral responsibility
Class Seven <i>October 23</i>	▪ Moral responsibility continued The Passions of Man ▪ Nature and morality of the passions ▪ Integration of emotions into human acts ▪ Conscience (and synderesis)
Class Eight <i>November 30</i>	The Supernatural Organism ▪ Divine Indwelling ▪ Habits in general ▪ Virtues in general
Class Nine <i>November 6</i>	▪ Virtues in general continued ▪ Gifts of the Holy Spirit Sin and Vice ▪ Nature of sin and vice ▪ Subject, causes, effects of sin
Class Ten <i>November 20</i>	Sin and Vice Continued ▪ Subject, causes, effects of sin continued ▪ Original Sin ▪ Conscience
Class Eleven <i>December 4</i>	External Divine Aid: Law ▪ Moral law as external instruction ▪ Kinds of law (natural law, divine law, human law, etc.) ▪ Law of the Gospel
Class Twelve <i>December 11</i>	External Divine Aid: Grace ▪ Necessity of grace ▪ Essence of grace ▪ Divisions and causes of grace ▪ Effects of grace

N.B. There will not be class on November 13 nor on November 27.

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CLASS PRAYER

“Grant me grace, O Merciful God, to desire ardently all that is pleasing to Thee, to acknowledge it truthfully, to examine it prudently, and to accomplish it perfectly, all for the praise and the glory of Thy Name. Amen.”
(St. Thomas Aquinas)

Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.

Saint Thomas Aquinas, pray for us.

Saint Alphonsus Marie de Liguori, pray for us.

Recommended Reading for Further Study

(in no particular order)

- *The Christian Life*, edited by Francis Cunningham, O.P.
- *Summa Theologiae: Secunda Pars*, Saint Thomas Aquinas
- *Morality: The Catholic View*, by Servais Pinckaers, O.P.
- *The Sources of Christian Ethics*, by Servais Pinckaers, O.P.
- *Moral Theology*, Vol. I and II, by John McHugh, O.P., and Charles Callan, O.P.
- *Introduction to Moral Theology*, by William May
- *Veritatis Splendor*, by Pope Saint John Paul II
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part III: Life in Christ [Articles 1691-2557]