

# AQUINAS INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

|                               |                                         |                          |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>MOR-D500-01</b>            | <b>Foundations of Catholic Morality</b> | <b>3 credits</b>         |
| <b>Fr. Leo Almazán, O. P.</b> |                                         | <b>Spring 2014</b>       |
| <b>fcoangel98@gmail.com</b>   |                                         | <b>Wed. 6:30-9:00 PM</b> |
| <b>(314) 678-9470</b>         |                                         | <b>Office 216</b>        |

Catholic moral theology draws from Scriptures, Tradition, the Magisterium, theology, philosophy, and the social sciences in order to respond in a faith-based, rational, and systematic way to classical questions of right and wrong and to contemporary ethical issues of personal and global import.

### Course Description:

The course provides a *foundational* and *systematic overview* of the main components of Catholic moral theology: its biblical bases, its historical and on-going development, its major foci (*e.g.*, human freedom and its limits, the human person as moral agent, the nature of the human act, the role and rights of conscience, the place of virtue in the moral life, natural law, *etc.*), and its various methodologies for moral decision-making and problem-solving. The main aim of the course is to aid candidates to the Roman Catholic Priesthood and lay ecclesial ministers to develop a preliminary self-understanding of how a minister integrates ethical knowledge and pastoral sensitivity.

### Course Objectives:

This course draws on the traditional understanding of morality - according to the general framework given by Saint Thomas Aquinas in the I-IIae of his *Summa Theologiae*- while more broadly engaging contemporary literature on Christian ethics and moral theory. This concurrence will allow the student:

- to *think systematically* about the Christian moral life within the framework of the Catholic tradition;
- to acquire specialized knowledge of the unique Catholic moral theology's *terminology*;
- to gain an understanding of the nature and *methodology* of Catholic moral theology;
- to develop a general sense of the *on-going history* and *development* of Catholic moral theology;
- to understand and appreciate the dignity and challenge of *Christian discipleship* and the sources of moral wisdom within the Christian community;
- to discover some of the tools offered by Catholic moral theology in order to guide *moral decision-making* and *problem-solving*; and
- to develop a preliminary *self-understanding* of how a minister integrates ethical knowledge and pastoral sensitivity.

**Required Texts:****Scriptures**

*The New Jerusalem Bible*, D. H. Wansbrough, ed. (Westminster: Darton, Longman & Todd/ Les Editions Du Cerf, 1985). Available at: <http://www.veritasbible.com/newjerusalem1989>

**Tradition**

St. Augustine, *Of the Morals of the Catholic Church*, available at: <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1401.htm>

Saint Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, available at:

<http://www.corpusthomisticum.org/iopera.html> - English version available at: <http://dhspriority.org/thomas/summa/index.html>

**Magisterium**

John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor* [Encyclical letter on the *Splendor of Truth*], (August 6, 1993), available at: [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_06081993\\_veritatis-splendor\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_06081993_veritatis-splendor_en.html) [Indicated in this document as *VS*].

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City 1993. Available at: <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc/index.htm> [Indicated in this document as *CCC*].

International Theological Commission, *Theology Today: Perspectives, Principles and Criteria* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2011). Available at: [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/cti\\_documents/rc\\_cti\\_doc\\_20111129\\_teologia-oggi\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/cti_documents/rc_cti_doc_20111129_teologia-oggi_en.html) [Indicated in this document as *TT*].

Pontifical Biblical Commission, *The Bible and Morality: Biblical Roots of Christian Conduct*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2008). Available at: [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/pcb\\_documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20080511\\_bibbia-e-morale\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/pcb_documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20080511_bibbia-e-morale_en.html) [Indicated in this document as *BM*].

**Theology**

Cessario, Romanus, *Introduction to Moral Theology* (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2001) [Indicated in this document as *IMT*].

Pinckaers, Servais, *The Sources of Christian Ethics* (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 1995) [Indicated in this document as *SCE*].

Pope, Stephen J., *The Ethics of Aquinas* (Georgetown: Georgetown University Press, 2002) [Indicated in this document as *EA*].

*All other required readings (preceded by an asterisk \* in the syllabus) are available on-line.*