



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Doorways TO FORMATION IN THE FAITH

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MORALITY

Course Description

Moral theology is much more than a simple consideration of right and wrong. This course will help participants to grasp the foundations of moral principles in the Roman Catholic tradition and guide participants in practical application in today's society. In addition, the nature of sin, law, grace and virtue will be explored. Integral to each session is prayer, course content, faith sharing, and large/small group discussion so that participants can apply the teachings to their life and ministry.

Course Expectations

Attendance at five of the six sessions is required to receive a Certificate of Completion.
Read assigned and related materials prior to class.
Participate in class discussions.
Maintain a Course Journal/Notebook.
Complete and return the Course Evaluation.

Course Materials

English

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA), United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C., 2006.

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/us-catholic-catechism-for-adults/index.cfm>

Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd ed.) (CCC), *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*, Washington, D.C., 2016.

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/index.cfm> or <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/INDEX.HTM>

Spanish

Catecismo Católico de los Estados Unidos para los Adultos (USCCA), Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, Washington, D.C., 2006.

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/us-catholic-catechism-for-adults/index.cfm>

Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica (2nd ed.) (CCC), Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, Washington, D.C., 2016.

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/index.cfm> or http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism_sp/index_sp.html

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Course Structure and Highlights

Session 1/Week 1: Overview and Foundations of Christian Morality

Topics:

Christian Morality
Human Dignity - Created in the image of God
Created for Beatitude or Happiness
Responsible Use of Freedom

Reading assignment:

USCCA: Chapter 23
CCC: #1691-1748

Session 2/Week 2: The Foundations and Principles of Christian Morality continued

Topics:

The Reality of Sin
 Mortal Sin, Venial Sin, Seven Capital Sins, Social Sin
God's Mercy
Three Elements of a Moral Act, the Passions
Conscience
The Formation of Conscience

Reading Assignment:

USCCA: Chapters 23 and 24
CCC: #1749 – 1802; #1846 -1876

Session 3/Week 3: The Virtues, Law, Grace and the Magisterium

Topics:

The Cardinal Virtues
The Theological Virtues and the Holy Spirit
Community of Love, Justice and The Common Good
7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching
Law (Natural Law, Civil Law, Revealed Law, Ecclesial Law)
Grace and Justification

Readings Assignment:

USCCA: Chapters 23 and 24
CCC: #1803 – 1845; #1877 – 2051

Session 4/Week 4: The First, Second and Third Commandments

Topics:

Introduction - Old Testament (Moses), New Testament (Jesus)
The First Commandment – Believe in the True God
The Second Commandment – Revere God's Name
Third Commandment – Love the Lord's Day

Reading Assignment:

USCCA: Chapters 25, 26 and 27
CCC: #2052 – 2195

Session 5/Week 5: The Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Ninth Commandments

Topics:

The Fourth Commandment – Strengthen the Family
The Fifth Commandment – Love and Respect Life
Sixth and Ninth Commandments – Respect Sexuality,
Marriage and Purity of Heart

Reading Assignment:

USCCA: Chapters 28, 29, 30 and 33
CCC: #2196 -2400; #2514 –2533

Session 6/Week 6: The Seventh, Eighth and Tenth Commandments

Topics:

The Seventh and Tenth Commandments- Live Justly
and Embrace Poverty of Spirit
The Eighth Commandment - Speak and Live the Truth

Reading Assignment:

USCCA: Chapters 31, 33 and 34
CCC: #2401 – 2513; 2534 -2557