

texts of the works represented and the broader corpus. As a pedagogical resource, this elegant reader is an excellent and much needed invitation to do just that.

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Be Good and Do Good: Thinking Through Moral Theology. By Bernard V. Brady. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2014. Pp. x + 197. \$30.

The Second Vatican Council decreed that moral theology should be “nourished more on the teaching of the Bible” and “should shed light on the loftiness of the calling” of Christians and their obligation to bear “fruit in charity for the life of the world” (*Optatam totius* no. 16). Brady’s new book is a valuable example of a post-Vatican II approach to moral theology.

Well-integrated biblical reflection characterizes the moral reflection that unfolds in each chapter. Yet, there is also strong engagement with church teaching—conciliar documents, papal encyclicals (including Pope Francis’s), and statements by the US bishops. Furthermore, B. has appealed to the thought of classical thinkers (Augustine and Thomas), many recent Catholic and non-Catholic moral theologians, and influential contemporary philosophers. Particularly noteworthy is the interaction with Martin Luther King Jr. and Maya Angelou.

B.’s approach is also unique. True to the subtitle, the book provides pathways into thinking about key themes, concepts, and issues in moral theology, an approach that simultaneously underscores the loftiness of the calling and grounds it in common experiences. As an introduction to moral theology, the work covers most of the content one would expect, leaving some of the more controversial issues open for reflection. For example, chapter 4 introduces the principle of double effect, but the debates around direct and indirect acts or proportionate reason are not covered. The reason for this is, presumably, to get the reader to “think it through.” Moreover, B. seamlessly defines key concepts, which is ideal in an introductory text.

One shortcoming is that the sources and discussions are very US-centric. Nevertheless, I highly recommend this book for undergraduate students anywhere, not only because of its comprehensive way of dealing with the academic field of moral theology, but also because of its constant invitation to the reader to reflect on what this means for his or her own moral identity.

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Human Dignity in Contemporary Ethics. By David G. Kirchhoffer. Amherst, NY: Teneo, 2013. Pp. xxii + 356. \$25.

In recent decades an increasingly widespread use of “dignity talk” that makes absolutist, ambiguous, and often conflicting claims about human dignity has been met with a