



Curran Chronicles U.S. Catholic Moral Theology

WASHINGTON D.C. — Up until the 1960s, Catholic moral theology had the limited purpose of teaching future confessors to know what actions were sinful and the degree of sinfulness. This changed with the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), which called for the renewal of moral theology with the purpose of examining the whole of the Christian moral life. As dialogue grew on the subject, the discipline became more and more academically engaged—and subject to controversy over explosive topics such as sexual ethics.

In *Catholic Moral Theology in the United States*, Charles E. Curran surveys the historical development of Catholic moral theology in the U.S. from its 19th century roots to the present day. Curran creates this first comprehensive treatment of the subject by examining key figures, movements, and transitions in the field. The book includes chapters on the effect of the Second Vatican Council on the scope and substance of moral theology, the impact of *Humanae vitae*, Pope Paul VI's encyclical condemning artificial contraception, fundamental moral theology, sexuality and marriage, bioethics, and social ethics.

No one is more qualified than Charles Curran to write this chronicle. For nearly half a century, he has been a major influence on the development of the field and has witnessed first-hand the dramatic increase in the number and diversity of moral theologians in the academy and the Church. Lisa Sowle Cahill of Boston College agrees, lauding that with all of his experience, Curran "has acquired encyclopedic knowledge, a sure touch, and balanced judgment. He is a consummate surveyor of cultural and ecclesial trends, trajectories, and politics. Of unparalleled scope and balance, *Catholic Moral Theology in the United States* is an invaluable guide for scholar and student alike, showing us why moral theology matters beyond academia."

Charles E. Curran, a Roman Catholic priest of the Diocese of Rochester, New York, is Elizabeth Scurlock University Professor of Human Values at Southern Methodist University. He was the first recipient of the John Courtney Murray Award for Theology and has served as president of the Catholic Theological Society of America, the Society of Christian Ethics, and the American Theological Society. In 2003, Curran received the Presidential Award of the College Theology Society for a lifetime of scholarly achievements in moral theology, and in 2005, Call to Action presented him with its leadership award. He is the author of *Loyal Dissent: Memoir of a Catholic Theologian*, *The Moral Theology of Pope John Paul II* and *Catholic Social Teaching, 1891-Present*, all published by Georgetown University Press.

PUBLICATION DATE: April 2008, 368 pages
ISBN 978-1-58901-196-0, paperback \$26.95/£15.95
ISBN 978-1-58901-195-3, library binding \$59.95/£35.50

CONTACT: Jacqueline Beilhart, Publicist, (202) 687-9298, jb594@georgetown.edu

###