

**Pontifical College Josephinum
Josephinum Diaconate Institute**

Foundations of Catholic Moral Theology

An introduction to Catholic moral teaching including natural law; character, virtue, acts and object of acts; scriptural basis for moral teaching; an introduction to *Veritatis splendor* and Magisterial teaching.

Required Textbook

An Introduction to Moral Theology – Second Edition, William May, © 2003, Our Sunday Visitor Publications Division. ISBN # 978-1-931709-92-7

Required Subscription

A subscription to *Ethics and Medics*, a monthly newsletter published by the National Catholic Bioethics Center, for \$28.00, is available at:

<https://www.ncbcenter.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1035>

You will be using this site for readings on a regular basis. Each reading is approximately two pages, and the ethical issues are timely. Although the major emphasis of the publication is bioethics, there are a number of articles that deal with broader questions of moral theology. Some articles illustrate particular points in morality theology.

Your subscription will allow you access to the readings and will allow you to stay current on moral theology and biomedical ethics for a year. You will discover what a wonderful site this is and how it will keep you informed and involved in an important area of ministry.

Other Resources

This text will be supplemented by selected readings from, *inter alia*, Pope John Paul II's encyclical, *Veritatis splendor*, and other Magisterial sources, as well as some selected articles.

Facilitator/course developer will write 12 introductory articles for the webpage. Each article will present some relevant themes. Some articles will include references to *the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Learning Modules

Module 1	Moral Theology: Its Nature, Purpose and Biblical Foundation
Module 2	Human Dignity, Free Human Action, Virtue and Conscience
Module 3	Natural Law and the Moral Life (I)
Module 4	Natural Law and the Moral Life (II)
Module 5	Moral Absolutes (I)
Module 6	Moral Absolutes (II)
Module 7	Sin and the Moral Life
Module 8	Christian Faith and Our Moral Life
Module 9	The Church as Moral Teacher
Module 10	Christian Moral Life and John Paul II's Teaching <i>Veritatis Splendor</i> (I)

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- Module 11 Christian Moral Life and John Paul II's Teaching
Veritatis Splendor (II)
- Module 12 Christian Moral Life and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Grading

Forums: Class discussions via the Learning Management System is 30% of the course grade
Forums are rated on a 25 point scale. Additional credit is given for material comments on other student's posts.

Assignments: There are three written assignments which is 50% of the course grade.
Two of the assignments are journal entries which do not require references.

One is a short paper where you must include references to support your work.

Final Exam: The final exam has 22 multiple choice questions and three short essays. The final exam is 20% of the course grade.

Course Objectives – MO884DE: Moral Theology

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the ethical principles of the Church moral teaching.
- Be cognizant of the ethical principles being employed by parishioners.
- Logically guide parishioners through the thought process to arrive at a conclusion based on Church principles.

Application to Deacon Standards

Human Dimension

Standard 1 Personal Qualities

Standard 2 Relationships

Spiritual Dimension

Standard 4 Spirituality and Prayer

Intellectual Dimension

Standard 7 Sacred Scripture

Standard 8 Theology of God

Standard 15 Pastoral Theology

Diaconal Vocation and Ministry

Standard 24 Ministerial Identity

Ethical Outcome

After completion of this learning module, you should be able to articulate your position on what is required when making decisions theological principles.