

FORMATIVE FIGURES OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN CATHOLIC MORAL THEOLOGY

A NOTE FROM THE ISSUE EDITORS

For this first issue of the *Journal of Moral Theology*, the planned focus was methodology. When initially thinking about how to structure such an issue, we were faced with questions about how to approach this topic. Should we investigate “schools”? Should someone write an article on proportionalism, followed by another on new natural law theory? Should we divide chapters into surveys of classic “topics” in method, such a natural law, virtue, and conscience?

We settled on a genealogical approach. We sought essays on major, formative figures who have had a substantial impact on the field as we know it today. Needless to say, many more figures could have been included—for example, in our original plan, we thought of including essays on Gustavo Gutierrez and Margaret Farley, and one could certainly imagine many other candidates. We hoped to identify a range of figures who were quite varied in their approaches, but all of whom had long and distinguished careers and distinct influence. To write about how these figures shape moral theology today, we then invited esteemed figures of what might be called “the next generation”—in particular, scholars teaching at major doctoral programs. We are grateful to our contributors for their fine work on these essays. We have concluded the volume with an essay which reviews the work of the contributors themselves, seeking to extend the genealogical treatment into the developments of the last two decades.

We wish to give special thanks to Matthew Martin for editorial assistance in bringing these articles together.

—David Cloutier & William C. Mattison III