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Book Review: David Matzko McCarthy and M Therese Lysaught, *Gathered for the Journey: An Introduction to Catholic Moral Theology*, London, SCM Press, 2007

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David Matzko McCarthy & M. Therese Lysaught, *Gathered for the Journey: An Introduction to Catholic Moral Theology*, (SCM, 2007), pp 356, ISBN:0-334-04006-4

Catholic moral theology is central to understanding the Christian life and its practice in the family, church and society. We are always in the midst of the challenge of finding a way to clearly speak of moral thinking. *Gathered for the Journey: An Introduction to Catholic Moral Theology* answers this challenge in a remarkably coherent way. It is remarkable because it brings together a number of theologians with expertise in a variety of areas. Embracing the wisdom and riches of the Catholic theological tradition, the authors address our contemporary issues and experiences, producing a horizon of Catholic moral praxis for students of theology to deepen their Christian life and faith. Particularly, the contributors set out to articulate Catholic moral theology in the light of Scripture, the Trinity, the crucified and risen Christ, the liturgy (and in particular the Eucharist), the theologies of Aquinas and Pope John Paul II as well as post-conciliar writings.

The book is organised into three sections of essays. The first section directs students to develop moral reasoning through diverse theological contexts of being-in-love, liturgy, Christology, Scripture, Ethics, the Trinity and Christian life and community. The second section of essays acts as a witness for students to embody the moral life as a journey of responsibility, discipleship, personhood and otherness. Finally, the third section evokes moral theological analysis on Catholic Social teaching, consumerism, home schooling, just war, bioethics, globalisation and the environment. Looked at as a whole, the essays suggest that Catholic moral theology might best be understood with an existence of Christian life and conscience. Consequently, the aim of the book sets out to evangelise the hearts and minds of its readers. The moral life is a journey and pathway towards the good of God.

Of the fifteen essays, I would like to highlight the two essays by M. Therese Lysaught, 'Love and Liturgy' and 'Love Your Enemies: Towards a Christoform Bioethic'. Lysaught's style is both lucid and instructive for students studying moral theology. In many ways, it reads like a lecture, however a lecture that is heartfelt with the intention to follow Christ. Hence, it is not surprising that she brings out the good of love and friendship to testify to the kenotic love of Christ. Moreover, Lysaught invites her readers to discover this through liturgical practice. Thus, we find a rational way to speak of the moral life through a Eucharistic habitus. Such Christian life, in Lysaught's view, gives rise to a Christoform bioethic where the sacramental and Christian life become the resources for the pressing questions of medicine and theology. Approaching theological-moral questions with the examples of the Schiavo case and the life of Joseph Cardinal Bernadin, the reader is drawn to the otherness of Christ. As a general and practical introduction to the rich tradition of Catholic theology and contemporary issues of moral theology, *Gathered for the Journey* would prove a worthy textbook and required reading.