

Virtue and Theological Ethics

Toward a Renewed Ethical Method

Todd A. Salzman
and
Michael G. Lawler

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

 Fathers and Brothers
MARYKNOLL™

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.maryknollsociety.org.

Copyright © 2018 by Todd A. Salzman and Michael G. Lawler

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Salzman, Todd A., author. | Lawler, Michael G., author.

Title: Virtue and theological ethics : toward a renewed ethical method / by
Todd A. Salzman and Michael G. Lawler.

Description: Maryknoll, NY : Orbis Books, [2018] | Includes bibliographical
references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2018011889 (print) | LCCN 2018022966 (ebook) | ISBN
9781608337545 (e-book) | ISBN 9781626983045 (pbk) | ISBN 9781608337545
(ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Christian ethics—Catholic authors. | Ethics—Methodology. |
Virtue. | Virtues. | Christian sociology—Catholic Church. | Catholic
Church—Doctrines.

Classification: LCC BJ1249 (ebook) | LCC BJ1249 .S3288 2018 (print) | DDC
241/.042—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018011889>

Contents

<i>Abbreviations</i>	<i>ix</i>
Introduction	1
Theological Ethical Method	1
Our Theological Virtue Ethical Method	4
Virtue	7
Human Dignity	9
Neuroscience	17
Our Thesis Going Forward	28
Chapter 1: Catholic Ethical Method: An Overview	31
Relativism or Perspectivism?	33
Natural Law	43
Virtue Ethics and Neuroscience	50
Varieties of Love	55
Chapter 2: Virtuous Perspective	61
Virtue Epistemology	61
Emotions	65
Three Stages of the Concept of a Virtue	72
Virtue Ethics	75
Christian Virtue Ethics	78
Christian Virtue Ethics: Martin Rhonheimer	85
Chapter 3: Virtuous Perspective and Ethical Method	93
Sources for a Reconstructed Ethical Method	93
Virtuous Perspectives and the Selection, Interpretation, Prioritization, and Integration (SIPI) of the Sources of Ethical Knowledge	103
Christian Ethical Perspectives	113

Chapter 4: Human Dignity: Defining the Good	127
Dimensions of Human Dignity	127
Catholic Tradition and the Evolving Definition of Human and Sexual Dignity	129
Conservative and Progressive Ethicists and Human and Sexual Dignity	144
Conclusion	161
Chapter 5: Formulation and Justification of Principles and Norms: Seeking the Good	165
Virtue: Ethics and Epistemology	165
Conservative and Progressive Perspectives on Virtue Epistemology, Principles, and Norms	173
Normative Ethics and Virtue Ethics	184
Implications of a Virtuous Perspective for the Formulation and Justification of Norms	187
Chapter 6: Conscience and Virtuous Perspective: Choosing the Good	197
Conscience	197
<i>Gaudium et Spes</i> , Human Experience, and Ethical Method	204
Conclusion	226
Index	227