

DOING CHRISTIAN ETHICS FROM THE MARGINS

**SECOND EDITION
REVISED AND EXPANDED**

Miguel A. De La Torre

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 © 2014 by Miguel A. De La Torre

Published by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York 10545-0302

Manufactured in the United States of America

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, New York 10545-0302.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

De La Torre, Miguel A.

Doing Christian ethics from the margins / by Miguel A. De La Torre.—
2nd Edition Revised and Expanded.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-62698-075-4 (pbk.)

1. Christian ethics—Textbooks. 2. Marginality, Social—Moral and
ethical aspects—Textbooks I. Title.

BJ125 I.D38 2014

241—dc23

2013031886

Contents

Preface	xi
Acknowledgments	xv

PART I ETHICAL THEORY

1.	Doing Christian Ethics	3
	Why Christian? 5	
	Why Ethics? 7	
	Why from the Margins? 10	
2.	The (De)Liberation of Ethics	18
	The Dilemma 20	
	De-Liberating Liberation 21	
	The Social Power of Ethics 25	
	Incarnation: Experiencing in the Flesh 29	
	Christian Ethics from the Center 30	
3.	The Liberation of Ethics	46
	The Hermeneutical Circle for Ethics 47	

PART II CASE STUDIES OF GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS

4.	Introducing Global Relationships	59
	The Economic Might of the United States 61	
	American Exceptionalism 64	
	The Rise of Neoliberalism 65	
	The Structures of Neoliberalism 68	
	Moving beyond Production 69	
	Using Case Studies in Ethics from the Margins 71	
5.	Global Poverty	73
	Step 1. Observing 73	
	Step 2. Reflecting 83	
	Step 3. Praying 84	
	Step 4. Case Studies 87	

6.	War	93
	Step 1. Observing	93
	Step 2. Reflecting	105
	Step 3. Praying	115
	Step 4. Case Studies	120
7.	Environment	126
	Step 1. Observing	126
	Step 2. Reflecting	136
	Step 3. Praying	140
	Step 4. Case Studies	142
PART III		
CASE STUDIES OF NATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS		
8.	Introduction to National Relationships	149
	Guns versus Butter	149
	The Cost of Empire	151
9.	National Poverty	155
	Step 1. Observing	155
	Step 2. Reflecting	159
	Step 3. Praying	177
	Step 4. Case Studies	180
10.	Political Campaigns	185
	Step 1. Observing	185
	Step 2. Reflecting	195
	Step 3. Praying	199
	Step 4. Case Studies	202
11.	Life and Death	207
	Step 1. Observing	207
	Step 2. Reflecting	218
	Step 3. Praying	221
	Step 4. Case Studies	223

**PART IV
CASE STUDIES OF BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS**

12.	Introduction to Business Relationships	231
13.	Corporate Accountability	234
	Step 1. Observing	234
	Step 2. Reflecting	239
	Step 3. Praying	251
	Step 4. Case Studies	253
14.	Affirmative Action	258
	Step 1. Observing	258
	Step 2. Reflecting	264
	Step 3. Praying	277
	Step 4. Case Studies	279
15.	War on Women	283
	Step 1. Observing	283
	Step 2. Reflecting	302
	Step 3. Praying	305
	Step 4. Case Studies	308
16.	Private Property	313
	Step 1. Observing	313
	Step 2. Reflecting	314
	Step 3. Praying	319
	Step 4. Case Studies	322
	Epilogue	329
	Bibliography	331
	Index	353