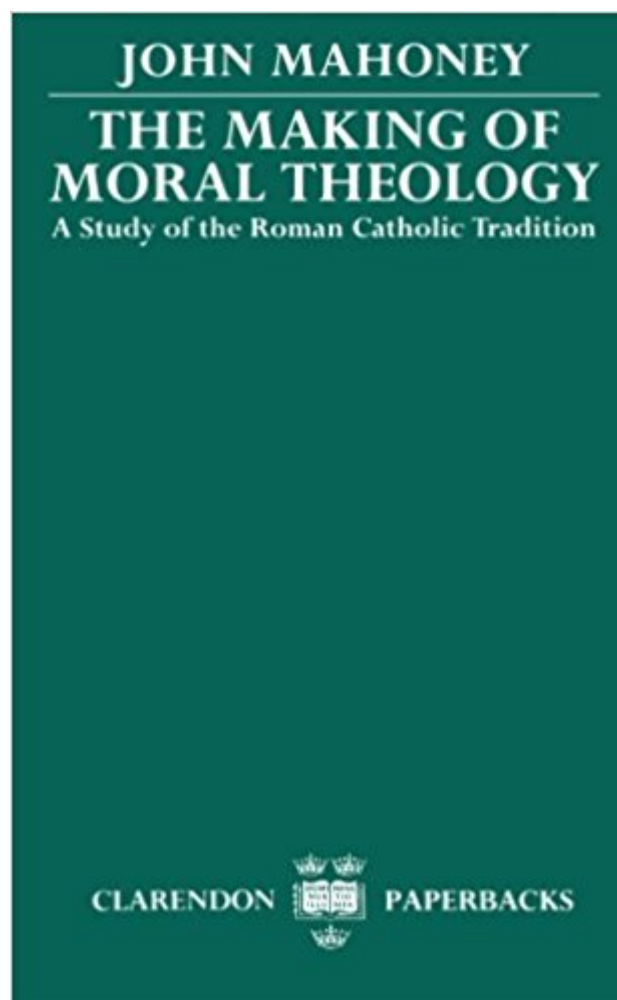




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The Making Of Moral Theology: A Study Of The Roman Catholic Tradition (Study Of The Roman Catholic Tradition (the Martin D'Arcy Mem)





Synopsis

In the last forty years, Roman Catholic moral theology has been experiencing revolutionary tension and change. In this compelling exposition, distinguished Jesuit moral theologian John Mahoney examines the events, personalities, and conflicts that have contributed, from New Testament times to the present, to the Roman Catholic moral tradition and its contemporary crisis, and interprets the fundamental changes taking place in the subject today. He surveys a wide range of topics, including papal infallibility, confession as a sacrament, the legacy of Augustine, the dramatic change in attitude to "salvation outside the Church," and the continuing impact on moral theology of the 1968 papal encyclical on birth control and of the Second Vatican Council.

Book Information

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"One of the most important works in moral theology to appear since the Second Vatican Council. It has no peer in English as a theological history of the discipline....Mahoney's superb history documents how the study of moral theology got into its rigid state prior to the council and makes constructive suggestions for its renewal that are rooted in its broader history....The timing of this volume's appearance is almost as important as its content....A rich bibliography and full index should let grateful students and scholars use it as a sourcebook; with its felicitous style and clarity of argument, this book should be equally captivating to the general reader."--America

"Mahoney puts the theology back into moral theology."--Church

Essential reading for anyone interested in the

history of Roman Catholic moral theology or contemporary issues within that discipline."--Journal of Religion"A remarkable and instructive book....He illuminates the past in such fashion that it sheds considerable light on the often obscure lines of renewal and reformulation that the discipline of moral theology is struggling to pursue....A work of great insight and wisdom, the fruit of considerable scholarship and reflection."--Theological Studies"Can be read by profit by anyone who possesses a little knowledge of the subject. Virtually all that he considers is of contemporary interest for non-Catholics."--Choice

In the last forty years Roman Catholic moral theology has been experiencing revolutionary tension and change. In this unique and thoroughly documented study, a distinguished Jesuit moral theologian examines the events, personalities, and conflicts which have contributed, from New Testament times to the present, to the Roman Catholic moral tradition and its contemporary crisis, and interprets the fundamental changes taking place in the subject today.

In this excellent and scholarly work, Catholic theologian John Mahoney examines the history of Christian moral theology, from the times of the New Testament and the Fathers of the church, through the medieval and modern period, and up to the contemporary era with controversies over issues like birth control, homosexuality, and authority and obedience in the church. Mahoney takes a refreshingly critical and historical approach to the development of doctrine in the church in the moral sphere, seeing how some positions have changed over time (i.e. teachings on slavery or usury) but some basic core principles have remained the same, such as the unconditional love of God revealed by Jesus. It is a nice contrast to the 'the church is immutable so this teaching can never change' approach I see in many third-rate Catholic apologetics. The book fits in well with other studies of moral reasoning and thinking in the Western tradition, such as the excellent works by Stephen Toulmin and Terence Irwin in the fields of casuistry and ethics. This book is highly recommended and is also used as a standard textbook at the Catholic university where I study.

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