

VERITATIS SPLENDOR: SOME EDITORIAL REFLECTIONS

Linda Woodhead

When I was a student I used to visit a lonely old man on Sunday afternoons. Being rather shy and reticent, he used to find it hard to speak to me directly about any matter which concerned him deeply. Fortunately, however, he was able to overcome this difficulty with the unwitting aid of his small dog Ivy. Rather than speak to me about personal matters, he would tell Ivy how he was feeling, intending of course that I should overhear.

I was reminded of this rather roundabout form of communication when I read *Veritatis Splendor*. Although addressed to the Pope's 'Venerable Brothers in the Episcopate', the Encyclical seems anxious that moral theologians should overhear the conversation. Indeed in many ways it makes much more sense when understood as a communication to the moral theologians rather than to the Bishops. Judging by the public responses to the Encyclical, moral theologians have understood it in this way too.

The publication of *Veritatis Splendor* in October 1993 has called forth a large number of responses from moral theologians¹ on both sides of the Atlantic. As someone who has tried to read as many of these as possible, not least those submitted for this issue of *Studies in Christian Ethics*, what has struck me most forcibly has been the divergence of opinion about the Encyclical. No question of being lukewarm here: unlike the Laodiceans, respondents to *Veritatis Splendor* tend to be either very warm or decidedly frosty.

What may almost be described as a polarisation of opinion amongst Christian ethicists with regard to the Encyclical would not be so surprising if it merely reflected a wider disagreement within the discipline of Christian ethics itself. But in fact divergent responses to

¹ In what follows I shall use the terms 'moral theologian' and 'Christian ethicist' interchangeably and as equivalent.

Reflections On The Encyclical Veritatis Splendor

Tim Perry



Reflections On The Encyclical Veritatis Splendor:

Reflections on the Encyclical Veritatis Splendor, 1995 In August of 1993 Pope John Paul II issued The Splendor of Truth The importance of the teachings in this encyclical cannot be emphasized enough Father Albert Shamon has authored this book in order to help the layman understand the content of the encyclical He summarizes the document and its teachings in everyday terms and situations Here is a book that provides examples of the facets and controversies of our current society in the light of the Holy Father's teaching **Veritatis Splendor** Michael E. Allsopp, John J. O'Keefe, 1995 Pope John Paul II's encyclical Veritatis Splendor is an historic document the first extensive analysis of the foundations of morality by a pope It stands alongside the new catechism as a major statement about Christian morality the role of reason in the moral life and the vision of life for the disciple of Jesus **The Legacy of John Paul II** Tim Perry, 2007-10-16 The papacy of John Paul II was phenomenal and not least for the fact that many evangelicals came to honor and respect him Tim Perry calls on some of the best evangelical minds to offer their assessments of the thought of John Paul II as expressed in his major encyclicals **The Making of an African Christian Ethics** Wilson Muoha Maina, 2016-07-13 An exploration of the development of a contextualized Roman Catholic moral theology in an African context is warranted in our day This book is a study of the work of Benzet Bujo an African moral theologian An analysis of Bujo's work shows the various aspects of an African Catholic moral theology Bujo's work is viewed here as critically bridging African moral theology and the development of moral theology in the Catholic Church especially in the West An African moral theology in this work builds on the elements of the renewal of moral theology after the Second Vatican Council The renewal elements reflected in Bujo's work and other African Catholic theologians include among others the use of Scripture the relevance of history the debate on moral norms the relevance of social sciences to moral discourse the theory of natural moral law and the relation between the theologian and the magisterium This work therefore locates the theology of Bujo in the development of moral theology after the Second Vatican Council The author establishes a relation between African traditional religions African history Christology natural moral law moral autonomy debate the encyclical Veritatis Splendor and political liberation theological ethics The Encyclicals of John Paul II Richard A. Spinello, 2016-12-08 Pope John Paul II was the second longest serving pope in history and the longest serving pope of the last century His presence was influential not only to Catholics but also throughout the world The Encyclicals of John Paul II is the first book to focus in depth on the pope's fourteen encyclicals through which he communicated many of the key themes of his papacy The first part of the book includes helpful background information a brief biographical sketch of John Paul II's life his intellectual formation and central theological themes of his papacy including some of the major controversies of the 20th century The first section of the book also provides invaluable background on the nature of an encyclical including the history of this papal document The second part of the book provides a thorough commentary on these encyclicals The encyclicals are grouped by theme introduced individually and analyzed to

trace broad themes through John Paul II's work and theology The Encyclicals of John Paul II provides an important discussion of these key documents from John Paul II's papacy **Man and Woman He Created Them** John Paul II, Michael Waldstein, 2019-03-01 A new critical translation of Pope John Paul II's talks on the Theology of the Body by the internationally renowned biblical scholar Michael Waldstein With meticulous scholarship and profound insight Waldstein presents John Paul II's magnificent vision of the human person Includes a preface by Cardinal Schenborn a foreword by Christopher West a comprehensive index of words and phrases a scriptural index and a reference table for other versions of the papal texts Recipient of a CPA Award *The Bible in Ethics* John W. Rogerson, Mark Daniel Carroll R., Margaret Davies, 1995-12-01 The Bible has influenced contemporary culture both positively and negatively The present volume is a collection of papers that were discussed at an international colloquium on the use of the Bible in Ethics in the Department of Biblical Studies at the University of Sheffield in April 1995 Participants came from many parts of the world and from different backgrounds and the papers reflect their varied interests and the contexts in which they work The contributors in addition to the three editors are John Barton Bruce Birch Mark Brett Mark Chapman David Clines Philip Davies Cheryl Exum Stephen Fowl Norman Gottwald John Haldane Walter Houston Sharon Ringe Christopher Rowland Lisa Sowle Cahill and Gerald West *The Legacy of John Paul II* Gerald O'Collins, Michael A. Hayes, 2008-10-30 An indispensable book on the important themes present in John Paul II's theology Pope Benedict XVI has written I consider it my essential and personal mission not so much to produce many new documents but to see to it that John Paul's documents are assimilated because they are a very rich treasure the authentic interpretation of Vatican II This volume responds to that challenge in helping readers and students to understand the important themes in John Paul II's theology which is crucial because his influence is already as great as that of almost any other Pope and his teachings and writings need to be studied carefully by Christians of all denominations John Paul II's writings were prolific covering topics as important as ethics politics theology and comparative religion as well as a number of philosophical works published before he became Pope Mary's Pope Antoine Nachev, 2000 Rooted in Scripture Tradition and Redemptoris Mater and other encyclicals this book lays the foundations for understanding the teachings of the Catholic Church concerning Mary **Faith and Reason Today** Varghese J. Manimala, 2008

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