

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ON GOOD AND EVIL ACTIONS

Theology for the Laity Course
St. Louis Bertrand Parish – Fall 2022

Fr. Michael O'Connor, O.P., S.T.D.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

- 8:30-9:00AM – Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00AM – Lecture 1: HUMAN ACTS I
- 10:00-10:15AM – Q & A
- 10:15-10:30AM – Break
- 10:30-11:30AM – Lecture 2: HUMAN ACTS II
- 11:30-11:45AM – Q & A
- 12:00PM – Mass

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- 8:30-9:00AM – Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00AM – Lecture 3: THE MORALITY OF HUMAN ACTS I
- 10:00-10:15AM – Q & A
- 10:15-10:30AM – Break
- 10:30-11:30AM – Lecture 4: THE MORALITY OF HUMAN ACTS II
- 11:30-11:45AM – Q & A
- 12:00PM – Mass

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Human Acts

- HAPPINESS IS GAINED BY ACTS
 - *"In this matter [moral theology] we shall consider first the final end of human life; and secondly those things by means of which man may advance towards this end, or stray from the path."* (Prologue to ST I-II, q. 1)
 - *"Since therefore happiness is to be gained by means of certain acts, we must in due sequence consider human acts, in order to know by what acts we may obtain happiness, and by what acts we are prevented from obtaining it."* (Prologue to ST I-II, q. 6)
- VOLUNTARY ACTIONS
 - *"Those acts are properly called human which are voluntary."* (q. 6, prologue)
 - HUMAN ACTS: proceed from a deliberate act of the will
 - ACTS OF A HUMAN: do not proceed from the deliberation of reason
 - *"Since, as Damascene states, man is said to be made to God's image, in so far as the image implies an intelligent being endowed with free-will and self-movement: now that we have treated of the exemplar, i.e., God, and of those things which came forth from the power of God in accordance with his will; **it remains for us to treat of His image, i.e., man, inasmuch as he too is the principle of his actions, as having free-will and control of his actions.**"* (Prologue to ST I-II)
 - Impediments to the Voluntary:
 - VIOLENCE – makes an act *involuntary* (not a moral act)
 - FEAR – makes an act *voluntary* in one respect and *involuntary* in another
 - DESIRE – makes an act *more voluntary*
 - IGNORANCE – can make an act *non-voluntary, involuntary, or voluntary* (depending on what man could know and should know)
- PSYCHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF HUMAN ACTION (Billuart)
 - (see handout)