

Candidacy Formation

Meeting Ten

Virtues and the Nature of Happiness

Saints: St. Margaret of Castello and St. Antoninus

Objectives

- Describe the nature of happiness (according to St. Thomas)
 - List the powers of a rational soul: the role of the intellect, the will, and reason;
 - Enumerate the “passions” and identify their goals:
 - Love and hate
 - Desire and aversion
 - Pleasure and pain
 - Hope and despair
 - Fear and daring
 - Anger
 - Define the four Cardinal Virtues and the Theological/infused Virtues
 - Compare the role of the natural Virtues and the Supernatural Virtues
 - Explain that we are moved to action through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - Understand that the Beatitudes are perfected Gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit
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Reading List

Farrell, Walter and Martin Healy, OP. *My Way of Life: the Summa Simplified for Everyone*. New York: Confraternity of the Precious Blood, 1952.

- Part IIa. Ch 1-10, pp. 155-268

Meditation on the Gospel of Beatitudes (Msgr. Charles Pope)

- Linked below module on Southern Province Formation Website

St. Margaret of Castello

- Linked below module on Southern Province Formation Website

St. Antoninus

- Linked below module on Southern Province Formation Website

Questions

My Way of Life

1. How does Thomas define happiness? (p. 156)
2. Describe the “universal good” in your own words. (p 158)
3. Why is the vision of God beyond man’s natural capacities? (p.158)
4. What does the intellect seek in attaining happiness? (p. 158-169)
5. Describe the role of the will in attaining happiness. (p. 161)
6. Thomas asserts that perfect happiness can only be attained in eternity. Why? (p. 158-159)
7. The bird may ‘select’ this tree or that tree in which to build its nest, but it will never choose NOT to build its nest. Discuss how a truly human act differs from the acts of animals. (p. 165)
8. List the “really dangerous enemies” to man’s freedom. (p. 167)
9. If the will always seeks what is good, how is it possible for one to choose something harmful to himself or herself? Is there any sense in which the will is not free? (pp. 171-172)
10. Where does man especially exercise freedom---in his selection of the end (goal) or in the selection of the means to the end? Discuss. (pp. 172-173)
11. The command to perform an action proceeds from both the intellect and will. What does each power contribute? (p. 173)
12. Review together the four important points in considering the morality of the human act. (p. 170)
13. Describe the difference between the concupiscible and the irascible passions (p. pp. 193-194)
14. Why is it important to recognize that love is the source of all the other passions? (pp. 194)
15. How does the love of friendship differ from selfish love? Is selfish love always bad? (pp. 197)
16. List the qualities of love. (pp. 199-200)
17. Define the four Cardinal Virtues and describe the function of each. (pp 236-237)
 - a. Prudence
 - b. Justice
 - c. Temperance
 - d. Fortitude
18. List the three Theological Virtues. (p 249)
19. Explain how the Theological Virtues are perfected by Charity. (p 249)
20. Why is Charity the greatest of the Virtues? (p 253)
21. What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit? How does each Gift perfect man’s actions? (p 257)
22. How are the Beatitudes perfected Gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit? (pp 259-261)

St. Margaret of Castello

1. How is Little Margaret of Castello imbued with the gifts of the Beatitudes as described by Msgr. Charles Pope?

St. Antoninus

1. How can I, like St. Antoninus, live out the life of the Beatitudes?