

De virtutibus prudentiae, fortitudinis et temperantiae - Program

I. INTRODUCTION

1. ***The attainment of the good and the human psyche.*** Freedom, reason and tendencies in eliciting a human act. Prudence, fortitude and temperance as virtues which guide or maintain the moral decision in the attainment of the chosen good.

2. ***Christian morals as morals rooted in the person.*** The dignity and the good of the person as reference points for all ethical-moral considerations. Personal morals: part of the special morals which consider the human person in so far as he is called to attain the good, ordering all his faculties, capacities and aptitudes towards that end.

II. THE VIRTUE OF PRUDENCE

3. ***The theological concept of the virtue of prudence.*** Teachings of Sacred Scriptures about prudence and wisdom; a special study of the doctrine of St. Paul. The teachings of the Fathers of the Church. The medieval theological contribution. Centrality of prudence and wisdom with regard to the understanding and progress of moral life.

4. ***Theological analysis of the virtue of prudence.*** Will, affectivity and reason in the formation and the practice of the virtue of prudence. Prudence as origin or guide of the moral virtues. Parts or divisions of the virtue of prudence. The proper acts of prudence: counsel, judgment and command. Christian prudence and the gift of counsel.

5. ***Sins against prudence.*** Imprudence: precipitation, lack of consideration, lack of constancy, and negligence. False prudence: prudence of the flesh, astuteness, fraud, and excessive concern for temporal goods.

6. ***Developing prudence.*** The reciprocal inclusion of prudence and of the other moral virtues. The convergence of personal effort, moral education, family and social environment in developing prudence. The special role of divine law and grace.

III. THE VIRTUE OF FORTITUDE

7. **The theological concept of the virtue of fortitude.** Teachings of Sacred Scriptures about fortitude. The doctrine of the Fathers of the Church. The medieval theological contribution. Present theological developments.

8. **Theological analysis of the virtue of fortitude.** Nature of the virtue of fortitude: fortitude as the pursuit of the good, overcoming difficulties. Fortitude and human maturity; fortitude and one's personality. Fortitude and the awareness of one's weaknesses: confidence in God, constitutive element of Christian fortitude. The gift of fortitude.

9. **Proper acts of the virtue of fortitude.** To undertake and sustain the effort to attain the truth and the good, the decisive steps in the practice of the virtue of fortitude. Fortitude and fear. The readiness to face martyrdom as the touchstone of the truth of Christian life.

10. **Sins against the virtue of fortitude.** Cowardice, apathy, and rash behavior.

11. **Virtues related to fortitude.** Audacity. Magnanimity: nature; relationship with munificence and humility; presumption, ambition, vainglory and pusillanimity as vices opposed to magnanimity. Patience: nature and importance; patience and anger. Fortitude and patience. Perseverance and loyalty.

IV. THE VIRTUE OF TEMPERANCE

12. **The theological concept of the virtue of temperance.** Teachings of Sacred Scriptures. The doctrine of the Fathers of the Church. Medieval theological contribution. Present theological developments.

13. **Theological analysis of the virtue of temperance.** Nature of the virtue of temperance. Interior harmony and self-mastery in the fulfillment of the person: temperance, freedom and self-mastery in relation to goods and desires. Parts of the virtue of temperance.

14. **Temperance, bodiliness and sensibility.** The value of the human body and its sensible tendencies, and the need to ordain them to the good. Sobriety. Mortification and its justification. Fasting and abstinence. Sins against temperance in relation to sensible goods: intemperance and its consequences; gluttony, drunkenness. Drug abuse as a moral and social problem. Hedonistic consumerism.

15. **Temperance and spiritual goods.** The value of the intellect, culture and all spiritual goods. Moderation in seeking those goods in relation to one's capacity and condition, situation or task. Other related virtues:

meekness, clemency, modesty, and its forms. The virtue of humility; manifestations of pride and the disordered desire for one's own excellence, contrary vice to humility.

V. THE VIRTUE OF CHASTITY

16. **The Human Person and sexuality.** The meaning of human sexuality: anthropological and theological analysis. The sexual condition of the human being and its moral implications. Teachings from Sacred Scriptures, Tradition and the Magisterium on human sexuality.

17. **The virtue of chastity.** Nature of the virtue of chastity. Chastity in the different states or conditions of life: unicity of virtue and diversity of its manifestations according to the situations of life. The language of sexuality: phenomenological and ethical analysis. Chastity and modesty.

18. **Education in the virtue of chastity.** Learning self-mastery. Natural and supernatural means for the growth of the virtue of chastity. Chastity as a grace from God. Sex education: time, manner and persons involved: sex education as education in chastity.

19. **Sins against chastity.** Essence and forms of lust. Internal and external sins. Complete and consummated sins of lust and incomplete and unconsummated sins of lust (impure acts). Moral evaluation of masturbation, homosexuality and premarital sex. Sins against matrimonial chastity: onanism, adultery, sterilization and contraceptive practices. Material cooperation with the sin of the other person. Pornography. Sexual abuse of minors.