

Note

1. Some of those who have praised this book include NARTH founder Joseph Nicolosi; John Eastman, Director of the National Organization for Marriage; Robert Royal, President of the Faith and Reason Institute; Patrick Fagan, Senior Fellow at the Family Research Council; Notre Dame Law Professor Emeritus Charles Rice; Fr. John McClosky; and Michael Novak. Two interviews are helpful for further description and commentary. First, “Why Is Gay Not Okay?,” print interview with Carl Olson appearing in *The Catholic World Report* (May 27, 2014), available at http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Item/3160/why_is_gay_not_okay.aspx. And second, an April 11, 2014, Register Radio interview with Jeanette DeMelo, available at <http://www.ncregister.com/registerradio/april-11-2014-robert-riley-magdalena-andrasevits>.

Stephen Sharkey
Alverno College

Charles E. Rice, *Right or Wrong? 40 Years inside Notre Dame*. South Bend, Ind.: St. Augustine’s Press, 2013. 434 pages.

Ed. note: The author of this review earned his law degree from Notre Dame in 1980 and has known Professor Rice since his student days at Notre Dame in the late 1970s.

Charlie Rice is one of a kind. He has had a distinguished academic career, mostly at Notre Dame Law School; he is now Professor Emeritus of Law at Notre Dame. He has been a beloved teacher and mentor to thousands of Notre Dame students since he joined the law faculty there in 1969. He has authored many scholarly books and articles. He was the long-time co-editor of the *American Journal of Jurisprudence*, perhaps the leading scholarly journal devoted to the natural law. He has been active in the political arena. He co-founded the New York Conservative Party and has served as a consultant to various government agencies. He has also been an activist, particularly on pro-life issues.

This service on behalf of the pro-life cause has taken many forms. Perhaps the most important has been his effort to clearly articulate and defend the teachings of the Catholic Church on pro-life issues. He has done so in scholarly books. But perhaps equally important have been his efforts to defend Church teaching on issues such as contraception, abortion, assisted suicide, and the death penalty in more popular venues. He has written innumerable short essays and delivered countless speeches throughout the country on these topics.

Charles E. Rice's latest book is another of his important contributions to the ongoing debates about the relationship between Catholic social teaching and the American experience. This book is a collection of essays that Rice published in the *Observer*, Notre Dame's campus newspaper. The essays began in 1970. Most of the essays were from 1992 to 2010 when Rice wrote a bi-weekly column ("Right or Wrong?") for the student paper.

The essays deal with Rice's observations on the pressing issues of the day—contraception, abortion, the death penalty, just war, the nature of a Catholic university and Notre Dame's own record as the most prominent Catholic university in the United States, homosexuality, and same-sex marriage. The essays also frequently touch on issues particular to Notre Dame. There are, for example, frequent items on the Bengal Bouts—a boxing tournament at Notre Dame that has raised money to support the Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh for over eighty years.

For the most part, these essays represent Rice's effort to present to the readers of the Notre Dame student newspaper the teachings of the Catholic Church on these issues. The essays are written in Rice's distinctive style and marked with his characteristic humor. But Rice would be the first to admit that he is not setting forth his own personal views. He tries to set forth clearly, with frequent references to key papal documents, the teachings of the Catholic Church on these issues. But as he takes pains to note, these teachings are not idiosyncratic sectarian views. They reflect the natural law, which is accessible to all. I am sure that these columns offered a real Catholic education to the students at Notre Dame who might not have heard the Church's perspective defended in their classes or in the University community.

Rice doesn't shy away from controversy. He doesn't subscribe to the religion of political correctness. In fact, his column in the Notre Dame student newspaper ended in 2010 when the student editors objected to one of his columns dealing with homosexuality. The editors refused to publish his column, which simply presented the Church's teaching on homosexuality in a straightforward manner. The editors also required that any future columns on homosexuality by Professor Rice would have to be published in a point/counterpoint format so that opposing (i.e., dissenting) views would get equal time. Professor Rice understandably refused to continue his column under those conditions.

A reading of this book makes it clear that Professor Rice is a loyal son of the Church who has courageously defended and advanced Church teaching. Professor Rice didn't seek prestige in broader academic circles. He set forth unfashionable truths that would surely not earn him plaudits

from the secular academy. (Interestingly, and perhaps tellingly, Rice has never been recognized at Notre Dame with a chaired professorship.)

Many owe Professor Rice a great debt of gratitude. That is certainly true of his students and those at Notre Dame who read his columns or who have heard him defend the truth on so many issues over so many years. This book provides a glimpse of those efforts and of Professor Rice's personal qualities that have made him such a valued friend and mentor to many.

This book is well worth a read as a window on some of the controversies that the Church in the United States has faced over the last forty years. The essays, even those that are decades old, have a surprising freshness. The issues that we faced in 1970 are the same ones we face today. The Church's answers—which he sets forth with great clarity—are all the more needed. Also needed are his frequent requests for prayers and for Eucharistic Adoration. But more importantly the book helps the reader to learn more about a great Catholic who has served the Church with distinction for so long.

Richard S. Myers
Ave Maria Law School

Philip A. Rolnick, *Person, Grace, and God*, in the series *Sacra Doctrina: Christian Theology for a Postmodern Age*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2007. 270 pages.

Throughout this fine book, Prof. Rolnick captures well the twin “poles” of the human person: a uniqueness that is incommunicable, and a relationality that is no mere extrinsic addition to the person. These twin poles of the human person are grounded in the Trinity, in whose image human persons are made, for there we see “the divine pattern of movement toward the other as gift of one’s own self” (7). For this reader, Rolnick’s book unraveled with great erudition the three great anthropological claims of Vatican II’s *Gaudium et Spes*: that God created human persons for their own sake, that Christ reveals man to himself, and that we only find ourselves in the total gift of self.

Parts I and III of the book, taken together, fully immerse the reader into the Trinity/person connection. Part I adeptly shows how the very etymological and historical roots of “person” are found in the Trinitarian and Christological struggles of early Christianity. This is a fascinating development, for the early church “was not looking for the treasure they