

Andrew V. Abela and Joseph E. Capizzi (editors), *A Catechism for Business: Tough Ethical Questions & Insights from Catholic Teaching*. The Catholic University of America Press, 2014.

A Catechism for Business is a welcome compendium of magisterial teaching on topics relevant to business managers and leaders. The volume, edited by two professors from the Catholic University of America, is written to combat an increasingly noticeable decline in ethical decision-making. The book's intended audience is the busy executive, manager or employee who is grappling with a specific moral decision.

The format of the book consists of 114 questions with each followed by excerpts from relevant ecclesial documents. Written to serve as a reference guide, the questions touch on a wide-ranging set of topics spread out over eight chapters: General Questions, Finance and Investing, Management, Marketing and Sales, Manufacturing, International Business, Morally Sensitive Industries, and Conclusions. In addition to the contentious issues the media continuously reports on (such as health care) the editors include other topics such as offshoring, advertising to children, and tax avoidance.

The first set of questions addresses foundational concepts of Catholic social teaching including the right to private property, economic systems and human flourishing, and the role of government. Starting in the second chapter the book delves into specific questions such as “are there any moral considerations when deciding whether to focus on shorter- or longer-term issues in finance?” and “is there anything wrong with laying off people and replacing them with technology, if this will improve product quality and profits?”

The editors cite an extensive variety of writings: encyclicals, conciliar documents, papal messages and addresses, publications from papal councils and academies, among others. By providing comprehensive excerpts from the relevant documents, a conscious effort was made to allow the Church to speak for itself. The editors insert occasional brief notes to clarify some items but they are kept to a minimum.

Perhaps the most unique contribution of *A Catechism for Business* is the editors' introductory comments. They encourage the reader to form a proper conscience through prayerful reflection on the Church documents. They offer a five-step process to using the book. These include finding a question most connected to the moral dilemma at hand, reading the excerpts, prayerfully meditating upon the selection, reading the document more extensively if necessary, and applying the moral principles to the

dilemma. The message of this book is that ethics and social responsibility are not simply a matter of crafting an ethics policy statement but involve a continual change of heart.

The book assumes the reader has some familiarity with the Church's magisterial documents. In using the book one gets a sense that it could have broader appeal. In particular, more needs to be done to help guide those unacquainted with the Church's teachings as they read the documents. This book would serve as an excellent foundation for a seminar with a competent facilitator providing such guidance. Another opportunity to make the book more valuable is to extend the five steps to include consulting with an appropriately knowledgeable and trusted colleague or priest. Wrestling with these moral principles with another person can offer even greater clarity for the decision-maker.

A Catechism for Business is a reference book that every Catholic would benefit from, whether or not they work for a business. Those employed by government or a nonprofit, or even those who are in school, will find a rich treasury in this volume.

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Jorge Mario Bergoglio (Pope Francis), *Education for Choosing Life: Proposals for Difficult Times*. Trans. Deborah Cole. Ignatius Press, 2014. (First published as *Educuar, Elegir la Vida: Propuestas para tiempos dificiles*, Editorial Claretian, 2005.)

When I was very young, and a lover of maps, I used to be fascinated whenever I viewed the fabled land of Argentina, a country that seemed to stretch almost to the South Pole. Later, I was to learn how that richly endowed portion of Latin America was inhabited by a remarkably gifted people, a number of whom have made significant contributions to the arts and sciences of the modern world.

And yet, the political and social life of Argentina has, sadly, often been overshadowed by a checkered history, full of lights and shadows. This, despite the fact that, in that broad land, there have been, at all times, men and women of vision, who attempted to remind their countrymen of the way to preserve national honor and undertake great achievements.

In no area of endeavor have Argentina's sons and daughters shone brighter than in the field of education, with the result that its literacy rate