

Paulinus Ikechukwu Odozor C.S.Sp. *Moral Theology in an Age of Renewal – A Study of the Catholic Tradition since Vatican II*. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, September, 2003, xi + 412 pages.

Paulinus Ikechukwu Odozor demonstrates in this book a firm grasp of the foundational issues of the Catholic moral tradition; he displays competence, ability and especially openness to converse or argue with diverse experts in the field including the magisterium of the Catholic Church.

Odozor narrates in a style accessible to both specialists and the general reader the enormous impact of Vatican II on the Catholic moral tradition, and especially the positioning of *Humanae Vitae* as watershed in the overall development of postconciliar Roman Catholic moral theological discourse.

This book has the fundamental merit of underlining the shared good that is the energy behind Catholic moral theological discourse, a shared good that in the Post-Vatican II era is best expressed in Thomistic-Aristotelian language.

This book is well written, synthetic, courageous, clear, careful and even cautious in its style of argument, but altogether thought provoking giving the reader the feel of being participant in a fair discussion of the Catholic moral tradition.

The author competently navigates through the minefield of official Church teaching, especially *Humanae Vitae*, and discusses with aplomb autonomous and faith ethics, biblical hermeneutics, Thomistic-Aristotelian ethics, feminist ethical discourse, and the positions of conservative Catholic moralists as well as those of revisionists or proportionalists. Agreeing and disagreeing, but always optimistically leading discussants to admit that diversity or difference testifies to fundamental strength of shared values and the pertinence of the one Catholic moral tradition.

This second major book of Odozor, who hails from Nigeria in West Africa, prepares him for the book everyone will be expecting: a book that will draw from the profound and complex West African

moral imagination to address in fresh terms the foundational issues in Catholic moral theology.

Flowing and captivating style; one does not drop this stimulating book without finishing a chapter, nay without finishing a section.

Elochukwu E. Uzukwu c.s.sp.

KMI – Institute of Theology and Cultures, Dublin, Ireland.

Institut Catholique de Paris, France.