

A Study Of Amoris Laetitia Chapter 4

2021 Association of Catholic Publishers first place award in theology 2021 Catholic Media Association Award first place award in marriage and family living Six years into the papacy of Pope Francis, Catholics are still figuring out how to respond to his image of the church as a field hospital—a church that goes into the streets rather than remaining locked up behind closed doors. Marriage and family are primary sites of the field hospital, called to meet people's need for healing and accompaniment with compassion and love. The authors of this collection—all lay, a mix of single and married, traditional and progressive Catholics—take up this work. They offer practical wisdom from and critical engagement with the Catholic tradition but avoid rehashing decades-old theological debates. Instead, their essays engage with and respond to realities shaping contemporary family life, like religious pluralism, technology, migration, racism, sex and gender, incarceration, consumerism, and the call to holiness. The result is a collection that envisions ways that families can be places of healing and love in and for the world. List of contributors: Jennifer Beste Megan K. McCabe Elizabeth Antus Kathryn Lilla Cox Kent Lasnoski Hoon Choi Cristina L. H. Traina Craig A. Ford Jr. Bridget Burke Ravizza Julie Donovan Massey Emily Reimer-Barry Richard Gaillardetz Timothy O'Malley Sandra Sullivan-Dunbar Kathryn Getek-Solis Kari-Shane Davis Zimmerman Jana Marguerite Bennett

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Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation: The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia) brings together the results of the two Synods on the Family convoked by Pope Francis in 2014 and 2015. The Apostolic Exhortation is appreciated as an aid to reflection, dialogue and pa

In his post-synodal exhortation Amoris laetitia, Pope Francis calls upon the church to "make room for the consciences of the faithful, who very often respond as best they can to the Gospel amid their limitations, and are capable of carrying out their own discernment in complex situations." Respect for personal conscience and pastoral discernment should also guide the church's theological stance and pastoral attitude toward contemporary forms of living together, especially those that do not conform to the ideal of exclusive and lifelong marriage. This volume explores the implications of this vision, with particular regard to the divorced and remarried. (Series: INTAMS Studies on Marriage and Family / INTAMS-Studien zu Ehe und Familie, Vol. 2) [Subject: Catholic Studies, Marriage & Family]

The Eucharist: Mystery of Presence, Sacrifice, and Communion explores the three ends of the Sacrament of Sacraments: God's true presence, His redemptive sacrifice, and spiritual nourishment through communion with Him. In this follow-up to his groundbreaking work, Faith Comes From What Is Heard, Lawrence Feingold constructs a biblical vision of the Eucharist from its

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prefiguration in the Old Testament to its fulfillment in the New and presents the Eucharistic theology of the Church Fathers, St. Thomas Aquinas, and magisterial teaching from centuries past through today. The Eucharist is a masterful text, both challenging and spiritually rich, that comprehensively examines the unspeakable mystery that is the Eucharist.

Pope Francis signaled early on that he wanted the church to re-examine its ministry to those who feel excluded, calling bishops to two synod meetings on the family in 2014 and 2015. Because of his intentions for reforms within the Church, Francis' book "Amoris Laetitia" (arguably the most anticipated document of 2016 from the Catholic Church) is a broad-ranging blend of familiar manners, passages bemoaning the frenetic loneliness of modern life. Michael, under immense request from his readers and followers, has once again simplified and explained this life-changing document of the Pope in an extremely unique and professional manner that even a layman could quickly grasp and indeed understand. In addition to Michael's explanatory attributes, he also emphasizes on the new path in which the document will henceforth take the Catholic Church and ways in which it will influence the divorced, gays, married families, children, politicians and indeed the world at large. An intense study of the book will review to everyone how Pope Francis has impacted the world at large and indeed how he has changed the Church as we know it.

The Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia has given rise to different interpretations. Any in-depth study of its

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theological conclusions will undoubtedly require time and patience. What cannot wait, however, is attending to the practical questions it has raised. After all, no one can abstain from acting: priests hearing confessions, bishops who need to give guidelines on pastoral activity to their priests, and families working in the field of pastoral care. *Accompanying, Discerning, Integrating: A Handbook for the Pastoral Care of the Family According to Amoris Laetitia* is intended to offer sure practical guidelines on this important matter of the Church's pastoral activity. How should we understand the relationship between Christian ethics and religious ethics? Among comparative, ethnographic, and normative methodologies? Between confessional and non-confessional orientations, or between theology and philosophy? This volume brings together emerging religious ethicists to engage the normative dimensions of Christian ethics. Focusing on scripture, tradition, and reason, the contributors to this volume argue for a vision of Christian ethics as religious ethics. Toward this end, they engage with scripture, interpretation, and religious practice; examine the putative divide between reason and tradition, autonomy and heteronomy; and offer proposals about the normative characterization of conceptual and practical issues in contemporary religious ethics. Collectively, the volume engages Christian thought to make an argument for the continuing relevance of normative methodologies in contemporary religious and theological ethics.

When Pope Francis' pontificate has passed, it's very likely that one of the nineteen cardinals featured in these

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pages will be elected to become the next Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church, the spiritual leader of over a billion Catholics and the most influential and widely respected moral and religious figure in the world. Yet outside the Vatican walls, despite the considerable roles that some of these men play in the Church and in the world, few of them are known by the public — or even by their brother cardinals. Hence this book, an engrossing and thoroughly documented instrument through which a future pope may be known in that sphere that matters most: his life and service, first as a priest, and then as a bishop. Written by the National Catholic Register's longtime Rome correspondent, Edward Pentin, in collaboration with an international team of qualified scholars, these encyclopaedic pages present you with the fruit of years of research. Each cardinal profile begins with a brief biography that sketches the major points of his ecclesiastical life. Then comes a detailed, richly footnoted report and assessment of his three fundamental roles as a successor to the apostles: his sanctifying role as a priest, his governing role as a bishop, and his prophetic role as a teacher. As an important bonus, these pages also carefully document many of the candidates' published views on moral and theological issues currently debated in the Church and in the public arena, as such views often reveal most efficiently the individual's true character and deepest held beliefs. Finally, each profile concludes with a summary, recapitulating the main points brought to light by the thorough research, giving readers and tomorrow's cardinal electors a fair and accurate picture of the man

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who may soon become The Next Pope.

Pope Francis takes a pastoral approach to the family in this long-awaited exhortation. This is an important document that will guide the Church for years to come in its care and attention to the family in all its dimensions. A study guide is included so it can be used for small-group discussion and reflection. Or read it together as a family!

In 1962, Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council with the prophecy that 'a new day is dawning on the Church, bathing her in radiant splendour'. Desiring 'to impart an ever increasing vigour to the Christian life of the faithful', the Council Fathers devoted particular attention to the laity, and set in motion a series of sweeping reforms. The most significant of these centred on refashioning the Church's liturgy--'the source and summit of the Christian life'--in order to make 'it pastorally efficacious to the fullest degree'. Over fifty years on, however, the statistics speak for themselves. In America, only 15% of cradle Catholics say that they attend Mass on a weekly basis; meanwhile, 35% no longer even tick the 'Catholic box' on surveys. In Britain, the signs are direr still. Of those raised Catholic, just 13% still attend Mass weekly, and 37% say they have 'no religion'. But is this all the fault of Vatican II, and its runaway reforms? Or are wider social, cultural, and moral forces primarily to blame? Catholicism is not the only Christian group to have

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suffered serious declines since the 1960s. If anything Catholics exhibit higher church attendance, and better retention, than most Protestant churches do. If Vatican II is not the cause of Catholicism's crisis, might it instead be the secret to its comparative success? Mass Exodus is the first serious historical and sociological study of Catholic lapsation and disaffiliation. Drawing on a wide range of theological, historical, and sociological sources, Stephen Bullivant offers a comparative study of secularization across two famously contrasting religious cultures: Britain and the USA.

Given the Catholic Church's complex history concerning divorce and remarriage, it's not surprising that the promulgation of Amoris Laetitia in 2016 caused such a stir among the laity, the press, some theologians, and even some bishops. This book endeavors to introduce concepts and contexts for understanding the document in a new light, explain what the rule of law actually means, and hopefully open a door to further discussion among theologians and clergy whose critical comments have so often missed the point of Francis's apostolic exhortation.

The available literature on the new evangelization is wide-ranging and focused on issues of ecclesial renewal. In *The Truth Will Make You Free*, Fr. Robert Leavitt adopts a different approach to the subject. From Paul VI until Pope Francis, the nature

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and challenges of modern secularism have become a recurring factor in the agenda of the new evangelization, yet often without historical perspective and philosophical balance. Few popular works bother to examine in such depth and scope, as this book does, what the history, nature, and implications of the secular age are for revitalizing ministry in an age of optional belief. Written for the interested layperson, seminarian, theology student, and pastor, *The Truth Will Make You Free* is an indispensable catechism for rethinking our understanding of the secular world in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ.

A call to reform Catholic health care ethics, inspired by the teachings of Pope Francis

The Apostolic Exhortation is striking for its breadth and detail. Its 325 paragraphs are distributed over nine chapters. The seven introductory paragraphs plainly set out the complexity of a topic in urgent need of thorough study. The interventions of the Synod Fathers make up [form] a "multifaceted gem" a precious polyhedron, whose value must be preserved. But the Pope cautions that "not all discussions of doctrinal, moral or pastoral issues need to be settled by interventions of the magisterium." Indeed, for some questions, "each country or region ... can seek solutions better suited to its culture and sensitive to its traditions and local needs. For 'cultures are in fact quite diverse and

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every general principle ... needs to be inculturated, if it is to be respected and applied'." This principle of inculturation applies to how problems are formulated and addressed and, apart from the dogmatic issues that have been well defined by the Church's magisterium, none of this approach can be "globalised." In his address at the end of the 2015 Synod, the Pope said very clearly: "What seems normal for a bishop on one continent, is considered strange and almost scandalous - almost! - for a bishop from another; what is considered a violation of a right in one society is an evident and inviolable rule in another; what for some is freedom of conscience is for others simply confusion." The Pope clearly states that we need above all to avoid a sterile juxtaposition of demands for change and the general application of abstract norms. He writes: "The debates carried on in the media, in certain publications and even among the Church's ministers, range from an immoderate desire for total change without sufficient reflection or grounding, to an attitude that would solve everything by applying general rules or deriving undue conclusions from particular theological considerations."

A Discerning Church presents a theological model for these changing times. It examines the thought of Bernard Lonergan and offers an assessment of the significance of Pope Francis and the church since the Second Vatican Council. It then explores major

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insights and issues such as ecclesial reform, globalization, and sexuality, that will impact the future of the church.

Essays by distinguished bishops and theologians that not only introduce readers to the theological depth found in Amoris Laetitia, but consider the full document, including its reception in the multicultural and diverse environment that characterizes the church in the United States and the full range of challenges and issues related to marriage and family life.

Fratelli Tutti sets out the pope's vision for a postpandemic world. This study edition helps readers pray with the text, reflect on it and look for connections with the canon of Catholic social teaching, and ultimately leads us toward action that builds "communities of belonging and solidarity." Amoris laetitia calls on the Church to minister in a different way to families. In this document, Pope Francis offers a new vision of pastoral care that insists that the Church has a mission to accompany, discern, and integrate families into the Body of Christ, no matter the challenges in their lives. In A New Vision of Family Life: A Reflection on Amoris laetitia, Fr. Louis J. Cameli helps pastoral staff understand how they can support families as they accompany them through difficulties, aid them in discerning their conscience, and integrate them into the parish community. The author shows that such

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support is vital if the Church is to form families as disciples. Fr. Cameli shows pastoral staff that they can help families see how God works in their lives, understand their experience in light of the Gospel, hear how God is calling them to conversion, and carry their conversion to a world in need. The book situates marriage and family life as a central focus for transformation in the Christian life. Questions at the end of each chapter help the reader reflect on how parishes can implement the vision in Amoris laetitia.

RSSSR 30 includes an empirical study of attachment and another on daily spiritual practices, as well as two special sections which explore the social scientific study of religion in Indonesia and what has become widely known as the Pope Francis effect in contemporary Catholicism.

In this wide-ranging conversation with the Italian journalist Luigi Geninazzi, Cardinal Angelo Scola discusses both the salient moments of his own life and the path and situation of the Church and society in Europe over the last half-century. The Cardinal recounts his life, speaking of the extraordinary gift of particular friendships he has had, starting with Luigi Giussani, founder of the ecclesial movement Communion and Liberation (CL), and moving on to discuss Hans Urs von Balthasar, Henri De Lubac, and Joseph Ratzinger. A figure who bridges the past three pontificates, Scola discusses his relationships

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with St. John Paul II, by whom he was nominated a bishop at the relatively young age of forty nine; Benedict XVI, with whom he has had an intense intellectual friendship for decades; and Pope Francis, of whom he speaks with affection and hope. At the center of this rich fresco of anecdotes and reflections stands a crucial question: what is the true path of the Church today? Between those who reduce Christianity to a mere civil religion and those who propose a purist return to the Gospel, the cardinal indicates a third way by betting on the freedom of the human person to recognize the supreme value of Christ. This is at the same time a bet on the active commitment of believers to contribute, starting from faith, to the birth of a new Europe, inevitably more diverse but no loss of its identity.

Partners develop and change during their shared path through life. Some things abide, while others are subject to change. Precisely because not everything remains as it was at the beginning, changes can also be understood as creative possibilities for common growth. This book seeks to show how married couples are challenged to give each other support, and also to help each other in this process of growth. In this Album amicorum, three thematic areas are taken up. These constitute the basis of five decades of shared life, and the wisdom of marital love finds expression in them:

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theology and spirituality, questions about bioethics, and the Jewish-Christian dialogue. Aldegonde Brenninkmeijer-Werhahn is the founder and director of the International Academy for Marital Spirituality (INTAMS), founded in 1989 in Brussels. Together with her husband, Hubert Brenninkmeijer, she also founded the Centre for the Study of Christianity at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2000), and the Cardinal Bea Center for Judaic Studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome (2001).

(Series: Symposion-Towards for an Interdisciplinary Understanding / Symposion-Anst  nde zur interdisziplin  ren Verst  ndigung, Vol. 15)

[Subject: Religious Studies]

This book features essays engaging in the wide-ranging work of Yiu Sing L  cas Chan, S.J., the fields of scriptural research, moral theology, and systematic theology. Each essay either engages Chan's scholarship directly or seeks to advance his design to bridge the disciplinary gaps between scriptural research and constructive theology.

Given that Pope Francis is a popular global religious leader, and in the light of the lessons drawn from the nature, meaning, and functions of Israel's prophets, this tripartite work historically, pastorally, and theologically examines whether, and how Francis' teaching, visits, outreach to the poor, preaching, and recent biblically based writings (*Lumen Fidei*, *Evangelii Gaudium*, *Amoris Laetitia*, *Laudato Si'*,

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Gaudete et Exsultate, Letters, and Messages) have had any prophetic effects or impact on contemporary society.

"A critical analysis of the Catholic Churches around the world by areas (North America, Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Europe), with attention to their origins, internal challenges, and external pressures"--

Five years since the apostolic exhortation on love in the family – Amoris Laetitia – first appeared, it has lost none of its relevance and urgency. For Pope Francis this anniversary offers “an opportunity to focus more closely on the contents of the document”. In an open and frank dialogue, the authors of this book accept the challenge to explore and develop insights and paths for theological ethics, pastoral theology and ministry, counseling, education and spirituality as drawn out in the exhortation. They focus particularly on the conjugal covenant as a “unique love of friendship” and as the basis for family life, one where the upbringing of children is geared to “growing in love”. From this perspective, topics such as responsible parenthood, indissolubility, separation and divorce receive rightful consideration. Other intimate relationships and modes of living together are discussed critically and qualitatively. Inspired by the “logic of mercy and discernment” in Amoris Laetitia, stepping stones for a pastoral ethics of growth towards “enduring love”, that do not circumvent the differences with marriage, are laid down. This book arose out of numerous and extensive conversations between bishop Johan Bonny, professor

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Roger Burggraeve SDB and journalist Ilse Van Halst. Sprung out of dialogue, it desires to continue the dialogue and process of discernment. It invites to participate all who are involved in theological ethics and pastoral theology, sexuality and family studies, religious education and youth catechesis, marriage and family life ministry, couple therapy, training programs for parents on love and sex education, support groups for separated and divorced... and all those in Church and society looking for sustainable love.

The Apostolic Exhortation is striking for its breadth and detail. Its 325 paragraphs are distributed over nine chapters. The seven introductory paragraphs plainly set out the complexity of a topic in urgent need of thorough study. The interventions of the Synod Fathers make up a "multifaceted gem" , a precious polyhedron, whose value must be preserved. But the Pope cautions that "not all discussions of doctrinal, moral or pastoral issues need to be settled by interventions of the magisterium". Indeed, for some questions, "each country or region ... can seek solutions better suited to its culture and sensitive to its traditions and local needs. For 'cultures are in fact quite diverse and every general principle ... needs to be inculturated, if it is to be respected and applied'. This principle of inculturation applies to how problems are formulated and addressed and, apart from the dogmatic issues that have been well defined by the Church's magisterium, none of this approach can be "globalized". In his address at the end of the 2015 Synod, the Pope said very clearly: The Pope clearly states that we need above all to avoid a sterile juxtaposition between

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Introduction A Peek at Renewal in Contemporary Moral Theology: The Pinckaers Symposium William C. Mattison, III and Matthew Levering Moral Theology in Service of the Work of the Spirit: Synthesizing Pinckaers and Pope Francis Against Moralities of Obligation David Cloutier Irregular Unions and Moral Growth in Amoris Laetitia David Elliot Instinctus and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Explaining the Development in St. Thomas's Teaching on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit James W. Stroud Aquinas on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit as the Delight of the Christian Life Fr. Anton ten Klooster A New Look at the Last End: Noun and Verb, Determinate Yet Capable of Growth William C. Mattison III The Virtue of Equity and the Contemporary World Elisabeth Rain Kincaid Pinckaers and Häring on Conscience Matthew Levering Quaestiones Disputatae de Pinckaers Tom Angier In Hermeneutics of Doctrine in a Learning Church, Gregory Ryan offers an account of the dynamic, multi-dimensional task of interpreting Christian tradition, with reference to doctrinal hermeneutics, Receptive Ecumenism, and the 'pastorality of doctrine' seen in Pope Francis.

The focus of my thesis is on the indissolubility of

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sacramental marriage in light of Pope Francis' changes to canon law in his *motu proprio*, *Amoris Laetitia*, and the 2014 and 2015 Synod on the Family. I proceed through a close reading of the primary texts related to marriage, namely, the midterm and final reports on the Synod of the Family and Pope Francis' *Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus*, *Mitis et Misericors Iesus*, and *Amoris Laetitia*. In addition to these primary texts, my study draws on relevant, scholarly works on Francis and his initiatives. Each of the primary texts provide unique developments to the teaching and practice of the Catholic Church and ought to be understood in light of the predominant themes of Francis' papacy, particularly mercy and accompaniment. I will present these ecclesial developments as consistent with and advancing the spirit of the traditions of the Catholic Church. I will also argue that these primary sources serve as a way to move past polarization and find common ground in terms of the different understandings of marriage today. The paper begins with an investigation of the history of the indissolubility of marriage in order to understand how this concept has evolved and where there may be room for further development. I then briefly discuss the Synod on the Family and its documents, and this provides the context for understanding the foundation on which *Amoris Laetitia* was developed. Next, the changes Pope Francis made to the annulment process through the *motu proprio* are analyzed to determine how they contribute to the way the Church cares for people in "irregular" situations. In doing so, I hope to shed more light on the subject of canon law as inherently related to theology

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and pastoral care. My thesis also seeks to understand why and how the Catholic Church can reconcile the statement that "divorce is an evil and the increasing number of divorces is very troubling" with the streamlined changes made by Francis in the annulment process. The thesis concludes with an analysis of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, which provides the final explanation of marital indissolubility. The goal of this thesis is to contribute my own assessment of the doctrine of the indissoluble bond of marriage as a necessary teaching that deserves further exploration and to suggest that the changes made by Pope Francis are done in the spirit of developing the Church's efforts in ministering to her people. Through critically evaluating the traditional notion of marriage on which the Catholic Church relies, we arrive at a place where dialogue can take place. This is the climate Pope Francis is seeking to foster for the Church, and this thesis aims to defend the legitimacy of his perspective.

A practical guide to understanding and implementing *Amoris Laetitia*. The pastoral implications of this document will be of interest to church professionals. Ten years after over half a million Christians signed their names to a statement of conscience clarifying where they stood, the three issues dealt with in the Manhattan Declaration are of more cultural importance than ever. The main difference now, as opposed to then, is the state has since claimed authority, not only over life, but also over marriage and religious liberty. In *Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty*, Christian scholars and authors—writing from various Evangelical, Protestant,

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Orthodox, and Catholic traditions—evaluate the current cultural landscape and update the Manhattan Declaration call to Christian conviction.

The publication of Pope Francis' post-synodal apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* started the most important theological debate in the Catholic Church since the end of the Second Vatican Council. The cardinals, bishops, theologians, priests, lay Catholics found themselves on the opposite sides of this crucial and complicated discussion. This book attempts to shed some light on this debate by tracing its genealogy. Since *Amoris Laetitia* is a post-synodal document, the large part of the book is devoted to the theological analysis of the two Synods of Bishops convoked by Pope Francis in the first years of his pontificate: the extraordinary in October 2014 and the ordinary that took place a year later. The main topics for the two synods were determined, however, in the speech given by Cardinal Walter Kasper during the cardinals consistory in February 2014 whose main aim was to prepare the possibility of admitting divorced persons who live in second unions to Holy Communion. The arguments of Cardinal Kasper are presented in the first chapter of the book and confronted with the most significant statements of the Magisterium of the Church on the issue of admittance to the Holy Communion. This book is a study at the intersection of Church history, the history of theology, and systematic theology: dogmatic and moral. Kupczak is interested in the chronology of the events connected to the two synods on the family but in the context of theological problems discussed therein: the theological significance of contemporary cultural

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changes; the relation of the Church to the world; the understanding of the indissolubility of the sacramental marriage and the Eucharist; the methods of ethically assessing human acts, particularly the concept of so-called intrinsically evil acts (*intrinsece malum*); and the relation of conscience to the general moral norm. The non-partisan ambition of this book is to serve as a “road map”— a help in navigation for the reader in the complicated discussions leading to publication of *Amoris Laetitia*. The uniqueness of this book consists in combining the historical analysis of the events leading to the publication of *Amoris Laetitia* with research of the theological discussion that ensued. Since *Amoris Laetitia* is a post-synodal exhortation, this book rests on the assumption that crucial for its understanding is a thorough analysis of its genealogy. Only in the light of this historical and theological perspective the debates surrounding *Amoris Laetitia* may be understood.

An in-depth study of the history and theology of the Eucharist as primarily a celebration of forgiveness rather than as a tool for exclusion and the ethical consequences that arise from such a study.

This well-researched book explains why the Catholic Church continues to teach marital indissolubility and addresses the numerous contemporary challenges to that teaching. It surveys the patristic witness to marital indissolubility, along with Orthodox and Protestant views, as well as historical-critical biblical exegesis on the contested biblical passages. It also surveys the Catholic tradition from the Trent through Benedict XVI, and it examines a Catholic argument that the Catholic Church's teaching can and should change. Then it explores *Amoris Laetitia*, the papal exhortation from Pope

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Francis on marriage, and the various major responses to it, with the issue of marital indissolubility at the forefront. Finally, it retrieves Aquinas's theology of marital indissolubility as a contribution to deepening current theological discussions. The author argues that Amoris Laetitia upholds the traditional Catholic teaching that a valid and consummated Christian marriage is absolutely indissoluble, in accord with the teachings of Jesus and the Apostle Paul, as solemnly and authoritatively taught by the Council of Trent and affirmed by later popes and the Second Vatican Council. He says that Amoris Laetitia should be interpreted and implemented in light of the doctrine of marital indissolubility: implementations that undermine this doctrine should be avoided. Levering says that numerous contemporary Catholic theologians and biblical scholars are mistakenly turning the indissolubility of marriage into contingent dissolubility based upon whether the spouses continue to act in loving ways toward each other. The sacrament's gift of objective indissolubility is thereby undermined. Fortunately, the main interpreters of Amoris Laetitia, whose views have been approved by Pope Francis, insist that the Apostolic Exhortation does not change the doctrine of marital indissolubility in any way.

New Wine, New Wineskins: Perspectives of Young Moral Theologians Edited by Conor Hill, Kent Lasnoski, Matthew Sherman, John Sikorski and Matthew Whelan Is New Wine, New Wineskins Still New? Reflecting on Wineskins after Seventeen Years Conor Hill, Kent Lasnoski, Matthew Sherman, John Sikorski and Matthew Whelan Before the Eucharist, a Familial Morality Arises Matthew Sherman The Works of Mercy: Francis and the Family Kevin Schemenauer Mercy Is A Person: Pope Francis and the Christological Turn in Moral Theology Alessandro Rovati Morality, Human Nature, and the Sacred Heart of Jesus Joshua Evans Living the Mystery: Doctrine, Intellectual Disability, and Christian

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Imagination Medi Ann Volpe Towards a Conjugal Spirituality: Karol Wojtyla's Vision of Marriage Before, During, and After Vatican II John Sikorski The Principle of Double Effect within Catholic Moral Theology: A Response to Two Criticisms of the Principle in Relation to Palliative Sedation Gina Maria Noia Is Aquinas's Envy Pagan? Sheryl Overmyer Resisting the Less Important: Aquinas on Modesty John-Mark Miravalle Agere Contra: An "Ignatian Option" for Engagement with American Society and Culture Benjamin T. Peters Human or Person? On the Burial of Aborted Children Justin Menno Jesus is the Jubilee: A Theological Reflection on the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace's Toward a Better Distribution of Land: The Challenge of Agrarian Reform Matthew Philipp Whelan Laudato Si' on Non-Human Animals Anatoly Angelo R. Aseneta

There is no papal document that has generated as much interest, controversy, and debate in recent times as Pope Francis's *Amoris Laetitia*. This document, which came out of two very divisive synods of Catholic bishops and leaders in Rome in 2014 and 2015, will probably be the most discussed document ever produced by a pope in modern Catholicism on marriage and family life. This volume has gathered seminal commentaries on *Amoris Laetitia* by African Catholic theologians, social scientists, and pastoral workers. They offer African theological and pastoral responses to the principles and practices proposed by Pope Francis and the Synod on the family on such contested issues as same-sex relations, divorce and remarriage, and reception and denial of Holy Communion in the church, among other divisive issues. These important essays and commentaries show the strengths and weaknesses of this papal commentary and point out the missing link in the global conversation on marriage, family, and same-sex relations. Their argument for the inclusion of African perspectives and moral traditions in

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the search for a third way in finding an inclusive and integrated pastoral art of accompaniment is very compelling. The authors here also call for the inclusion of Africa's own unique challenges—like polygamy, childless marriages, and the impact of migration, civil conflict, diseases, ecological and population crises, and the rights of African women—in the global discussion on marriage and family life. They also challenge uncritical clichés in world Christianity that Africa's opposition to same-sex marriages (or Western propaganda about population or birth control and contraception) are conservative, while showing diverse African conversations on these topics in the search for abundant life on this beautiful continent.

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