**Moral Vision**

Student’s Name

Professor’s Name

Course Title

Date

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**CHAPTER 1**

1. **Are we responsible for our moral vision?**

Nichomachean ethics cites that man aims to do good things to achieve happiness. Aristotle also cites that many people do the wrong thing because they have a wrong understanding of what is good. Therefore, an individual's moral vision can be determined by a summation of all their actions good and bad. According to McCarthy, Donohue & Mattison (2018), “Our point is that the description of what happened- the responsibility of seeing what is going on- is in itself a moral task”. McCarthy et al. (2018) assert that the way we see things influences our actions and ultimately our view on good and bad. Therefore, individuals are responsible for how they see things. They justify individual responsibility through their demonstration of seeing that as a moral task. That is, whenever we are faced with a circumstance, it is our responsibility to ask the right questions to fully understand our moral vision.

Particularly, Aristotle expands on this topic through a discussion on deliberation and choice. The process of deliberation and choice yield actions that are either voluntary or involuntary. Aristotle uses the terms voluntary and involuntary to describe how people are motivated in a moment of action. An action is voluntary if an individual does it willingly, because at the time of action, they had a choice. In an instance when a person is forced to act, any gains at the end of it, received in return for the act, make it voluntary. A person has a choice every time he or she is faced with a circumstance that requires decision making, therefore, virtues need to be considered. In this case, virtue refers to the good values as well as vices as the individual has the will and knowledge to choose the latter.

Aristotle suggests that ignorance is voluntary, therefore, people acting out of ignorance can be held responsible. Acting in ignorance, however, is considered involuntary when a person feels remorse and repentance after the fact. Actions of ignorance, on the other hand, refer to actions that people commit deliberately and without remorse “Everything that is done by reason of ignorance is not voluntary; it is only what produces pain and repentance that is involuntary” (Aristotle). That is, they possess the knowledge that some actions they ought not to do but they do either way. Aristotle also notes that choice is involuntary. Choice can happen on the spur of the moment or in a state of nature where the individual has not fully contemplated the action. Deliberation is the process that makes or breaks the choices that people make. Furthermore, the process is complicated as humans have limitations to the level of deliberation that they can make. How we see things or how the people around us share or influence this vision determines greatly the kind of deliberation we do and ultimately our actions.

**CHAPTER 13**

1. **The Church**
2. **The church is One.**

The Second Vatican Council was able to change the world’s perception of the church by demonstrating that the people of God form the heart of it. The church plays a central role in ensuring that the people are brought together to truly participate and commune with God. The efforts made by them to bring Christians together have been met with many challenges such as division over the years. At the churches' inception, the issue revolved around the differences between Jews and Gentiles and income inequality. The situation was resolved but the church still faces many challenges that limit unity and acceptance among the people of God. The church has gone to great lengths to communicate the fact that divisions contradict the teachings of Christ (McCarthy et al. 2018). The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has a variety of over 190 archdioceses and dioceses. The churches can be found in all the regions of the world including Asia, Africa, Europe, and America. These regions have different cultures, legal and liturgical process but remain united in their faith and worship of God. Many of these churches experience instances where different groups are isolated and hence prevented from participating in worshiping in the church. Bishops and priests have taken the initiative to demonstrate that Christians are one in Christ despite the obvious differences present in the world. For instance, my parish priest takes time to initiate community-building activities that aim to include diverse liturgical aspects in mass. Through this program, people can incorporate their unique customs in mass and hence increasing the sense of inclusivity for foreigners.

1. **The Church is Holy**

Being holy is not something limited to saints; every individual is capable of holiness through showing compassion and striving for the best in everyday life. One of the ways that Christians can demonstrate holiness is through participating in church activities that encourage inclusion rather than division. Groups that have largely felt isolated from the church are gays and lesbians (LGBTQ+). The catechism of the Catholic Church indicates that homosexual acts are intrinsically immoral and contrary to the natural law. This clause for many years has been interpreted to mean that the church believes that homosexuality is a sin. On the contrary, the church calls that every member of the church including those who belong to the LGBTQ+ community be treated with acceptance and respect. The church has not approved same-sex unions and neither does it allow for the admission of people who practice homosexuality into holy order (Human Rights Campaign). However, many churches have outreach programs that aim to increase the inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals to participate fully in worshiping God. Communities can strive to be holy by working together to ensure that the view that the church is against LGBTQ+ is eradicated. The church aims to spread the word of Christ and demonstrate that all individuals can share the love of Christ through compassion.

1. **Priest, Prophet and King**

A priest is a Christian who is baptized, anointed by the Holy Spirit, dedicated to serving Christ through ministry. Prophet is a witness to the teachings of Christ using different means such as preaching. A king patiently offers humble service to the people of God just as Christ did for us through self-giving. Christians can show their priestly, prophetic, and kingship by participating in prayer and apostolic missions. Individuals can contribute by working on their attitudes and learning to be compassionate even if they don't understand other people. Individuals can also demonstrate their effort in sharing the word of God with different people and positively contribute to the prophetic kingly and priestly missions of the church. The testimony of this participation will be demonstrated in everyday life through family life and social life (McCarthy et al., 2018).

**CHAPTER 14**

1. **Prayer**

In our world today, there are many influences that limit our communion with God. Prayer is an opportunity for Christians to retreat from influences such as family, friends, television, and social media and communicate and understand the will of God. Prayer also allows God to gives Christian the wisdom on how to deal with the influences of life concerning our faith. Influences such as family, friends, and social media create unique challenges for Christians when it comes to spiritual life. Some of the influences limit a person’s ability to pray by discouraging them or showing them harmful alternatives that undermine the process. However, since this is a common experience for many people; gathering together in the name of God shows people the need for compassion when dealing with these challenges. Gathering in prayer and worship also allows individuals to support each other through challenging times and encourage each other on the importance of prayer. Currently, social media through initiatives such as the USCCB website provides immense support for individual spiritual life. There are daily readings and homilies that encourage people to pray and be in communion with God as much as possible. Social media also has many conflicting world views that corrupt people of God and exposes them to false alternatives. It is, therefore, important for Christians to be aware of the influences around them and keep a good balance.

**References**

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