



ACCADEMIA ALFONSIANA
Istituto Superiore di Teologia Morale
della Pontificia Università Lateranense

IL PRESIDE

Dear Students, Rectors of Colleges, Professors, Staff and Friends,

Greetings.

These days without your presence the Academy seems to be abandoned. We are going through a time of trial, but together, and with the Grace of God, we will overcome. In this time of forced interruption of our classroom teaching, we have equipped ourselves to make the Accademia Alfonsiana present its lessons online. From the part of the Academic Staff, we feel compelled to thank you for participating and interacting with this new teaching tool.

It is not easy for us Professors to speak to you, without you being present in the classroom. Your questions, your email, and your feedback in general, are a great encouragement for us and challenges us to do better. Thanks to each of you for your positive response.

This critical moment poses our academic community, on our journey of doing moral theology, with few challenges to face and to respond:

- The first challenge concerns the duration of the physical absence of the classroom and the library. If for teaching we have temporarily compensated with online teaching, but unfortunately it is not possible to provide direct contact with the sources in the library.
- The second challenge is represented by the scheduled deadlines: such as the delivery of the thesis, the *lectio coram* and the exams to be taken. We are currently gearing up to take the exams online. But at this point, to become operational, we need wait for proper approval from the concerned authorities.
- Finally, the third challenge concerns the future. If on the one hand this experience is activating the best energies for new forms of teaching and research, it brings with it a hermeneutic question: the future of teaching, for a complex subject such as morals that touch on experience, can only be carried out virtually?

These challenges that we face also opens doors for us with new opportunities that are to be seized at this time:

- The first opportunity is your personal study time management. Today more than ever, the situation we are experiencing drives us to accompany you and stimulate you in personalized readings and programs.
- The second great opportunity is to focus on the study, and personal research, on the questions that life asks us to offer constructive answers in fidelity to the magisterium to open new paths.
- The third opportunity is to synergise and rediscover the sense of doing theology together at the service of the people of God with the means that

technology offers us. The historical moment we are experiencing, teaches us that only by joining our hands together we can progress together as a community.

All these challenges ahead of us are not there to crush us but are there to bring the best out of us. Now is the moment of hope. We are called to look at the horizon ahead of us with the eyes of God and to fathom the signs of the times. It is certain that tomorrow cannot be like yesterday. But as an academic community we are called to write the tomorrow in the light of the present experiences, we are called to elaborate a moral theology that is animated by the missionary tension of the outgoing church which knows how to take on the questions of the people of God, that does not hesitate to get its hands dirty to face the concreteness of the problems, the fragility of the wounded world, to testify with the power of Christ "the Way, the Truth and the Life" (Jn 14: 6).

Rome, March 19, 2020

Feast of Saint Joseph, father of Providence.

Alfonso V. Amarante
President