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von Papst Benedikt XVI. an die Bischöfe, an die Priester und
Diakone, an die Personen gottgeweihten Lebens, an die
christgläubigen Laien und an alle Menschen guten Willens über die
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A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching A practical guide to
understanding and implementing Amoris Laetitia. The pastoral
implications of this document will be of interest to church
professionals.

Working Alternatives "Ich weiß sehr wohl, dass heute die Dokumente

nicht dasselbe Interesse wecken wie zu anderen Zeiten und schnell vergessen werden. Trotzdem betone ich, dass das, was ich hier zu sagen beabsichtige, eine programmatische Bedeutung hat und wichtige Konsequenzen beinhaltet Ich wünsche mir eine arme Kirche für die Armen." Papst Franziskus Das vollständige Dokument plus Einführung und Themenschlüssel

Love, Joy, and Sex Following his critically acclaimed *The Great Reformer*, Austen Ivereigh's colorful, clear-eyed portrait of Pope Francis takes us inside the Vatican's urgent debate over the future of the church in *Wounded Shepherd*. This deeply contextual biography centers on the tensions generated by the pope's attempt to turn the Church away from power and tradition and outwards to engage humanity with God's mercy. Through battles with corrupt bankers and worldly cardinals, in turbulent meetings and on global trips, history's first Latin-American pope has attempted to reshape the Church to evangelize the contemporary age. At the same time, he has stirred other leaders' deep-seated fear that the Church is capitulating to modernity—leaders who have challenged his bid to create a more welcoming, attentive institution. Facing rebellions over his allowing sacraments for the divorced and his attempt to create a more "ecological" Catholicism, as well as a firestorm of criticism for the Church's record on sexual abuse, Francis emerges as a leader of remarkable vision and skill with a relentless spiritual focus—a leader who is at peace in the turmoil surrounding him. With entertaining anecdotes, insider accounts, and expert analysis, Ivereigh's journey through the key episodes of Francis's reform in Rome and the wider Church brings into sharp focus the frustrations and fury, as well as the joys and successes, of one of the most remarkable pontificates of the contemporary age.

Fratelli Tutti Fratelli Tutti ist die neue Enzyklika von Papst Franziskus über die universelle Brüderlichkeit. Ein Buch, das zu den unzähligen Lehren beiträgt, die der Heilige Vater der ganzen Welt anbieten möchte. Diese Enzyklika ist für den Ort und das Datum der

Veröffentlichung der Enzyklika von großer Bedeutung. Tatsächlich unterzeichnet der Heilige Vater diese Enzyklika über die universelle Brüderlichkeit am Grab des seraphischen Vaters, des Heiligen Franziskus von Assisi. Vielleicht ist dies eine Warnung an die Welt, Brüder zu sein.

Die vierzig Gleichnisse Jesu

Introduction to Catholic Theological Ethic Two renowned, award-winning authors in the field of virtue and sexual ethics introduce and then apply their ethical method to such topics as relativism, ecology, bioethics, sexual ethics, and liberation theology. The result is a foundational text for undergraduate courses in Catholic theological ethics.

Pope Francis Since his election in 2013, Pope Francis has tackled many issues of urgent reform within the church. *Mercy in Action* explores Pope Francis's efforts to renew Catholic social teaching—the guidance the church offers on matters that pertain to social justice in the world. The book examines what Pope Francis has said, done, and written on six critical social issues today—economic inequality, worker justice, preserving the environment, healthy family life, the plight of refugees, and peacemaking. The book also highlights both continuity and change in Catholic social teaching. Author Thomas Massaro illustrates how on each social issue—from expressing solidarity with unemployed workers to writing an encyclical addressing environmental degradation and climate change—Pope Francis has worked to update the church's message of social justice and mercy.

Pope Francis, the Family, and Divorce *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 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.

Eucharist as a Celebration of Forgiveness

Betting on Freedom

Researching Catholic Education Von keinem Menschen des Altertums werden uns so viele und so wirklichkeitsnahe Gleichnisse überliefert wie von Jesus von Nazaret. Er beobachtet einen Sämann beim Säen; eine Hausfrau beim Brotbacken; Kinder, die darüber streiten, was sie spielen sollen; einen Verwalter, der seinen Chef nach allen Regeln der Kunst betrügt; einen Terroristen, der einen Anschlag plant – und noch vieles andere. Jesus versteht es, seine Zuhörer in seine Erzählungen hereinzuholen. Er kann provozieren, entlarvt Scheinwirklichkeiten und vermag zu trösten. Vor allem aber: Er beherrscht die Kunst des Erzählens. Seine Gleichnisse sprechen in kühnen Bildern vom Reich Gottes und machen es gegenwärtig, weil sie etwas vom Geheimnis seiner eigenen Person offenbaren. Dieses Buch behandelt alle Gleichnisse Jesu – ihre Gestalt, ihre realistischen Details, vor allem aber ihre ursprüngliche Aussage und die Situation, in die hinein sie einst gesprochen wurden. Es ist immer auch unsere Situation.

Serving the Body of Christ Das nachsynodale Apostolische Schreiben Amoris laetitia kontroversen Reaktionen geführt. Während die einen in dem Schreiben eine Weiterentwicklung kirchlicher Positionen erkennen, sehen andere darin einen Bruch mit der katholischen Lehrtradition. In dieser Diskussion geht es – neben den bekannten Themen aus dem Bereich der Ehe und Familie – ganz wesentlich um grundsätzliche Fragen der kirchlichen Morallehre, etwa um das Normen-, Sünden- oder Gewissensverständnis. Die Beiträge des Sammelbandes gehen der Frage nach, ob Amoris laetitia für die Moraltheologie tatsächlich einen Wendepunkt bedeutet und worin dieser bestehen könnte. Das Buch ist der vierte Band der Reihe ?Katholizismus im Umbruch ?.

Postsecular Catholicism In seinem ersten Buch als Papst formuliert Franziskus das Herzstück seines Pontifikats. Für alle Gläubigen, aber auch für nachdenkende Menschen ohne konfessionelle Bindung, erläutert er die zentrale Botschaft der Barmherzigkeit – in der ihm eigenen einfachen und direkten Sprache. Dabei gibt Franziskus persönliche und bislang unbekannte Einblicke in seine Erfahrungen als Priester und erläutert seine Motive für das außerordentliche Heilige Jahr der Barmherzigkeit. Diese ist nichts Geringeres als Ausdruck für die Liebe Gottes. Eine Offenbarung für alle, die auf der Suche nach dem Sinn des Lebens sind und einen Weg des Friedens, der Besinnung und Versöhnung gehen wollen.

Adel und Kirche

Resisting Throwaway Culture 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

Pope Francis and the Event of Encounter When Amoris Laetitia was published in 2016, it became the most controversial papal document since Humanae Vitae. Many said that Amoris Laetitia was "confusing" and "required clarification." Others claimed that it was heterodox, while comparing it unfavorably with other church documents. But is this really the case? In this book, Pedro Gabriel sets out to explore Amoris Laetitia's controversial eighth chapter. What does the document actually teach as it pertains to the access of divorced and civilly remarried people to the Eucharist, and how can it constitute a legitimate development? As Pedro Gabriel tries to answer these questions, he will also cover the most common arguments being leveled against Amoris Laetitia, and show how this exhortation can be reconciled with Catholic orthodoxy.

Erzählte Bewegung

Die Freude des Evangeliums Defending Pope Francis's teaching on Amoris Laetitia, this book calls for approaching those who find themselves in complex relationships, with love, compassion, and mercy.

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

Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty Topics related to Catholic social teaching emerge regularly in American political and civic discourse, often connected to discussions about religious freedom, abortion, immigrant rights, racism, capital punishment, and health care. This third edition of *A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching* by Rev. Kevin E. McKenna incorporates the essential teachings of Pope Francis in *Evangelium Gaudium*, *Laudato Si'*, and *Amoris Laetitia* to offer a clear, beginner-level reference tool and study guide for Church leaders and other interested Catholics to help them navigate this vast body of teaching. Building on core themes of human dignity, community, rights and responsibilities, option for the poor, dignity of work, solidarity, and care of creation, McKenna distills a vast amount of Catholic teaching into easily digestible summaries, each carefully referenced to its primary source and correlated to pressing issues making today's headlines. The book includes crucial teachings of the popes from Louis XIII through Francis as well as from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Each chapter concludes with questions for reflection and dialogue and appendices provide tools for parishes and study groups. This practical and thorough guide remains a perennial favorite for study and reference in Catholic parishes, universities, and ministry formation programs.

Amoris Laetitia and the spirit of Vatican II Since being elected to the Chair of St. Peter on March 13, 2013, Pope Francis has given unique shape to the meaning of the new evangelization. With his emphasis on the concept of encounter, and his stunning expression of pastoral ministry in *Evangelii gaudium*, the present pontiff has breathed new life into the Christian vocation to evangelize. This book brings together the voices of fifteen American Catholic scholars around the theme of Pope Francis and the Event of

Encounter. Inaugurating the new series, *Global Perspectives on the New Evangelization*, this book incorporates a variety of approaches and questions in order to amplify the theology behind the pontificate of Pope Francis and the most recent developments in the new evangelization. Among the topics treated in the book are mercy, ecology, doctrine, culture, and the life and ministry of Jorge Mario Bergoglio. The reader will be delighted with an array of perspectives that promise to give inspiration for embarking on further frontiers of the new evangelization.

Dio interagisce con la sua Chiesa

The Indissolubility of Marriage The Catholic Church faces the challenge of maintaining its relevance in an increasingly secularized society. On issues ranging from sexuality and gender equality to economic policy and social welfare, the church hierarchy is frequently out-of-step with Catholics and non-Catholics alike. In *Postsecular Catholicism*, Michele Dillon argues that the Church's relevance is increasingly contingent on its ability to incorporate secular experiences and expectations into the articulation of the Church's teachings. Informed by the postsecular notion that religious and secular actors should recognize their mutual relevance in contemporary society, Dillon examines how secular realities and church doctrine intersect in American Catholicism. She shows that the Church's 21st-century commitment to institutional renewal has been amplified by Pope Francis's vision of public Catholicism and his accessible language and intellectual humility. Combining wide-ranging survey data with a rigorous examination of Francis's statements on economic inequality, climate change, LGBT rights, and women's ordination, the highly consequential Vatican Synod on the Family, and the US Bishops' religious freedom campaign, *Postsecular Catholicism* assesses the initiatives and strategies impacting the Church's relevance in the contemporary world.

Mercy in Action 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 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.

Pope Francis on the Joy of Love

Catholic Teacher Preparation This is a book about hope in the midst of a polarized culture. Camosy begins with a hopeful starting point in the midst of a crumbling US political culture: two of every three

Americans constitute an “exhausted majority” who reject right/left polarization and are open to alternative viewpoints. Especially at this time of realignment, we have been given a unique moment to put aside the frothy, angsty political debates and think harder about our deepest values. A Consistent Life Ethic, especially one which embraces Pope Francis’ challenge to resist “throwaway culture”, has the capacity to unite people who for the last several decades imagined themselves in a polarized culture war. On issues ranging from hook-up culture, reproductive technology, abortion, euthanasia, poverty, immigration, treatment of animals, and mass incarceration, this book articulates a new moral vision in which a culture of encounter and hospitality replaces a consumer culture in which the most vulnerable get used and discarded as so much trash. At bottom, Camosy offers readers a golden opportunity to dialogue about what kinds of values should serve as the foundation for a new political culture.

Der Name Gottes ist Barmherzigkeit Working Alternatives explores economic life from a humanistic and multidisciplinary perspective, with a particular eye on religions’ implications in practices of work, management, supply, production, remuneration, and exchange. Its contributors draw upon historical, ethical, business, and theological conversations considering the sources of economic sustainability and justice. The essays in this book—from scholars of business, religious ethics, and history—offer readers practical understanding and analytical leverage over these pressing issues. Modern Catholic social teaching—a 125-year-old effort to apply Christian thinking about the implications of faith for social, political, and economic circumstances—provides the key springboard for these discussions. Contributors: Gerald J. Beyer, Alison Collis Greene, Kathleen Holscher, Michael Naughton, Michael Pirson, Nicholas Rademacher, Vincent Stanley, Sandra Sullivan-Dunbar, Kirsten Swinth, Sandra Waddock

Misericordiae Vultus At the crest of volatile years of

experimentation, a new rite of Mass was introduced in 1969—no mere cosmetic treatment but a radical reconstruction of the Church's central act of worship. A minority of the faithful continued to hold fast to the traditional rite, which John Paul II and Benedict XVI gradually freed from restrictions. The steady growth of this "traditionalist" movement inevitably prompts questions in the minds of more and more people. What is it that Catholic laity, clergy, and religious are discovering and falling in love with? Could you—should you—be among them? In this engaging book, Peter Kwasniewski draws on decades of experience and, presuming no specialized knowledge, explains why the traditional Mass operates the way it does, what its distinctive features and benefits are, and how it still captures hearts with a beauty deeply rooted and perennially green. Every reader—whether already a lover of the Mass of Ages or a complete newbie, whether committed or curious, perplexed or skeptical, sitting on the fence or bouncing back and forth between old and new—will find life-changing insights in these pages.

The Orthodoxy of Amoris Laetitia 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 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 (*intrinsic 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.

Wounded Shepherd Le comunità cristiane, in nome della loro comprensione della fede, possono suggerire cambiamenti alla dottrina cattolica ufficiale su questioni non insegnate in modo definitivo dal magistero? I pastori, da parte loro, possono decidere di accogliere tali richieste? Come interpretare sul piano teologico la legittimità di possibili evoluzioni dottrinali che hanno tratti di discontinuità? Questo volume nasce da una domanda di natura specialistica che ha enormi ricadute sul piano pastorale. Si tratta della questione dello sviluppo della dottrina della fede, cioè di quelle verità che la Chiesa cattolica e le altre Chiese insegnano ai loro membri come parte integrante dell'esperienza cristiana. Da un lato – sostiene l'autore – è del tutto legittima la possibilità di uno sviluppo

anche relativamente discontinuo della dottrina della fede, ovviamente per le sole verità che non sono state insegnate in modo definitivo dal magistero. Dall'altro, non è possibile motivare adeguatamente tale possibilità se non ripensando complessivamente le categorie concettuali, cioè filosofiche, su cui si è costruita la teologia cristiana a partire dall'antichità. Più precisamente, si tratta di utilizzare una nuova metafisica, nella quale il cambiamento non sia un fatto accidentale o problematico, quanto piuttosto la ragion d'essere della realtà.

Disaffiliating Ministry A careful collection, summary, and commentary of the church's official teaching on the Eucharist and ordained priesthood from Trent through Pope Benedict XVI, with avenues for theological exploration based on it. Updated with analyses of documents from Pope Francis.

Reclaiming our Roman Catholic Birthright This book presents a range of perspectives on the current state of Catholic education in the opening decades of the twenty-first century. All of the chapters have their origin in an International Conference on Catholic Education, held at Heythrop College (University of London) in September 2016. The book brings together many leading scholars to present a survey of the latest research on Catholic education in areas such as the aims of Catholic education, Catholic schools and Catholic identity, leadership issues in Catholic schools and fresh thinking about the place of Religious Education (RE) in Catholic Education. This book demonstrates how the field of Catholic Education Studies has firmly come of age. Rather than being a subfield of educational or theological discourse, it is now an established field of research and study. As such, the book invites readers to engage with much of the new thinking on Catholic education that has grown rapidly in recent years. It offers a broad range of contemporary perspectives on research in Catholic Education and rich insights into current thinking about Catholic Education.

Deus caritas est Missbrauch, Priestermangel, Klerikalismus, Diskriminierung der Frauen – das sind die Symptome der Krise des Amtes. Bischöfe sprechen von Strukturwandel. Braucht eine zukunftsfähige Kirche jedoch nicht eine neue Gestalt des Amtes? Christus ist Priester, König und Prophet. Dem II. Vatikanum liegt die Lehre vom dreifachen Amt zugrunde. Thomas Ruster macht daraus ein Modell für eine neue Amtsstruktur. Die Leitidee: Heiligung, Leitung und Verkündigung werden auf verschiedene Personen aufgeteilt und auf Zeit vergeben. Es entsteht eine Balance of Powers nach biblischem Vorbild. Die Lösung ist nicht aus der Not geboren, sondern aus der Bibel und dem Besten der katholischen Tradition. Sie hält an der Sakramentalität des Amtes fest. Sie könnte sofort von jedem Bischof umgesetzt werden. Davon handelt dieses spannende, atemberaubende und ermutigende Buch.

Journal of Moral Theology, Volume 8, Special Issue 2 This book argues for new ministerial postures and practices in light of the challenges college men in the United States face negotiating spirituality and gender. Young people require ministers who can accompany them from a range of spiritual commitments as they confront dynamics of power, intimacy and responsibility.

Balance of Powers In Erzählte Bewegung. Narrationsstrategien und Funktionsweisen lateinischer Pilgertexte (4.-15. Jahrhundert), Susanna Fischer analyzes the function and structure of Latin pilgrimage narratives about the Holy Land from a literary point of view.

Amoris laetitia - Wendepunkt für die Moraltheologie? 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 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.

Ökologie des Menschen This book reflects on the most appropriate methods of teacher preparation for contemporary Catholic schools and on possible contributions to wider teacher preparation from cogitating the history of the Catholic tradition. The authors offer exciting and innovative opportunities to inform contemporary practice from international examples.

A New Vision of Family Life: 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.

Enzyklika Caritas in veritate von Papst Benedikt XVI. an die Bischöfe, an die Priester und Diakone, an die Personen gottgeweihten Lebens, an die christgläubigen Laien und an alle Menschen guten Willens über die ganzheitliche Entwicklung des Menschen in der Liebe und in der Wahrheit Amoris Laetitia, Pope Francis' post-synodal exhortation on love in the family, turned out to be one of the most controversial documents of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church in recent decades. It was published in April 2016 following the two "Synods of Bishops on the Family" held in 2014 and 2015. The document brought division amongst the Catholic hierarchy, theologians and pastors and nearly two years after its publication the exact meaning of the document and its implications for the Church are still a matter of dispute. A number of prelates present at the Synods indicated that these gatherings were animated by "the spirit of Vatican II." This work links the notion of "the spirit of Vatican II" with Amoris Laetitia and it argues that a hermeneutics of interpretation of the Second Vatican Council which focuses on following "the spirit of the Council" is the hermeneutics which can be, and in the future most likely will be, the predominant way of interpreting and implementing Amoris Laetitia. This book aims to provide a contribution to this hotly debated topic in the field of Catholic theology.

Before Amoris Laetitia 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 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.

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