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Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649651863

Catholic library. Moral series. Principles, Laws, Virtues, Sin. Volume I by Roderick MacEachen

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RODERICK MACEACHEN

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THOMAS J. SHAHAN
Titular Bishop of Germanicopolis

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MORAL SERIES

BY

RODERICK MacEACHEN

Priest of Columbus Diocese

Principles
Laws
Virtues
Sin

VOLUME I REGIS
BIBL. MAJ.
COLLEGE

PUBLISHED BY

CATHOLIC BOOK COMPANY

WHEELING, W. VA.

1916

50009

Nihil Obstat :

WILLIAM HALL,

Censor Deputatus.

Imprimatur :

P. J. DONAHUE, D. D.,

Bishop of Wheeling.

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RODERICK MACÉACHEN

PREFACE

These five volumes form the Moral Series of the Catholic Library. In them is portrayed in all its simplicity and grandeur the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.

The Church is the great moral teacher of mankind. She was sent by Christ, her Divine Founder, to teach all nations and lead them to salvation. She is the custodian and interpreter of God's law and teaching. She is the city built upon a mountain.

The prophet foretold the moral power and splendor of the Church: "And many nations shall come in haste, and say: Come, let us go up the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob: and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths."¹

¹ Micheas iv, 2.

In the midst of men and nations the Church stands as the great beacon-light of morality. Diverse customs and ethical theories may arise amongst men, but the moral teachings of the Church remain unchanged. Her moral principles stand as firm as adamant; for they have been sealed with the stamp of divine authority.

When men depart from the moral standards taught by the Church, then human society is awry. Peace and social well-being give way to strife and turmoil.

Obedience and fidelity to the law of God alone can bring peace to men. "Peace to men of good will,"² the angel said. Peace to those who love and obey God's law.

The moral teachings of the Church propound and explain the law of God. In her moral teachings the Church offers true and safe guidance for all

² St. Luke ii, 14.

human actions. She sets forth clear and defined rules and principles for the moral life of man.

These little volumes portray the moral teachings of the Church in a clear and concise manner. Practically they cover the whole field of Moral Theology.

The Moral Series will be a great boon to our people. Here they will find an answer to the many great moral questions that have arisen, especially in our day. Here they will find expressed in positive terms the great moral truths and precepts that are taught by the Church.

It is with joy that I see these little volumes going forth to the English-speaking world. They will show to many who have not known thereof, the sublimity of Catholic morality. Many of our separated brethren will learn in them, for the first time, the power and security, the clarity and the beauty of Catholic Moral teachings.

May these little volumes lead many sincere souls to know and love God's holy law. May God grant grace and blessing to all who read these pages. May Mary Immaculate intercede for them.

Thomas J. Shahan
Titular Bishop of Germanicopolis.

Feast of SS. Peter and Paul, 1916.