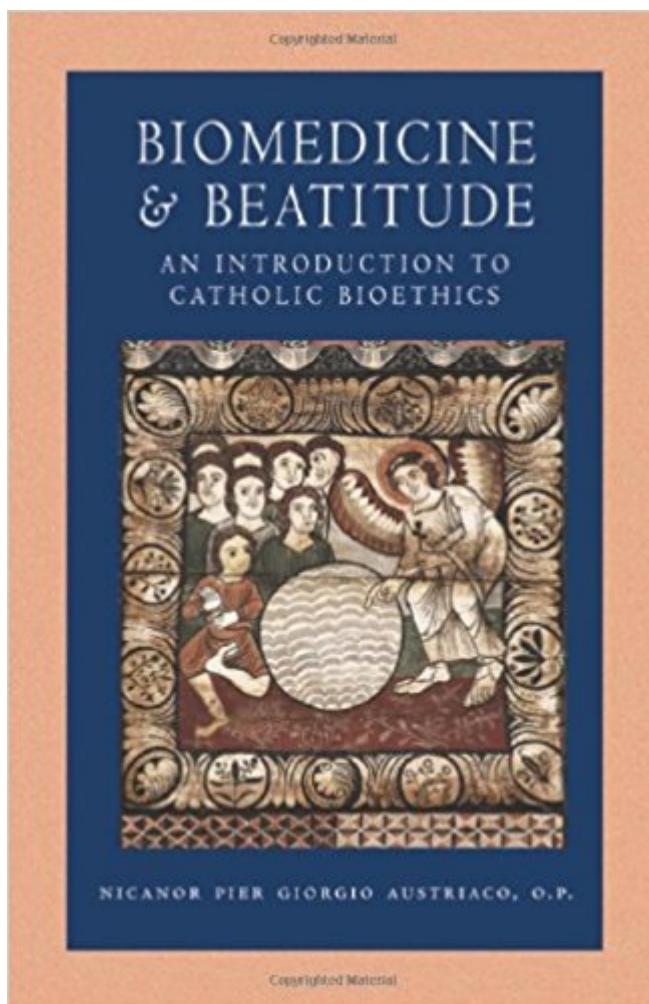


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# Biomedicine And Beatitude: An Introduction To Catholic Bioethics (Catholic Moral Thought)



## Synopsis

\*\*Selected as an Outstanding Academic Title by Choice Magazine\*\* How are the patient, the physician, the nurse, and the scientist called to grow in holiness in their particular vocations? This introductory text, written from within the Catholic moral tradition, narrates a bioethics that emphasizes the pursuit of beatitude in the lives of those who are confronted by moral questions raised by biomedicine and the other life sciences. The Catholic moral vision that informs this volume is rooted in the moral life described by the Lord Jesus Christ in his Sermon on the Mount. As Pope John Paul II taught in his moral encyclical, *Veritatis splendor*, we imitate Christ by seeking, with God's grace, to perfect ourselves through our actions and the virtues they engender. In this way, Catholic bioethics differs from other contemporary approaches to bioethics that focus on either the outcomes of human acts or the procedures that protect the autonomy of the human agent. Besides ethical questions raised at the beginning and the end of life, Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., discusses the ethics of the clinical encounter, human procreation, organ donation and transplantation, and biomedical research. Finally, the text discusses the realities faced by citizens of faith living in a free and democratic society that is at the same time postmodern, secular, and liberal.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Nicanor Pier Giorgio Austriaco, O.P., is assistant professor of biology and instructor of theology at Providence College. In biology, he and his students are investigating the genetic regulation of programmed cell death in several model unicellular eukaryotes. In theology, he has published essays on bioethics and on the interaction between science and religion.

**PRAISE FOR THE BOOK:** "The text is unique because it is truly interdisciplinary, combining rigorous theological ethics and contemporary biomedicine. The author helpfully organizes the text according to the major issues of the field, such as ethics at the end of life and the ethics of assisted reproduction. Highly recommended." --Choice "Austriaco is successful in reviewing well-known and established ethical positions and arguments in Roman Catholic tradition. Readers looking for a clear statement (and defense) of established Catholic moral teachings in bioethics will find it here." -Francis T. Hannafey, SJ, Theological Studies

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nicanor Pier Giorgio Austriaco, O.P., is assistant professor of biology and instructor of theology at Providence College. In biology, he and his students are investigating the genetic regulation of programmed cell death in several model unicellular eukaryotes. In theology, he has published essays on bioethics and on the interaction between science and religion.

I found Nicanor Pier Giorgio's book to be one of the better books on Catholic Bioethics. He thoroughly integrated faith and reason within the medical realm. This book will be one which I will go back to repeatedly.

I felt I had to write a review of this book after reading one of the prior reviews. Quite frankly, there is not enough ethics training even among educated people today. As a practicing physician, I have had to get most of my ethics training through self-education as there was very little of it in medical school or residency, and even then, the conversations seemed more like exercises in justification rather than scholarship based on true philosophical underpinnings. Fortunately, there are trustworthy, thoughtful sources such as the text written by Fr. Nicanor. Don't hesitate to buy this book, you will be in good hands.

Austriaco is both scientist and a theologian, and his excellence in both fields shows. The book argues its positions in fidelity to both the Church and modern science. It is clearly written and never feels bogged down by jargon. As a theology professor, I intend to use the book with my own students and know colleagues that are already doing so. Excellent for the university classroom, for the inquiring scientist, and for the medical practitioner!

Pertinent for any foing work in virtue studies. Key themes addressed. Worth the read. Buy this book

together with Pinckaers' Reader if you would have fuller context for understanding. Both great contributions. Highly recommend!

The book is a wonderful help for both scientists and non-scientists alike. A very thorough and descriptive guide for anyone interested in the field of Bioethics.

I am using this book to write a paper for a summer class in Theology. I have not read it yet. I am very interested in the connection between the Beatitudes and medicine. I am an RN and feel our medical system is extremely broken, it has become greedy, and is more like our banking system, self serving, instead of client based.

Biomedicine and Beatitude by Nicanor Austriaco is a well-written and clearly worded book about Christian medical ethics. However, it becomes a much broader argument that people are overlooking "natural law" thanks to "medical breakthroughs." The chapter Bioethics and Human Procreation raises questions that not only argue on behalf of Catholicism, but on behalf of basic morals as well. One issue he brings up is how condoms can prevent pregnancy and HIV, but what if you're already engaging in risky behavior? Will condoms prevent all the other problems you can acquire? The chapter on organ donation doesn't deride the practice; on the contrary, he argues that it's a noble gesture. But at what point is the patient legally dead? Are you morally accountable if your donated kidney or heart wasn't donated at all, but taken without consent? Consent is another debate in this book with no concrete solution. The author makes very clear the church's opposition to in vitro fertilization and fertility drugs. Take Nadya Suleman, the infamous "Octomom" as an example (though she's not used expressly in this book.) She consented to having the embryos implanted in her uterus, so she wasn't forced to do anything. But should her physician have said no? Look at it this way; dogs and puppies have lots of nipples with which to feed their massive litters. But humans only have two, and rarely give birth in multiples. This is one aspect of Evolution that even the church would probably agree with. This book should be required reading for anyone considering a career in medicine. It's a great treatise on ethics.

Biomedicine and Beatitude: Fr. Nicanor treats difficult and controversial subjects in an insensitive and sexist way. My problem is not specifically with the Catholic Church position on the various topics but on Fr. Nicanor lack of compassion and sensitivity.

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