Call for Papers
Journal of Moral Theology: Engaging Disability
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The Journal of Moral Theology is issuing a call for papers on the moral significance and implications of disability. Under the general heading Engaging Disability, the focus of this issue is conditions that follow from ordinary human vulnerability—including, for example, physical, cognitive, emotional, psychological, congenital and/or acquired disabling conditions. We are particularly interested in moral reflection on disability that engages the fundamental theological concerns of the tradition (e.g., Christian anthropology, grace, freedom, sin, affliction, natural law, the metaphysical principles and/or moral psychology of human acts). Oriented by the disciplinary perspectives and methodologies of Catholic Moral Theology, this issue of JMT aims to offer imaginative, diverse, and critical theological engagement on the complex realities and experiences of disability.

Articles in the range of 6,000 to 7,000 words (including footnotes) are due by June 15, 2015 and should be sent to Gloria Balsley, Managing Editor <jmt@msmary.edu>. Submissions longer than 7,000 words will also be considered. Articles selected from the initial pool of submissions will undergo at least two double-blind peer reviews. If you have questions about the suitability of your research for this issue of JMT, feel free to contact either of the issue co-editors:

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Examples of the kind of engagements we are interested to include:

- Essays that treat the moral agency and/or happiness of ‘those who lack the use of reason’.
- Essays that engage mental illness or cognitive impairment.
- Original, exegetically focused accounts of the significance and/or implications of disability, broadly construed, in the moral theology of any major figure or figures from the Catholic intellectual tradition (for example, the doctors of the Church, scholastics, manualists, early 20th century moralists, etc.).
- Engagements with past and/or contemporary associations of disability with theodicy, especially theological arguments concerning the moral significance or moral potential of pain, suffering, and affliction.
- Consideration of disability as a knowledge producing moral context for Christian theology—generating insights comparable to the theological knowledge that has arisen from, for example, feminist, Black, Womanist, Hispanic/Latin@, Mujerista, Asian, and GLBTQI contexts.
- Appraisal and engagement with one or several of the major, contemporary theological works on disability.
- With an eye towards the Catholic sacraments of initiation, essays that engage the moral formation and moral experience of people with disabilities, including people with profound mental or cognitive disabilities.
- Essays on the moral significance and implications of the various episcopal, magisterial, and papal statements, declarations, instructions, and teachings on disability (and related themes).
- Critical appraisal and constructive theological engagement with 20th century moral philosophers, as their thinking relates to Catholic Moral Theology and disability.