

“Engagingly written and deftly argued, this instructive work will be a must read for all moral theologians and students of Aquinas’s thought.”

—**Reinhard Huetter**, professor of fundamental and dogmatic theology, The Catholic University of America

“Offering a profound analysis of action, growth, and regression in the Christian life of virtue, this book establishes Mattison in the highest echelon of contemporary Thomists.”

—**Matthew Levering**, James N. Jr. and Mary D. Perry
Chair of Theology, Mundelein Seminary

“William Mattison’s comprehensive and closely argued analysis of habit in Aquinas represents a major addition to the literature on this difficult topic. He offers us accounts of moral formation, the orientation of the virtues to the last end, the distinctiveness of the infused virtues, and the central role played by the gifts in the life of grace.”

—**Jean Porter**, John A. O’Brien Professor of Theological Ethics, University of Notre Dame

GROWING IN VIRTUE IS THE ONLY COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF GROWTH IN virtue in the thought of Thomas Aquinas. Mattison offers a robust account of habits and draws on Aquinas to carefully delineate the commonalities and differences between natural (acquired) virtues and graced (infused) virtues. Along the way, Mattison discusses the distinction between disposition and habit; the role of “custom” in virtue formation; the nature of virtuous passions; the distinct contribution of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to graced life; explanations for persistent activity after the loss of virtue; and the possibility of coexistence of the infused and acquired virtues in the same person.

For readers interested in virtue and morality from a philosophical perspective and scholars of theological ethics and moral theology in particular, Mattison offers compelling arguments from the work of Aquinas explicitly connected to contemporary scholarship in philosophical virtue ethics.

William C. Mattison III is the Wilsey Family Associate Professor of Theology at Notre Dame. He is the author of *Introducing Moral Theology: True Happiness and the Virtues* and *The Sermon on the Mount and Moral Theology: A Virtue Perspective*.