

My Personal Moral Compass: Navigating Ethical Ambiguity

A Course on Thinking Ethical Problems

Course Guide 2016

A. Introduction

Personal Moral Compass is a one-year-long systematic course in Moral Issues. It was previously organised under SPI (Singapore Pastoral Institute) and has been running for 5 years already. This is the third year that Caritas Singapore is organising this course.

B. Objective

Personal Moral Compass is for all Catholics and non-Catholics alike interested in formation in the foundations of Ethics.

This course is particularly targeted for that segment of society on whom the future generations depend: those involved in guiding and forming others, and those for whom this formation would be particularly pertinent at work or in ministry: these would be inclusive of (and not restricted to) *young adult group leaders, lay ministry leaders, youth and adult faith formators / coordinators, catechists, teachers, counsellors, family life workers, biomedical researchers, medical professionals, humanitarian aid workers, as well as tertiary, junior college and polytechnic students; in particular those pursuing the medical, life science, legal, and social science disciplines.*

The objective of this course is for participants to understand and to articulate the fundamentals of moral thinking with greater clarity. At the same time, it is hoped that participants will come to recognise that the Christian moral tradition is less an arbitrary set of rules imposed by Church authorities, and more a treasure-trove of discoveries and descriptions of observed laws which depict what best encourages human persons to thrive.

We trust that this understanding will be translated into the daily experience of participants and through them into the lives of their family and friends, in the schools and workplaces, and in their communities and society-at-large.

C. Eligibility

There is no prerequisite for application to the modules. All participants are welcome. Where places are limited, priority will be given to those who are actively forming others; to this end, endorsement from the relevant parish priest or leader in the parish or diocesan community / ministry / organisation will count toward this consideration.

Participants who attend at least 75% of the classes in all the modules are eligible for a letter of attendance at the end of the course.

D. Lecturer

Our lecturer is Dominican Moral Theologian, Father David Garcia OP. Fr David Garcia lectures at the Major Seminary and Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore in Moral Theology and is a well-known speaker who has addressed a spectrum of issues affecting society ranging from family life and social justice bioethics; he has worked and/or is working with various church organisations including CTIS, Catholic Medical Guild, Family Life Society and Caritas Singapore.

E. Venue

Classes will be at Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264.

The nearest MRT station is Toa Payoh Station. Feeder bus 238 from the Toa Payoh Bus interchange will take you to Agape Village.

Actual room venue will be advised upon the confirmation of participant's registration.

F. Date and Time

All classes for all Modules – 1 to 6 are held on Wednesday nights, from 7:30 to 9:30p.m.

G. Programme Structure

Personal Compass is a year-long modular course on ethical issues. There are a total of 6 Modules each lasting 7 weeks. There are no assignments or coursework to be submitted.

It is recommended that participants cover the course material and attend all six modules. Alternatively, participants may attend any missed modules in subsequently years as interest and exigencies allow.

Module 1. Who decides what is right or wrong?

Dates: 6, 13, 20, 27 Jan, 3, 17, 24 Feb 2016

1. Personal Decisions
2. Personal Moral Principles
3. Objective Moral Principles
4. Are there absolute moral principles?
5. Freedom for Happiness
6. Better Persons
7. Cultural dogmas about morality

Module 2. Becoming Persons

Dates: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Mar, 6 and 13 April 2016

1. Seven Personal Wounds
2. Personal Discernment
3. Fairer Persons
4. Emotional Persons
5. Strong Persons
6. Joyful Persons
7. Fully Personal

Module 3. Christian Morality

Dates: 20, 27 April, 4, 11, 18, 25 May and 1 June 2016

1. Ethics and Religion
2. Christian Ethics
3. God's Graceful Moves
4. The Faith that Saves
5. Christian Hoping
6. Christian Loving
7. Empowered and Blessed

Module 4. Ethics of Love, Sex and Marriage

Dates: 13, 20, 27 July, 3, 10, 17 and 24 Aug 2016

1. Today's cultural perception on love, sex and marriage
2. Principles of the Philosophy of the Body
3. Applications of the Philosophy of the Body
4. Personal and Sexual Relationships
5. Marriage
6. Same-sex Discussions
7. What God Has to Do with Sex

Module 5. Stewards of Life

Dates: 31 Aug, 7, 14, 21, 28 Sept, 5, and 12 Oct 2016

1. The Dignity of the Human Person
2. Can We Reproduce Procreation?
3. Ethical Dealings with Human Embryos
4. Stewards of Our Own Bodies
5. End of Life Decisions
6. Organ Donation
7. Personal medicine

Module 6. Social Justice

Dates: 19, 26 Oct, 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 Nov 2016

1. The Personal Block of Society
2. Human Societies and Social Principles
3. Working together
4. Wealth and poverty
5. Political Leadership
6. Global Challenges
7. God and Social Development

H. Course Contribution

The contribution for each module is \$70.00.

Cheque payment is to be made payable to '**Caritas - Personal Moral Compass**'.

The cheque and completed registration form should be mailed to:

Personal Moral Compass Course Administrator
Caritas Singapore
55 Waterloo Street
Catholic Centre
#08-01
Singapore 187954

Cash payment could also be made at the Caritas Singapore's office during office hours.

For more information, participants could email to the Course Administrator at formation@caritas-singapore.org. or at 63389453 (DID).