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Assignments: Read the assigned texts for each. Answer the questions with detailed answers based off of the reading. Poor and short answers will receive no credit. Responses should show knowledge of the reading and thoroughly answer the questions. Only thoughtful, quality answers will receive credit. There is no need to do additional research; the readings should be sufficient enough. Even if the question asks your "opinion," it must be provided in consultation with the reading material. Answers for each question should be no less that a good detailed paragraph, however, more is expected for a good grade.

READ: Robert Barron, "That Than Which Nothing Greater Can be Thought: The Ineffable Mystery of God" in *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* (New York: Image Books, 2011) **This is in** *PDF ATTACHMENT*.

ANSWER:

- 1. What can be learned about God from *Moses' experience* on Mount Sinai? How does Aquinas and Anselm help to explain this information?
- 2. What is *Joseph Ratzinger's argument for the existence of God*? How does this relate to the theory that science could only emerge in a Christian culture?
- 3. How does Catholic theology understand the terms *transcendence and immanence* when talking about God, so as to avoid the tendencies to "grasp" or "hide" from God?
- 4. What does it mean to say that *God is the Provident Creator*? And how does this connect to the "spiritual life" and God's involvement with the world?
- 5. What is the *problem of evil* and what are the so-called three ways of dissolving it? What does the "Book of Job" teach about evil's place in God's universe?

READ: Who is God: Catholic Perspectives through the Ages by John Markey (Chapter One) God: Scriptural and Cultural Conceptions, pp. 15-46.

LINK FOR READING: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxq8qAKr6HGsVU9zNUIxZmxjV0U/view?usp=sharing

ANSWER:

- 1. What is the difference between a *contract* and a *covenant*, as the latter term is used in the Hebrew Scriptures? What does this distinction imply about the relationship between *God and the Hebrew people*?
- 2. What are the attributes of *God revealed by Jesus in the Gospels*, and how are those attributes developed in the *Creed*?
- 3. How did Christian culture both assimilate and critique Hellenistic culture?
- 4. What are two approaches to understanding the *Christian doctrine of the Trinity*?
- 5. How did the *Cappadocians and St. Augustine* represent two different approaches not only to the doctrine of the Trinity but also to Christian theology as a whole?

READ: Who is God: Catholic Perspectives through the Ages by John Markey (Chapter Two).

God: From Medieval to Contemporary Understandings, pp. 54-86.

LINK FOR READING: https://drive.google.com/file/d/
0Bxq8qAKr6HGsVWFxdDFURTI3NVE/view?usp=sharing

ANSWER:

- 1. How does Aquinas develop the fundamental Trinitarian formula as received by St. Augustine
- 2. How does <u>Aquinas</u> use the *philosophy of Aristotle* to develop his own theology?
- 3. How is <u>Luther's</u> *understanding of God* influenced by his understanding of human reason?
- 4. What is *deism* and how does it relate to the scientific emphasis of the Enlightenment?
- 5. In what ways is *Vatican II the Catholic Church's* theological response to the Enlightenment?



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