Mathews, John W. *Anxious Souls Will Ask...* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005
A brief introduction to the prison writings of the German pastor martyred by the Nazis during World War II for his association with the plot to overthrow Hitler. Perhaps a good book for Wendt Scholar groups with a mixture of college and seminary students. Deals with the importance of one’s “foundations” for living, especially in a time or context when all the familiar foundations are crumbling.

A valuable introduction, not just for Roman Catholics, (although written out of that tradition), to the role of virtues as the building blocks for morality. The author’s discussion of the Sermon on the Mount, natural law, and classical views of the moral life will be especially helpful in grounding the Wendt program’s emphasis upon character formation and the good life. Of particular interest is the author’s discussion of freedom in light of his distinction between “freedom of indifference” and “freedom for excellence.”

This book will have applicability both in seminary courses on leadership and pastoral administration, and in college and MBA courses on business ethics. Of interest to the Wendt program is his first chapter: “Follow the golden rule of leadership” which discusses what might have been different if Enron, Arthur Andersen, and other corporations had followed the golden rule.

A key political theorist and excellent teacher here writes for students, teachers and scholars. He sprinkles good examples in the midst of incredible erudition, and yet is accessible to many levels of readers. A pedagogically helpful introduction to the current philosophical revival of the virtues, grounded in clear explanations of Aristotle’s conception of the virtues. Would be useful for seminary classes in social ethics as well as college classes in philosophical ethics.

I will use this book in the Ministerial Vocation class in the seminary. First published in 1993, this revised version has become a standard text for many seminaries. Good discussion of moral norms, extensive treatment of various ministerial and denominational codes of ethics, and sensitive engagement with subjects like clergy sexual abuse.