In response to these readings (ETZIONI and GARDNER), which responsibilities to the common good do you especially share, which are a surprise, and which do you openly question?

I very much so think that I align with a utilitarian perspective of the world. In saying that, I believe that each person should do their part to benefit the greatest number of people. In saying that, I do concede there are some areas where this way of thought falls short. This value will do a disservice to those in minority groups, but that is why if each person is doing the best for the greatest number of people then it would solve this issue to an extent.

According to the Etzioni I actively participate in Christian thought, economics, law, public interest, and the liberal conceptions of what is the common good. I was raised in a very competitive household where no excuses were acceptable, so the economic common good is what is known to me. You shouldn’t rely on anyone else for your personal success, and you also cannot feel bad for taking advantage of the opportunities given to you. The rational was that if you worked hard, you will be rewarded with opportunities. I also know this is a very upper middle class suburban thing to be raised on. Obviously living in America, we all have to do our part to uphold civil liberties. Recently, civil liberties have been a huge debate recently because of the pandemic, and honestly, I don’t really think that it should be. I firmly believe that if you don’t get vaccinated by choice, you should not be allowed to go to a hospital if you get sick. It is extreme, I know, but if by someone’s ignorant choice I no longer have freedom to travel, gather, or do other things.

I do personally believe that each person is called to be an ethical citizen, but the issue with that is what truly defines each person’s ethical code. I believe many things that align with Catholic doctrine, but I also believe that a woman should be able to get an abortion if she sees fit, which does not necessarily align with the teachings of the church. It is also hard for me to grasp the concept of learned professions. I understand that each of us has a calling to pursue something, and we should do whatever we can to become skilled in a field. I also understand that some people are unable to pay for services, but I feel that in this day and age people would take advantage of a “pay what you can” service.

Each person should do what they can to help improve the common good, and I have chosen to define that within a utilitarian framework. However, even within this there are flaws.