When a family member becomes ill or seriously ill, the sick person is not the only who is one affected. A chronic, debilitating, or fatal illness inevitably affects other family members, none more so than those who providing basic, daily care for the ill family member. These persons take on the common, personal, non-professional role of family caregiver. Although little is documented, family caregivers have a long history, far predating modern medicine and likely predating any system of formal medicine and care. The tasks, abilities, and motivations of family caregivers vary greatly, leaving the role radically heterogeneous and open. Research findings have has been written about the experience of family caregivers. However, in addition to this knowledge, an ethical understanding of the role is needed. This presentation will discuss an ethical model for understanding this role. It will focus on a virtue approach that will allow for a view of the role as a quasi-cohesive practice and for an analysis of the heterogeneous range of family caregivers. In addition, a virtue-based analysis will allow for a variety of morally praiseworthy models in recognition of the uniqueness of individuals’ personalities and the uniqueness of the situation of any individual caregiver.