

Living Our Christian Values

RCIA

January 7, 2020

What would society be like...
without morals?



MORALITY: DEFINE IT



Define
Morality

What are
MORALS?

**Q. Do you see a connection between
a sacramental life and morality?**

**Sacramental life is a relationship with God
Who is... Love, Truth, Justice**

**Morality involves: Values AND Duties... based
on Love, Truth, and Justice**

**For Christians, God is necessary
To living a moral life**

MORALITY

So what is the source?



SCRIPTURE –

**God's part involves:
“The Way, The Truth
and the Light”**

**Our Part requires:
knowledge, reflection,
application &
commitment**

The Ten Commandments

THE TEN

1. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.
YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE
LORD YOUR GOD AND HIM
ONLY SHALL YOU SERVE.
2. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE
NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD
IN VAIN.
3. REMEMBER TO KEEP HOLY
THE SABBATH DAY.
4. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND
YOUR MOTHER.
5. YOU SHALL NOT KILL.

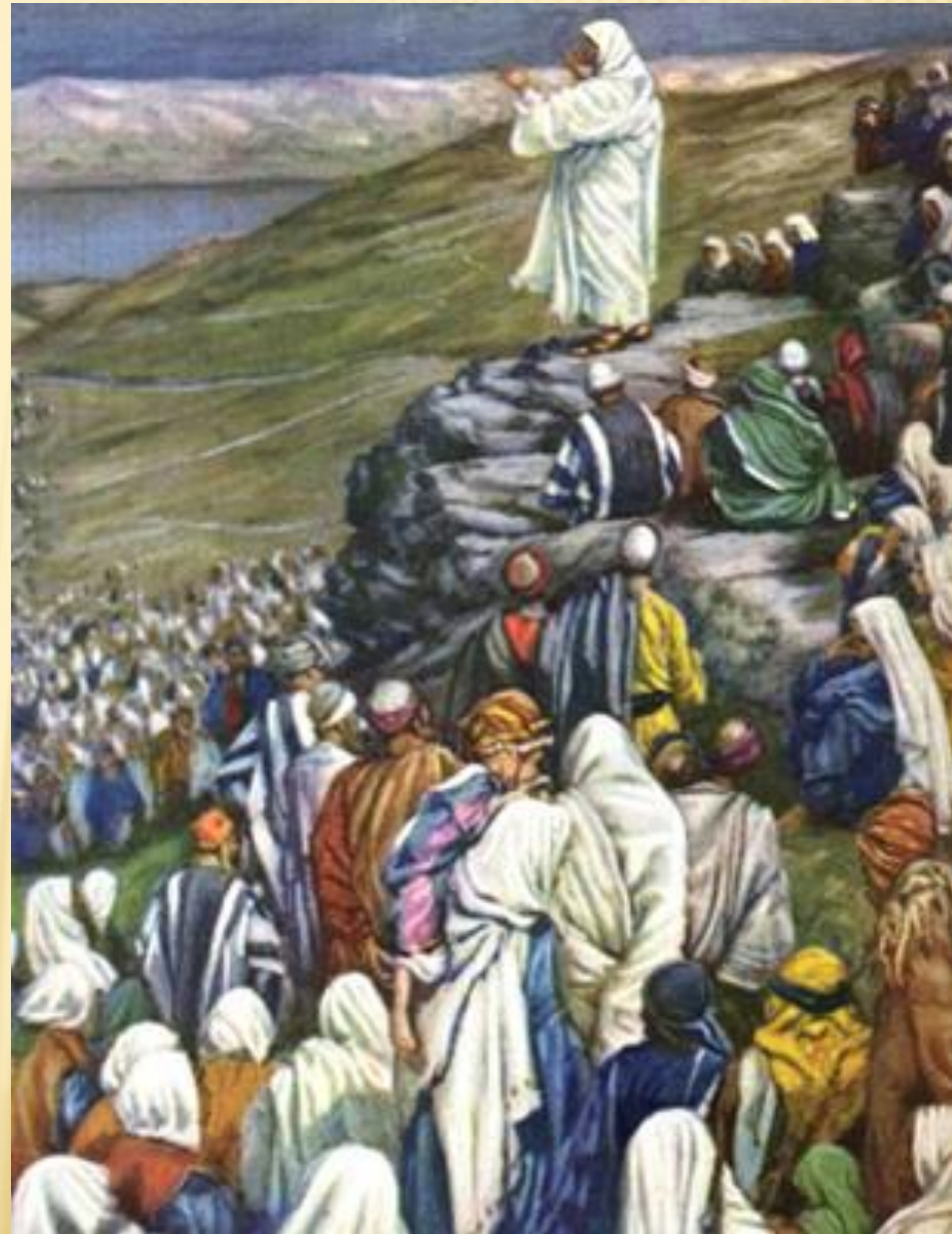
COMMANDMENTS

6. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT
ADULTERY.
7. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.
8. YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE
WITNESS.
9. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR
NEIGHBOR'S WIFE.
10. YOU SHALL NOT COVET
YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GOODS.

The Beatitudes

Gospel of St. Matthew 5:3-10

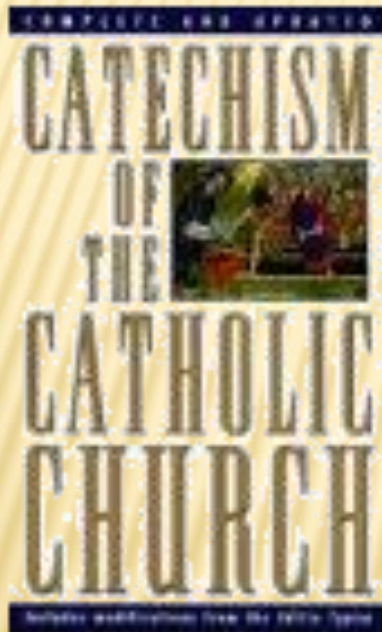
Blest are the/those...



You are my blessing when...

CATHOLIC MORALITY BEGINS HERE...

CCC 1691



**“Christian, recognize
your dignity”**

GENESIS 1: 1-2 25-28 30-31

He created all things

Created you in His image

And He said it was good

CHARACTER

Our inclinations toward...



...that make up the fabric of our being.

Q. What is Virtue?



The opposite... is **VICE**
Patterns of behavior that are harmful to one's self or others, character weaknesses – essentially **bad habits**

So then **VIRTUE** is:
Good habits – character strengths manifested on a consistent basis in decision making.

THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES



1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

“There are in the end three things that last; faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love.”

Q. As virtues, what do we mean by faith, hope and love?

CARDINAL VIRTUES



The Hinge Virtues?



- Right judgment – wisdom
- Standing up for what's right...
no matter what!
- Courage - strength under duress
- Self-control

Conscience: Being True to Our Deepest Self

What is it?



An inner voice?

It's not something we have;

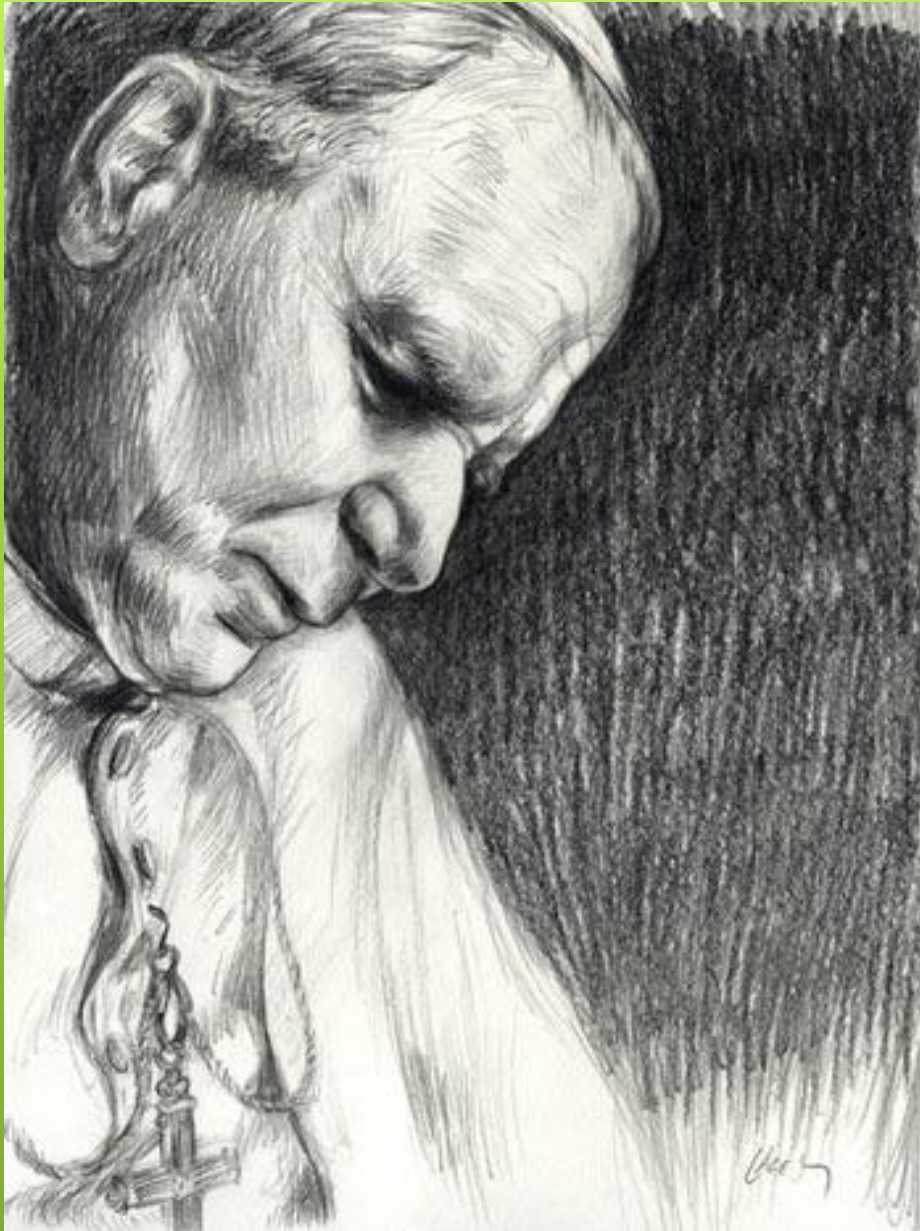
It's something we are!

Our Upbringing is Important!



We listen to the voices of those who raised us...





Pope John Paul II and Conscience

“Following your
conscience is
not an invitation
to do whatever
you want to
do...”

BREAK

SIN and MORALITY

Q. What do Christians mean by the word “sin”?

Q. Then for Christians, what’s the connection between sin and morality?

SIN and MORALITY



Missing the Mark

The root word for Sin means
“Off Center”

SIN and MORALITY



Another definition for sin:
“Hardness of the Heart”

Failure to be human...

SIN and MORALITY

Owning of our SIN

If we deny the presence of
sin in our lives then we
deny our own responsibility
for our actions.

SIN and MORALITY

Peace and goodwill towards
all is what's preferred,
right?....

... yet the opposite prevails -

WHY?

SIN and MORALITY

Original Sin -The sin owned by all



...this inclination towards evil, is
Original Sin

SIN and MORALITY

Let's distinguish a few terms

Venial Sins

Mortal Sins

Sins of Omission

Sins of Commission

Occasions of Sin

SIN and MORALITY



A more mature perspective:

Rather than seeing sin as
“breaking the law”,

views sin as a breakdown in
Relationships

SIN and MORALITY

Sinful Social Structures

Social Behavior Patterns that
Encourage or Support Sin



We will explore this perspective in two weeks.

Moral Decision Making

Decision should include some important steps



Moral Decision Making

Knowledge

Discernment

Judgment

Action



Next week – moral issues...

LGBT

infertility

contraception

You won't want to miss it!