

RCIA – Symbolon Lesson 16: A Catholic Moral Vision; *We Believe* Ch. 14 Morality

Opening Prayer:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.

• Song: Let There be Peace on Earth, MI 526

• Catechism References for Further Reflection:

- Freedom as a Right: CCC 1747
- Sources of Morality: CCC 1750-1754
- Good and Evil Acts: CCC 1638-1640
- Grace of the Sacrament: CCC 1755
- Formation of Conscience: CCC 1783-1785
- Necessity to Obey Conscience: CCC 1800

• Questions for Discussion:

1. What questions do you have regarding Catholic moral teachings? Why does God give us moral law? What's the difference between society's and the bible's view of freedom?
2. What are the three things that make an act morally good? What does the Church teach regarding whether the "ends" can justify the "means"?
3. Our culture advocates a philosophy of moral relativism – what does that mean? How has it affected our society? How has it affected you?
4. What are the three things required for a sin to be considered a "mortal" or deadly sin?

5. How do you form your conscience to be a reliable guide to good moral conduct?
6. What did the video mean by a virtue being a “habitual disposition to do the good”?

● **Weekly Gospel Reading: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 5:17-37)**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets.

I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away,

not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter

will pass from the law,

until all things have taken place.

Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments

and teaches others to do so

will be called least in the kingdom of heaven.

But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments

will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses

that of the scribes and Pharisees,

you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors,

You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.

But I say to you,

whoever is angry with his brother

will be liable to judgment;

and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,'

will be answerable to the Sanhedrin;

and whoever says, 'You fool,'

will be liable to fiery Gehenna.

Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar,

and there recall that your brother

has anything against you,

leave your gift there at the altar,

go first and be reconciled with your brother,

and then come and offer your gift.

Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court.

Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge,

and the judge will hand you over to the guard,

and you will be thrown into prison.

Amen, I say to you,

you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said,

You shall not commit adultery.

But I say to you,

everyone who looks at a woman with lust
has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
If your right eye causes you to sin,
tear it out and throw it away.
It is better for you to lose one of your members
than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna.
And if your right hand causes you to sin,
cut it off and throw it away.
It is better for you to lose one of your members
than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.

"It was also said,
Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.
But I say to you,
whoever divorces his wife - unless the marriage is unlawful -
causes her to commit adultery,
and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors,
Do not take a false oath,
but make good to the Lord all that you vow.
But I say to you, do not swear at all;
not by heaven, for it is God's throne;
nor by the earth, for it is his footstool;
nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.
Do not swear by your head,
for you cannot make a single hair white or black.
Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.'
Anything more is from the evil one."

- **Closing Prayer.**