

Workshop  
 He has Risen in Love a  
 Happy Easter.  
 Learning, Loving Living,  
 Being in Christ.  
 Session 1  
 Saturday May 11#1 and 18 #2,  
 1 pm.  
 Church Meeting Room  
 Faith Formation Program 2023-24

Welcome to  
 FAITH  
 Formation



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In the name of the Father the  
 Son and the Holy Spirit

Mother Mary, We ask that you join and intercede for us in this prayer:  
 All Angels and Saints in Heaven, We ask that you join and intercede  
 for us in this prayer:  
 Lord Jesus, we ask for your Grace, that shared divinity, flow into,  
 through, and out from us to others at this moment and in the  
 moments to come. We also ask that you send the Gifts of  
 Understanding and Knowledge so that our thoughts and words in our  
 discussion become yours, which is Love. We ask this in your name,  
 Jesus. Amen.

In the name of the Father the Son  
 and the Holy Spirit

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The higher power

Lord I Need You

Matt Maher



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## Moving on to; Preparation



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### Preparation



In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus showed us the way to true and eternal happiness. Through his resurrection and constant presence in our lives all our experiences become an extension of his love, including experiences that cause us grief and pain. When we imitate him, he shares his divinity with us through Grace and we are empowered to share that Love with others.

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### When we help and support (Love) others:

- 1) We can be in a constant state of Meditative Prayer. CCC 2697-2708
- 2) Expressing Authentic Love.

### Preparation

What we **think, say, and do**, can be prayer if we allow Jesus to Abide in us. Jesus is always there for us, always loving us, and we develop a deep and abiding relationship when we follow his example in the Gospels.

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**Introductions**



All discussion comments, thoughts, and questions are valuable and important. Please share and contribute.

Please stand and introduce yourself :

Name?  
 What Parish?  
 What would you like to obtain from this workshop?

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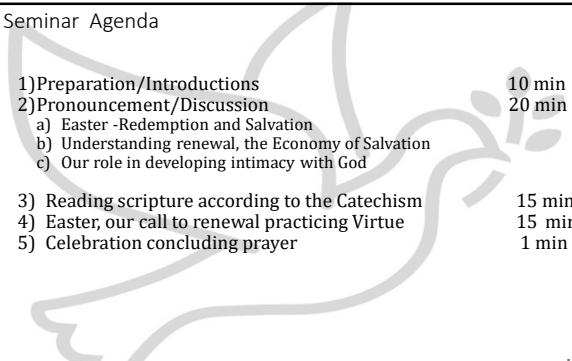
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**Seminar Agenda**



1)Preparation/Introductions	10 min
2)Pronouncement/Discussion	20 min
a) Easter -Redemption and Salvation	
b) Understanding renewal, the Economy of Salvation	
c) Our role in developing intimacy with God	
3) Reading scripture according to the Catechism	15 min
4) Easter, our call to renewal practicing Virtue	15 min
5) Celebration concluding prayer	1 min

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**Moving on to; Pronouncement  
Easter**



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Pronouncement **Easter is God's greatest act of love to redeem mankind.**




**The greatest act of love in all history!**

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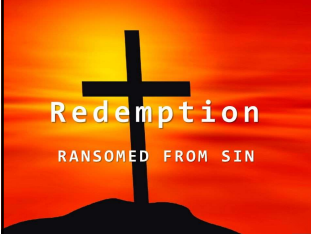
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What is Redemption?



**REDEEMER/REDEMPTION:** Jesus Christ, redeemer of mankind. Christ paid the price of his own sacrificial death on the cross to ransom us, to set us free from the slavery of sin, thus achieving our redemption (571, 601; cf. 517, 1372).

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What is Redemption?

After Jesus' death on the Cross, his side is pierced and blood and water flow out. The "giving up" of the spirit describes Jesus' death, a death like that of every other human being, but it also seems to allude to the "gift of the Spirit", by which Jesus **ransoms us from death** and **opens before us a new life**.

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What is Redemption?  
 In the Old Testament, God made covenants with us.  
 With each Covenant we (human beings) turned away from God and his will to our own will to solve problems.  
 Choosing sin over God's Will.



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What is Redemption?  
 In the Old Testament, God made covenants with us.  
 (1) The Edenic Covenant; (2) The Adamic Covenant; (3) The Noahic Covenant; (4) The Abrahamic Covenant; (5) The Mosaic Covenant; (6) The Davidic Covenant;



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What is Redemption?

In the Old Testament, God made covenants with us.

- 1) The Edenic Covenant before sin;
- 2) The Adamic Covenant after sin ;
- 3) The Noahic Covenant;



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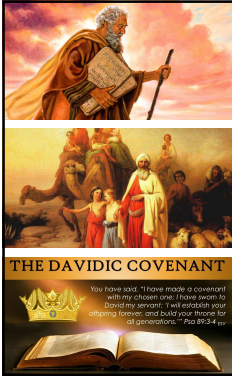
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What is Redemption?  
 In the Old Testament, God made covenants with us.  
 4) The Abrahamic Covenant;  
 5) The Mosaic Covenant;  
 6) The Davidic Covenant;

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What is Redemption?

In the Old Testament, God made covenants with us.

Each covenant was God asking us to turn away from **sin (the harm, injury, wounds we inflict on ourselves and others)** and be with him in holiness (no harm) and happiness.

Psalms 2:12, Psalms 23:1, Psalms 106:3, Psalms 119:1  
 Psalms 144:15, Psalm 34:9



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What is Redemption?

Each covenant we turned away from God and to ourselves.

With every sin, each act of self will away from God that injured ourselves and others, we placed a brick on a wall until we created a prison.



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Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.  
**Matthew 20:28**

What is Redemption?

Jesus **ransoms** us from the imprisonment of sin, which is death, and opens before us a new life.

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What is Redemption?

In giving his life as a **ransom** for many, Jesus proclaims that life finds its center, its meaning, and its fulfillment when it is given up.

We too are called to give our lives for our brothers and sisters, and thus to realize the meaning of our existence.



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What is Redemption?

**CCC 517** Christ's whole life is a mystery of **redemption**. **Redemption** comes to us above all through the blood of his cross, but this mystery is at work throughout Christ's entire life:

- already in his Incarnation through which by becoming poor **he enriches us with his poverty;**
- in his hidden life which **by his submission atones for our disobedience;**

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What is Redemption?

**CCC 517** Christ's whole life is a mystery of **redemption**. **Redemption** comes to us above all through the blood of his cross, but this mystery is at work throughout Christ's entire life:

- in his **word which purifies its hearers**;
- in his healings and exorcisms by which "he took our infirmities and bore our diseases";
- and in **his Resurrection by which he justifies us**.

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What is Redemption?

•Theology: to deliver from sin and its consequences by means of a sacrifice offered for the sinner.

•Sin is a 1) a failure to love and 2) a perverse attachment to goods. CCC 1849



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What is Redemption?

- A failure to love always involves a relationship. Matthew 22:37-40
- Sin always wounds us and **weakens** our intimacy with God.
- Jesus through his sacrifice heals the wounds of sin.
- **Redemption** is the ransom, a payment that **heals/Strengthens** of our relationship with God.



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What is Redemption?

**Redemption** heals our relationship with God.

*Ephesians 1:7*  
*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.*



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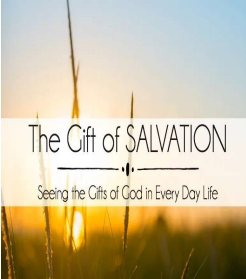
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Redemption and Salvation, the difference

**Redemption** is the healing from harm we do to ourselves and others ( Jesus died for our sins). Jesus' death/gift is for everyone.

**Salvation** is God's method, through the practicing virtues and living the gospels that prevent us from harming ourselves or others, and moves us to greater intimacy with him if we abide in him:

*Romans 5:10*  
*10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*



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Redemption

It's true by Christ's death and resurrection, nothing can separate us from God's love, but **we can experience less intimacy with Him** as a result of us habitually choosing sin (**Concupiscence**). **Psalm 66:18** "If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."



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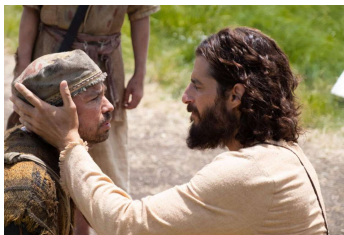
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Redemption

We are redeemed by Christ through his sacrifice and can obtain salvation by abiding in him:

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. Jn 15:9-10



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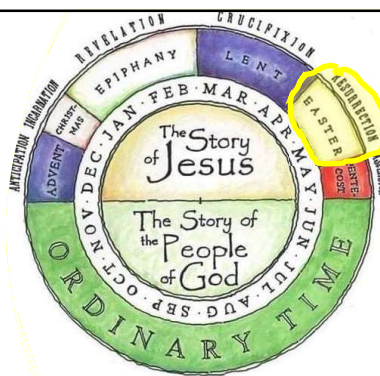
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Pronouncement

**Easter** is the most **important** liturgical time for Catholics. It celebrates Jesus's victory of sin and death and salvation for mankind.



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Pronouncement

The season of Easter is the most important of all liturgical times, which Catholics celebrate as the Lord's resurrection from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church.



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Pronouncement

The octave of Easter comprises the eight days which stretch from the first to the second Sunday. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day.

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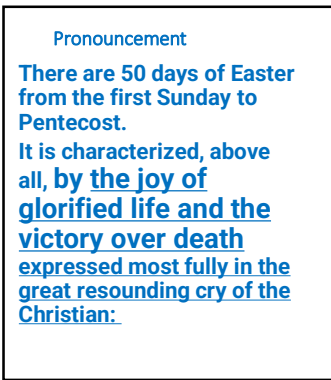
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Pronouncement

There are 50 days of Easter from the first Sunday to Pentecost. It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian:

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Pronouncement

...resounding cry of the Christian:

Alleluia! All faith flows from faith in the resurrection: "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith." (1 Cor 15:14)

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Pronouncement

1Cor 15: 36-37, 42

You fool! What you sow is not brought to life unless it dies.

And what you sow is not the body that is to be but a bare kernel of wheat, perhaps, or of some other kind;...

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown corruptible; it is raised incorruptible.



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Moving on to; Pronouncement  
Economy of Salvation



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Pronouncement  
Economy of  
Salvation

**CCC 236** The Fathers of the Church distinguish between **theology** (*theologia*) and **economy** (*oikonomia*).

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Pronouncement  
Economy of Salvation

**CCC 236** "Theology" refers to the mystery of God's inmost life within the Blessed Trinity and "economy" (refers) to all the works by which God reveals himself and communicates his life.

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**CCC 236** Pronouncement  
Economy of Salvation

**Theology** refers to the **mystery** of God's innermost life within the Blessed Trinity.

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Pronouncement Economy  
of Salvation

**The Economy of Salvation** is God disclosing himself through his action(s). He reveals himself and communicates his life. We have the Old Testament Covenants. And six instances God Talking to Moses. As well as the entire New Testament.

**CCC 236**

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Pronouncement- Examples o God revealing himself

Here are some Bible verses that mention God speaking to Moses:

- 1) Exodus 3:4 God calls Moses' name twice from the burning bush and tells him to come closer so he can speak to him.
- 2) Exodus 19:3-25 God calls to Moses from the mountain and tells him to tell the Israelites what he has done to the Egyptians and how he brought them to him.
- 3) Exodus 33:11-16 God speaks to Moses face-to-face as a friend.
- 4) Exodus 33:9-11 God talks with Moses while the pillar of cloud stands at the door of the tabernacle.
- 5) Exodus 7:1-25 God tells Moses that he has made him like God to Pharaoh and that he should speak all that God commands him.
- 6) Exodus 19:16-19 God speaks with Moses at Mount Sinai and later gives him the Covenant Code, also known as the Ten Commandments

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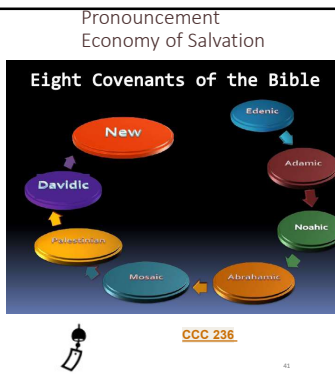
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The Economy of Salvation is God revealing himself and communicating his life.

Take a moment ( say 30 seconds or when the chime sounds), and ask yourself the question: What is the relationship between The Economy of Salvation and Easter?



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Pronouncement Economy of Salvation

“CCC 236 Through the *oikonomia* (economy), the *theologia* (**Theology**) is revealed to us; but conversely, the *theologia* (*Theology*) illuminates the whole *oikonomia* (economy).

God’s works reveal who he is in himself; the mystery of his inmost being enlightens our understanding of all his works. So it is, analogously, among human persons.

A person discloses himself in his actions, and the better we know a person, the better we understand his actions.”

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Pronouncement  
Economy of  
Salvation

Another name  
for Economy of  
Salvation is the  
Divine Economy.

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Pronouncement Divine Economy (Salvation Economy)

CCC 258 **The whole divine economy is the common work of the three divine persons.** For as the Trinity has only one and the same nature, so too does it have only one and the same operation: "The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are not three principles of creation but one principle." However, each divine person performs the common work according to his unique personal property.

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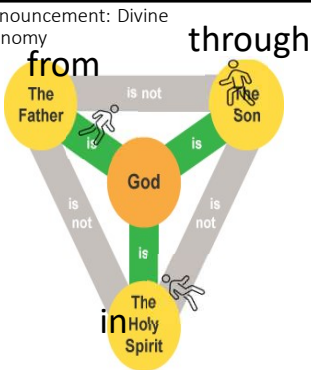
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CCC 258 However, each divine person **performs the common work according to his unique personal property.**

For example, the Holy Spirit animates us, so can we imitate Christ by living the Sermon on the Mount, providing a path to Heaven (CCC 1724) , which in turn leads us to the Father in Heaven (John 14:6).

Pronouncement: Divine Economy



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Pronouncement Divine Economy

**CCC 258** Thus the Church confesses, following the New Testament, "one God and Father **from whom** all things are, and one Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom** all things are, and one Holy Spirit **in whom** all things are".

**From** the Father we receive gifts, **through** Jesus we perform good deeds, **in** us the Holy Spirit animates.

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### Why are we here: The Creed

NICENE CREED (Professed at Sunday Mass) **We believe** in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. **We believe** in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father; God **from** God, Light from Light, true God from true God; begotten not made, one in being with the Father. **Through** Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation, He came down from heaven. By the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again, in fulfillment of the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. **We believe in** the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. **We believe** in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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Pronouncement Divine Economy

**CCC 1076** The Church was made manifest to the world on the day of Pentecost by the outpouring of the **Holy Spirit**. The gift of the Spirit ushers **in** a new era in the "dispensation of the mystery" the age of the Church, during which **Christ** manifests, makes present, and communicates his work of salvation **through** the liturgy of his Church, "until he comes." ...Christ ...acts **through** the sacraments in what the common Tradition of the East and the West calls "**the sacramental economy**"; this is the communication (or "dispensation") of the fruits of Christ's Paschal mystery in the celebration of the Church's "sacramental" liturgy.

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Pronouncement  
Divine Economy

**CCC 1093** In the sacramental economy the Holy Spirit fulfills what was prefigured in *the Old Covenant*. Since Christ's Church was "prepared in marvelous fashion in the history of the people of Israel and in the Old Covenant," the **Church's liturgy has retained certain elements** of the worship of the Old Covenant as integral and irreplaceable, adopting them as her own:  
 -notably, **reading the Old Testament;**  
 -praying the **Psalms;**

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Pronouncement Divine Economy

**CCC 1096 ...** The relationship between Jewish liturgy and Christian liturgy, but also their differences in content, are particularly evident in the **great feasts of the liturgical year**, such as Passover. Christians and Jews both celebrate the Passover. For Jews, it is the Passover of history, tending toward the future; for Christians, it is the Passover fulfilled in the death and Resurrection of Christ, though always in expectation of its definitive consummation.

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Moving on to; Our role in developing intimacy with God.



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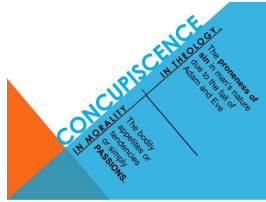
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Our role in developing intimacy with God.

**Concupiscence weakens our intimacy with God.**

It causes us to turn from God. As in any relationship assuming responsibility for our actions and choices (I.e. self awareness) is essential to increasing the level of intimacy in that relationship.



**What is Concupiscence?**

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Our role in developing intimacy with God.

**CCC 2514** St. John distinguishes three kinds of covetousness or **concupiscence**: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, **and pride of life**. In the Catholic catechetical tradition, the ninth commandment forbids carnal concupiscence; the tenth forbids coveting another's goods.



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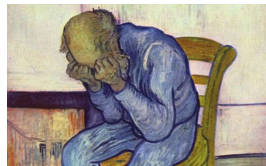
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Our role in developing intimacy with God.

**CCC 2515** Etymologically, "concupiscence" can refer to any intense form of human desire. **Christian theology has given it a particular meaning: the movement of the sensitive appetite contrary to the operation of the human reason.**



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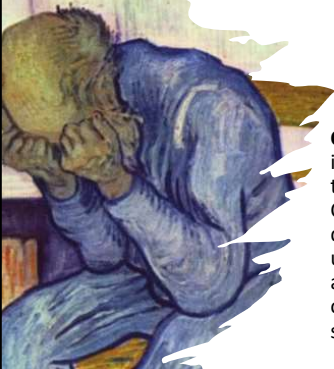
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Our role in developing intimacy with God.

**CCC 2515** The apostle St. Paul identifies it with the rebellion of the "flesh" against the "spirit." Concupiscence stems from the disobedience of the first sin. It unsettles man's moral faculties and, without being in itself an offense, inclines man to commit sins.

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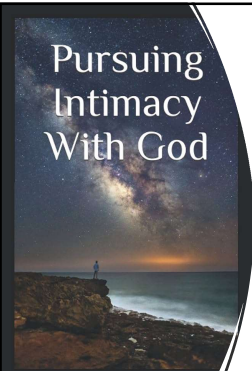
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**Pursuing Intimacy With God**

Our role in developing intimacy with God.

How do we strengthen our intimacy with God?

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Our role in developing intimacy with God.

**Jn 15: 9-10**  
**As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.**  
**If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.**

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Our role in developing intimacy with God.

Mt 22: 37-40

**He said to him,\* "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**

**This is the greatest and the first commandment.**

**The second is like it:,\* You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

**The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."**



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Our role in developing intimacy with God.

**How do we Remain in Love And Love God and Others?**

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**Moving on to; Reading scripture according to the Catechism**



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**CULTIVATING INTIMACY WITH GOD**

Reading scripture according to the Catechism

The way we deepen our intimacy with God is to learn how to use:

- The 4 Cardinal Virtues.
- The 3 theological Virtues.
- The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- And the Sermon on the Mount as well as the 10 commandments.

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Reading scripture according to the Catechism.

Here is the why we want to focus our decision making using the Sermon on the Mount:

**CCC 1724** The Decalogue, the Sermon on the Mount, and the apostolic catechesis describe for us the paths that lead to the Kingdom of Heaven. Sustained by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we tread them, step by step, by everyday acts. By the working of the Word of Christ, we slowly bear fruit in the Church to the glory of God.

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Reading scripture according to the Catechism

But first we must understand what the Catechism says about how we are to read scripture:

**CCC 115** According to an ancient tradition, one can distinguish **between two senses of Scripture: the literal and the spiritual, the latter being subdivided into the allegorical, moral and anagogical senses.** The profound concordance of the four senses guarantees all its richness to the living reading of Scripture in the Church.



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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 115

**Understanding Scripture**

- 1. Literal Sense**
- 2. Spiritual Sense**
  - 1. The allegorical sense.**
  - 2. The moral sense**
  - 3. The anagogical sense**



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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 115

**LAMA**

Scripture

- 1. Literal Sense**
- 2. Allegorical (spiritual) sense.**
- 3. Moral (spiritual) sense.**
- 4. Anagogical (spiritual) sense**



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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 116

The **literal sense** refers to the sense of the **words themselves**; it is "that which has been expressed directly by the inspired human authors."



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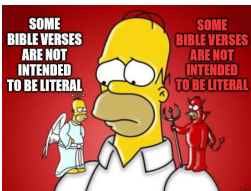
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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 116



**CCC 116** The **literal sense** is the meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture and discovered by **exegesis**, following the rules of sound interpretation: "All other senses of Sacred Scripture are based on the literal."

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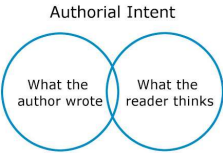
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Reading scripture according to the Catechism

Biblical **exegesis** is the careful analysis of biblical passages to produce interpretations **of their intended meaning**. The word "exegesis" comes from the Greek term *exegeomai*, which means "to explain", "to narrate", or "to show the way".



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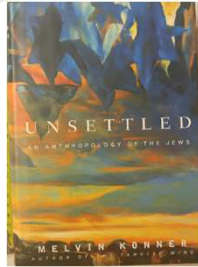
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Reading scripture according to the Catechism

**Exegesis** isn't about reading other theologians or listening to Podcasts. **Exegesis** is about the using the Holy Spirit Gifts of Knowledge and Understanding. Start with understanding the daily Jewish life 100 AD through anthropology.



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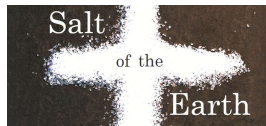
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Reading scripture according to the Catechism

The goal of **exegesis** is to understand what the biblical author intended for **their original readers to understand**, rather than what today's interpreter thinks the text means.



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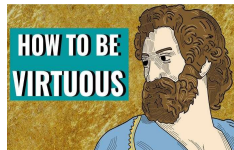
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Reading scripture according to the Catechism

Throughout this this and succeeding workshops I provide my own application of **exegesis**. **My application of exegesis is not intended to tell you what to believe or interpret but only as an example of how to apply the scripture passages to living and being virtuous.**



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Moving on to; Allegorical, Moral, and Anagogical Senses of scripture



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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 117

“CCC 117 The **spiritual sense**. Thanks to the unity of God's plan, not only the **text of Scripture** but also the realities and events about which it speaks **can be signs.**”

2) Allegorical.  
3) Moral  
4) Anagogical



For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.  
**Hebrews 4:12**

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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 117

As it developed within Christianity, the **spiritual sense** pertained to “the meaning expressed by the biblical texts when read under the influence of the Holy Spirit, in the context of the **paschal mystery of Christ** and of the new life which flows from it.”



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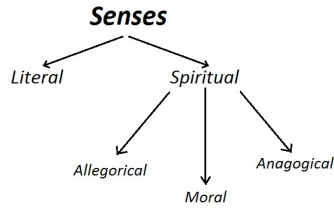
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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 117

The allegorical sense refers to the meaning that is hidden beneath the surface of the text.



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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 117

Underlying the allegorical method is the notion that the writers of an earlier age composed their works in a veiled language. They wrote one thing but intended another. In order to hold on to the stories of old, and yet to allow these stories to speak to a new age, it is necessary to find a meaning beyond what the written word said.



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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 117

*"1. The allegorical sense. We can acquire a more profound understanding of events by recognizing their significance in Christ; thus the crossing of the Red Sea is a sign or type of Christ's victory and also of Christian Baptism."*



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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 117

Scripture

2. Allegorical (spiritual) sense. CCC 117-1

- an **allegory** is a narrative of a character, place, or event representing a deeper meaning **beyond** the Literal sense. A meaning with moral significance.
- Ask what is the allegory in this reading ?



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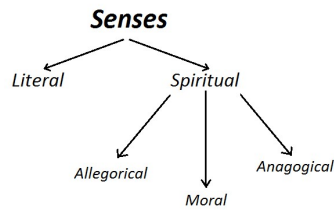
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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 117

"2. The moral sense. The events reported in Scripture ought to lead us to act justly. As St. Paul says, they were written "for our instruction"."



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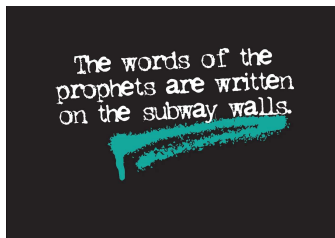
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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 117

The **Moral Sense** is concerned with the **moral lessons that can be drawn from the biblical text**. If events in Israel's past "were written down to instruct us" (1 Cor 10:11), then we can learn how we ought to live by paying careful attention to the history of Israel, the words of the prophets, and the exhortations found in Israel's wisdom traditions.



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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 117

Scripture

3. Moral (spiritual) sense.

- What is the message about acting Righteously ( know god’s will and know he is there when we act on his will) and justly (to will good of another for others sake)
- Ask how does this reading show me God’s will or how to actively will the good for the other.




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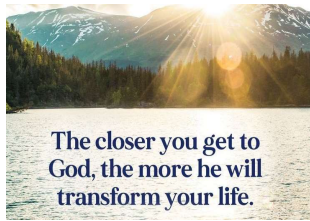
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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 117

**“3. The anagogical sense** (Greek: anagoge, "leading"). We can view realities and events in terms of their eternal significance, leading us toward our true homeland: thus the Church on earth is a sign of the heavenly Jerusalem.”




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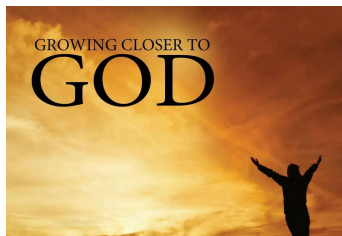
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Reading and understanding Scripture . CCC 115-117

Scripture

4. Anagogical (spiritual) sense

- Scripture brings us closer to God.
- Ask how does this scripture bring me closer to God?




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Reading and understanding Scripture . CCC 115-117

Mathew 5: 22-24:

**22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult[f] a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell[g] of fire. 23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.**

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Exegesis regarding Mathew and this writing Literal sense

The Gospel of Matthew was written for a Jewish Christian community during a period of reconstruction after the First Jewish–Roman War (66–73 AD).

What do you think happens to a culture after a war where they are defeated?

With this information let's go back and reread the passage.

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Exegesis regarding Mathew and this writing Literal sense

The Gospel of Matthew was written for a Jewish Christian community during a period of reconstruction after the First Jewish–Roman War (66–73 AD).

What do you think happens to a culture after a war where they are defeated?

With this information let's go back and reread the passage.

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Reading/Understanding scripture according to the Catechism CCC 115

LAMA

Scripture

1. Literal Sense
2. Allegorical (spiritual) sense.
3. Moral (spiritual) sense.
4. Anagogical (spiritual) sense



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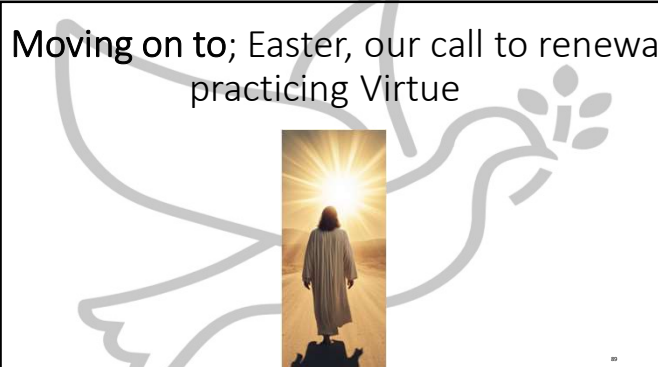
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Moving on to; Easter, our call to renewal practicing Virtue



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Easter, our call to renewal practicing Virtue

**The Easter season is about the Paschal Mystery and descent of the Holy Spirit into our lives.**

**Easter is now the time when we can die to our old habits and grow anew.**



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Easter, our call to renewal practicing Virtue

**Lent was about Christ passion and sacrifice for us.**

**Easter is about understanding that gift with the Holy Spirit imitating Christ in our daily lives. Growing into a new being.**

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Easter, our call to renewal practicing Virtue

Luke 9:23-25  
Revised Standard Version

**23 And he said to all, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it. 25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"**

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Easter, our call to renewal practicing Virtue

John 12:24-26  
Revised Standard Version

**24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.**

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93

Easter, our call to renewal practicing Virtue

We can die to ourselves by simply replacing old habits with new ones. We accomplish that by learning a systematic method of practicing Virtue.

Really it's about self awareness. What vices do we want to change to virtue?



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### Virtue CCC 1833

What is Virtue?

“Virtue is a **habitual** and firm disposition to **do good.**”-CCC 1833

Firm disposition to do good for God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

#### ARISTOTLE'S VIRTUE THEORY

- Aristotle: a virtue is a state of character by which you 'stand well' in relation to your desires, emotions and choices:
  - 'to feel [desires and emotions] at the right times, with reference to the right objects, towards the right people, with the right motive, and in the right way'
- Virtues are traits that are necessary for 'living well'.

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### Virtue CCC 1833

“Aquinas notes that while we can think badly of the virtues (like that they're stupid and unnecessary), we can't act badly with them. **If we truly practice the virtues, then we can't do evil because they are ordered through reason towards the good.**”-Fradd, Matt. How to Be Happy: Saint Thomas' Secret to a Good Life (p. 62).

Emmaus Road Publishing. Kindle Edition.

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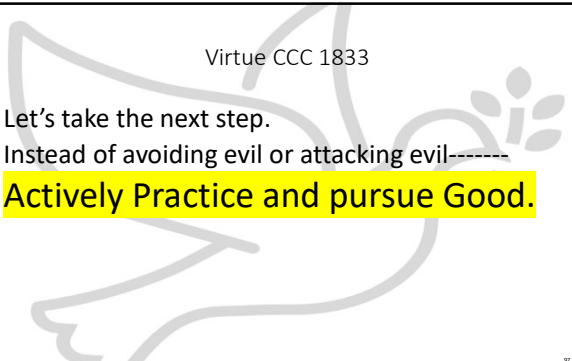
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Virtue CCC 1833

Let's take the next step.  
 Instead of avoiding evil or attacking evil-----  
**Actively Practice and pursue Good.**



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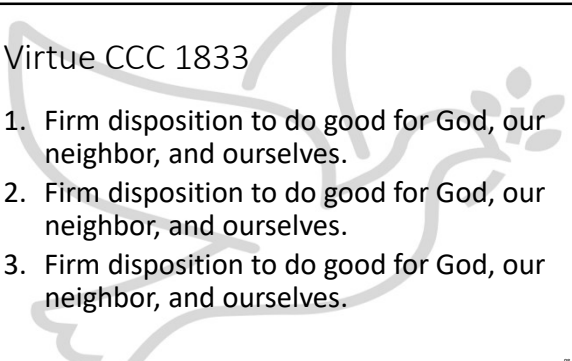
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Virtue CCC 1833

1. Firm disposition to do good for God, our neighbor, and ourselves.
2. Firm disposition to do good for God, our neighbor, and ourselves.
3. Firm disposition to do good for God, our neighbor, and ourselves.



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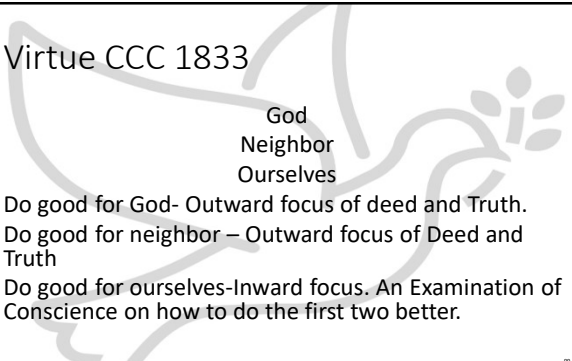
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Virtue CCC 1833

God  
 Neighbor  
 Ourselves

Do good for God- Outward focus of deed and Truth.  
 Do good for neighbor – Outward focus of Deed and Truth  
 Do good for ourselves-Inward focus. An Examination of Conscience on how to do the first two better.



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Virtue CCC 1804

“1804 Human Virtues are firm attitudes, stable disposition, **habitual perfections** of intellect and will that govern our actions, order our passions, and guide our conduct according to reason and faith. ....

**The moral Virtues are acquired by human effort .”**

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Virtue CCC 1804

“The virtuous man is he who **freely** practices the good.”

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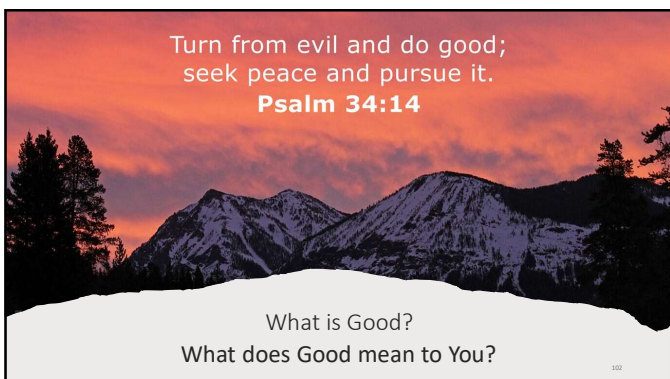
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Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.  
**Psalm 34:14**

What is Good?  
What does Good mean to You?

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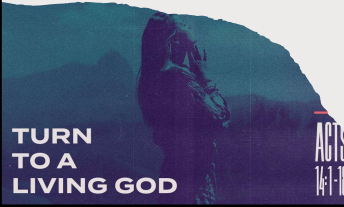
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What is Good?

CCC 385  
 God is infinitely good and all his works are good. Yet no one can escape the experience of suffering or the evils in nature which seem to be linked to the limitations proper to creatures: and above all to the question of moral evil. Where does evil come from? "I sought whence evil comes and there was no solution", said St. Augustine, and **his own painful quest would only be resolved by his conversion to the living God.**



TURN TO A LIVING GOD

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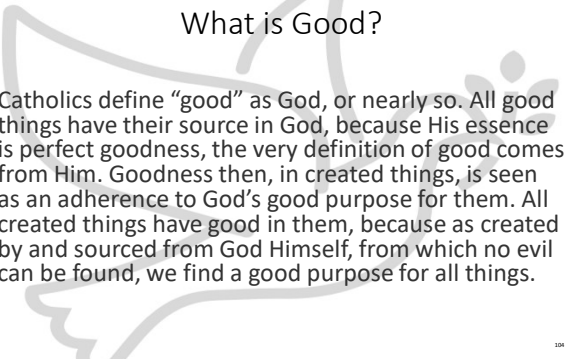
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What is Good?

Catholics define "good" as God, or nearly so. All good things have their source in God, because His essence is perfect goodness, the very definition of good comes from Him. Goodness then, in created things, is seen as an adherence to God's good purpose for them. All created things have good in them, because as created by and sourced from God Himself, from which no evil can be found, we find a good purpose for all things.



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What is Good?

CCC 385  
 For "the mystery of lawlessness" is clarified only in the light of the "mystery of our religion". The revelation of divine love in Christ manifested at the same time the extent of evil and the superabundance of grace. We must therefore approach the question of the origin of evil **by fixing the eyes of our faith on him who alone is its conqueror.**



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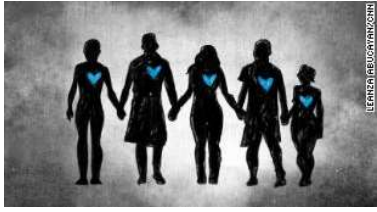
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What is Good?

Catholic tradition that everything is inherently good, but may become evil if abused or misused.

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What is Good?

A choice for good is derived from and directed towards love. Jesus' great commandment of love for God and neighbor is central to the work for peace in our world.

Its demand is far reaching — the inner logic of Christian love, which in the Gospel is the living source of moral goodness, leads even to the love of one's enemies.



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What is Good in action?

Develop the four cardinal virtues. Align everything you do according to prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude.



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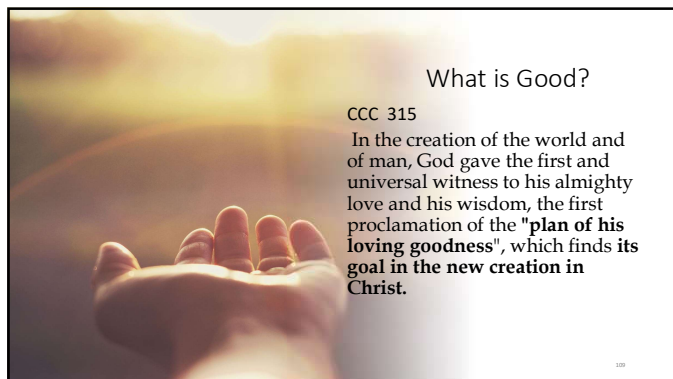
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What is Good?

CCC 315  
 In the creation of the world and of man, God gave the first and universal witness to his almighty love and his wisdom, the first proclamation of the "plan of his loving goodness", which finds its goal in the new creation in Christ.



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What is Good?



CCC 385 tells us that God is Good as are all his works. It also says to fix our eyes on Christ who has conquered evil.  
 CCC 315 tells us about God's plan of loving goodness which is manifested in Christ.

One conclusion is that Good is not defined by evil, Good is defined by turning our thoughts on Christ and his manifestations of Good through the Gospels (The Word).

For example, living the Beatitudes is certainly and clearly a Good. Why Should we think this? Where did they, the Beatitudes come from?

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Compare Good and Sin

*The opposite of Sin is Good. Therefore; Logical thinking suggests that Good is supported by "Love" and proper attachment to things or others.*

The Gift of Knowledge helps us See Good.

Love



Proper attachment to things or others

Goodness sets us free.

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**Sin** is the **failure to genuinely love** God and Love others caused by a **perverse attachment**: Lifestyle, policy, procedure, experience. All the things that work for us in our life.

Compare Good and Sin

**Sin**

Failure in Love      Perverse Attachment to goods

Perverse in this case means personal pleasure in the attachment.

CCC 1849

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**LETTING GO OF SELF WILL**

Quick Test of what is Good:

What is Good? Ask the question is this my will, my desire or God's Will ( who is love)?

If based on self will then it is not Good regardless of intention. CCC 2094

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What is Good?  
Ways of Sinning, CCC 1853;

- Thought
- Word
- Deed
- Omission

**Avoiding Sin is not the same as pursuing Good.**



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What is Good?  
 Ways of Sinning, CCC 1853; **Avoiding Sin is not the same as pursuing Good:**  
 Both (avoiding and pursuing) are needed to live a morally upright and spiritually fulfilling life; avoiding sin lays the foundation for good moral conduct while pursuing Good involves actively seeking opportunities to do what is right and just.




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What is Good?

Actively pursue Good and Avoid Sin in  
 Thought  
 Word  
 Deed  
 Take measure of our thoughts, words and deeds daily. Seek and understand God's will daily: Examination of Conscience.

**SAY**  
*good words*  
**THINK**  
*good thoughts*  
**DO**  
*good deeds*

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116

What is Good?

We actively pursue Good when we seek, understand and act on God's will through the Gospels: With the Guidance of the Holy Spirit through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity.




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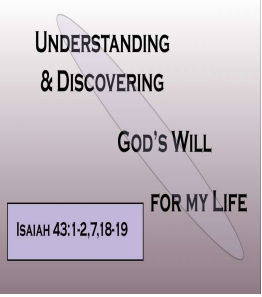
117

What is Good?

**Practicing the Human Virtues (Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance) is the pursuit of Good.**

God gives us free will. We can use our self-will to seek, understand, and act on God's will.

We seek, understand and act on God's will through the Gospels. With the Guidance of the Holy Spirit.




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118

What is Good?

Not seeking and understanding God's will first, we are just doing stuff and that is not pursuing Good.

Even when we practice the Corporal Works of Mercy and Spiritual Works of Mercy, we are not actively pursuing Good. We are just checking off boxes. See Mathew 7:21-22




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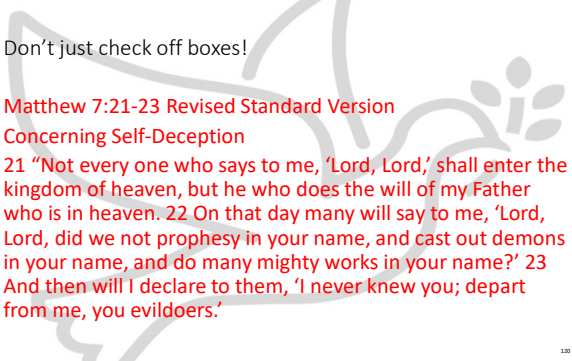
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Don't just check off boxes!

Matthew 7:21-23 Revised Standard Version Concerning Self-Deception

21 "Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.'




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Easter, our call to renewal practicing Virtue

**We can die to ourselves by simply replacing old habits with new ones. We accomplish that by learning systematic method of practicing Virtue.**

Practice the habits that will make you more like Christ every day.

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James 1:23-25

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his own face in a mirror.

24 He sees himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like.

25 But the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres, and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does.




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Easter, our call to renewal practicing Virtue

**1804 Human virtues** are firm attitudes, stable dispositions, habitual perfections of intellect and will that govern our actions, order our passions, and guide our conduct according to reason and faith. They make possible ease, self-mastery, and joy in leading a morally good life. **The virtuous man is he who freely practices the good.**

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Pop Quiz

Virtue is a habit we develop and practice in order to always pursue \_\_\_\_\_.

Choose only ONE **best** answer.

A. The needs of others.

B. What we want.

C. What others want.

➔ D. Good.

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Virtues, Beatitudes and Gifts work together

**Cardinal Virtues , the Ten Commandments, Beatitudes provides an opportunity for Grace in your life.**

**Grace flows to and into you from God depending on the disposition of our hearts.**

**The Theological Virtues and Gifts of the Holy Spirit are Gifts from God that help us practice the Cardinal Virtues, Ten Commandments and Beatitudes.**

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Virtue CCC 1833

“Virtue is a **habitual** and firm disposition to do **good.**”-CCC 1833

Firm disposition to do good for God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

 An illustration of a white dove with its wings spread, carrying a globe in its beak. The globe shows silhouettes of people standing on top. Below the globe, there are several small black silhouettes of people in various poses, some appearing to be in conflict or struggle, and others in peaceful or helpful interactions.

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Moving on to; Celebration

 A photograph of a person wearing a long white robe, standing in a bright, golden light that creates a lens flare effect. The person is seen from behind, looking towards the light. The background is a soft, hazy landscape.

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**Celebration**

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
**Holy Mother Mary Pray with us. Saints in Heaven Pray with us.**  
**Lord Jesus, we ask that you send down the gift of knowledge and wisdom and let us contemplate how we can grow closer to you and detach ourselves from the things that keep us from you And finally know that we love you with all my heart. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen**

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Orientation-Questions/comments/concerns

Questions/comments/concerns



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End of Session -Next week Practicing Virtue



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What is Good?

CCC 385, tells us that God is Good as are all his works. It also says to fix our eyes on Christ who has conquered evil.

CCC 315, tells us about God's plan of loving goodness which is manifested in Christ.



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**Pop Quiz**

**Developing our talents for others is considered ?**

Choose only ONE best answer.

A. Ok, along as it gets me ahead of others.

B. Ok, only along as I am doing it for good reasons.

C. Great, as long as I am applauded.

➔ D. Performing good works.

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Virtue CCC 1833

What is Virtue?  
 "Virtue is a **habitual** and firm disposition to **do good.**"-CCC 1833  
 Firm disposition to do good for God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

**ARISTOTLE'S VIRTUE THEORY**

- Aristotle: a virtue is a state of character by which you 'stand well' in relation to your desires, emotions and choices:
  - 'to feel [desires and emotions] at the right times, with reference to the right objects, towards the right people, with the right motive, and in the right way'
- Virtues are traits that are necessary for 'living well'.

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What is Good?

One conclusion: Good is never defined by evil, **Good is defined by turning our thoughts on Christ and his manifestations of Good through the Gospels (The Word).**

For example, living the Beatitudes is certainly and clearly a Good. Why Should we think this? Where did they, the Beatitudes come from?



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**LOVING GOD**  
is about:

- ✓ Personal relationship with God
- ✓ Pursuing intimacy with God
- ✓ Obedience to God's Word
- ✓ Spiritual discipline
- ✓ Surrendered life
- ✓ Holiness
- ✓ Community

Pursue  
Good=God=Love

**Actively pursue Good in**  
**Thought**  
**Word**  
**Deed**

**Take measure of our thought's words and deeds daily.**

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**Pop Quiz**

**Virtue means to actively pursue Good in \_\_\_\_\_, word and deed ?**

Choose only ONE **best** answer.

- A. The Dark.
- B. Time.
- C. Thought.**
- D. Light of .

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**Moving on to; The Theological Virtues**

**THE THREE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES**

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Overview the 3 Theological Virtues

3 Theological Virtues

- 1) Faith CCC 1814
- 2) Hope CCC 1817
- 3) Charity CCC 1822

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Virtues

<u>Theological</u>	<u>Cardinal</u>
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
	4.

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**Faith** CCC 1814-Gift from God

**Faith** is the theological virtue by which **we believe in God and believe all that he has said** and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself. By faith "**man freely commits his entire self to God.**" For this reason the believer seeks to know and do God's will. "The righteous shall live by faith." Living faith "work[s] through charity."

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**Faith** CCC 1814-Gift from God

God's Word, which is Jesus Christ, we know his Truth is Everlasting Life in everything he said.

If we want constant happiness and Joy, we copy **His words and actions in what we think, say, and do.**



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**FAITH a Gift from God**

**Faith** CCC 1814-  
**Freely Commit to God.**

The intimacy between God and humanity is expressed through faith and authentic faith requires action. For example:

**"If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen," (1 John 4:20).**

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**FAITH a Gift from God**

**Faith** CCC 1814-

In loving our neighbor, we serve as a witness to our faith and demonstrate our love for God.

**Faith is us giving Jesus permission to hug us!**

Jesus Love is revealed in the Sacraments and through other prayer.

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Pop Quiz

**The Theological Virtues are a Grace from God, we develop them with the help of \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

Choose only ONE **best** answer.

- A. Father Joshy.
- B. Time.
- C. Father Pepin.
- D. The Holy Spirit.**



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HOPE IN  
GOD...

**Hope** CCC 1817  
–the desire for happiness.

**Hope is the virtue by which we desire and seek our ultimate good and happiness which is eternal life in the kingdom of Heaven.**

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HOPE IN  
GOD

**Hope** CCC 1817 –the desire for happiness.

**When everything else is going wrong all around us on Earth, it is Hope that keeps us focused on the eternal goal beyond this life. It enables us to trust in all of Christ's promises.**

**Hope is expressed and nourished in Prayer.**

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Hope CCC 1817 –the desire for happiness.

Hope is the desire for happiness . We know how to be eternally happy because Jesus tells us so in the Beatitudes!



HOPE IN  
GOD...

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Pop Quiz

Hope is a Theological Virtue where we trust and turn to God for goodness and \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Choose only ONE **best** answer.

→ A. Happiness.  
B. Salvation.  
C. Redemption.  
D. Love.

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Charity CCC 1822-Love that pours Grace into us.

Charity, **or love**, is the virtue that allows us to fulfill the two greatest commandments revealed by Jesus.

1) "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.



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Charity CCC 1822-Love that pours Grace into us.

2) The second is like the first: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments," (Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:29-31).

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Charity CCC 1822-Love that pours Grace into us.

These "new" commandments that Jesus put forth do not abolish the Ten Commandments, rather they fulfill them and give meaning to them.



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Charity CCC 1822-Love that pours Grace into us.

We are not called to follow the Ten Commandments blindly or as meaningless rules. We are called to follow them precisely because we love God above all things and we love others above ourselves.

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Charity CCC 1822-Love that pours Grace into us.

"Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God."

**Authentic love is to recognize God's love for you and all of His creation and to reflect that love back into the world.**



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Charity CCC 1822-Love that pours Grace into us.



**Authentic Love is to honor everyone and everything as God does.**

**God honors us daily by giving us his gift of love expressed every moment in our lives.**

**It is us who turn away from him and that happiness. He never turns away from us.**

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Charity CCC 1822-Love that pours Grace into us.



**Jesus crucified is the perfect example of this authentic love and whenever we have any questions about how to act in charity, all we need to do is gaze upon a crucifix.**

**Jesus put our ultimate well-being ahead of his own immediate well-being.**

**As we should put God and others before our own well being.**

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**Pop Quiz**

**Authentic love is to recognize God's love for you and all of His creation and to reflect that love back into the world. Is part of the Virtue of \_\_\_\_\_.**

Choose only ONE **best** answer.

- A. Faith.
- B. Hope.
- C. Prudence.
- D. Charity.**



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**Moving on to; The Cardinal Virtues**



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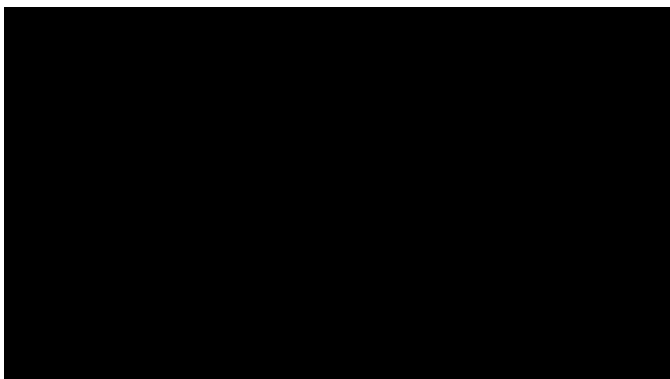
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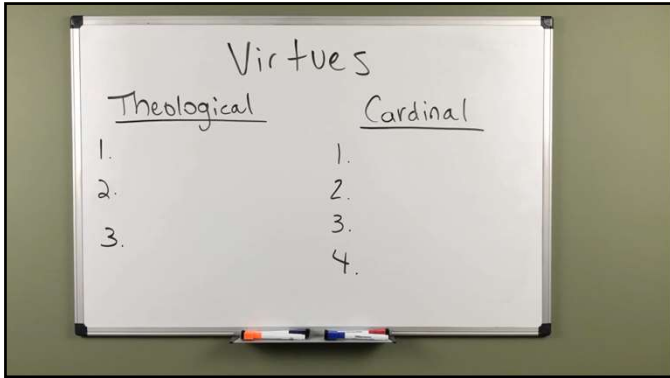
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Overview the 4 Cardinal Virtues

All other virtues are born of the Cardinal Virtues:

1. Prudence CCC 1806
2. Justice CCC 1807
3. Fortitude CCC 1808
4. Temperance CCC 1809

PaJamas' Fit Tight

Illustration of the four cardinal virtues: Prudence (a woman with a mirror), Justice (a woman with scales), Fortitude (a woman on a horse), and Temperance (a woman with a chalice). A central circle says "FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES".

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Prudence  
CCC 1806

Wise action or wise decision making: True Good for our action and how to achieve it.

Graphic with a lightbulb and the text "Making WISE Decisions".

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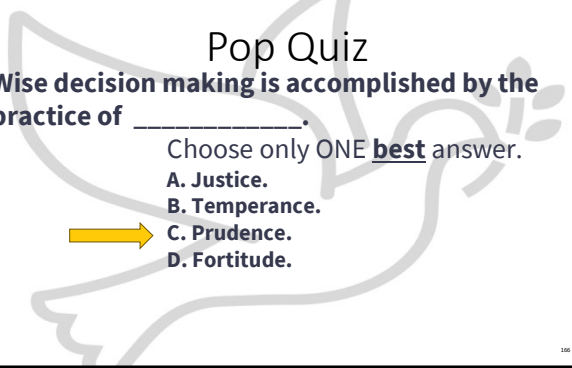
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**Pop Quiz**

**Wise decision making is accomplished by the practice of \_\_\_\_\_.**

Choose only ONE **best** answer.

- A. Justice.
- B. Temperance.
- C. Prudence.**
- D. Fortitude.

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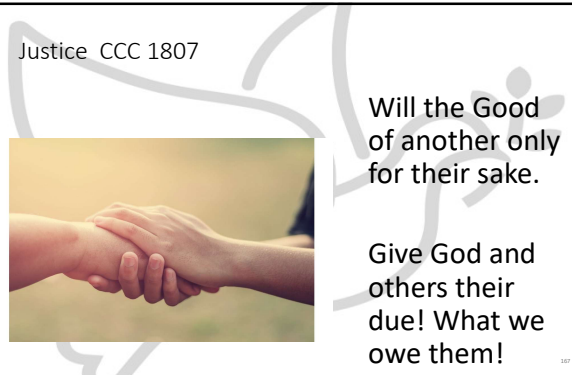
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Justice CCC 1807



**Will the Good of another only for their sake.**

**Give God and others their due! What we owe them!**



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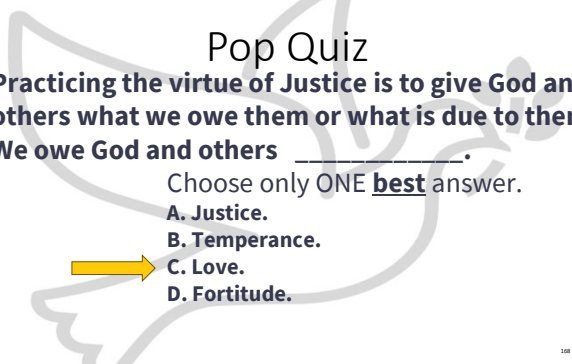
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**Pop Quiz**

**Practicing the virtue of Justice is to give God and others what we owe them or what is due to them. We owe God and others \_\_\_\_\_.**

Choose only ONE **best** answer.

- A. Justice.
- B. Temperance.
- C. Love.**
- D. Fortitude.

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Fortitude CCC 1808

Strength to do good in confronting obstacles and living life each day.

**"The time is always right to do what is right."**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Pop Quiz

Having Strength or courage is the practice of the Virtue of \_\_\_\_\_.

Choose only ONE **best** answer.

- A. Justice.
- B. Temperance.
- C. Prudence.
- D. Fortitude.**



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Review Pop Quiz

The Cardinal Virtues, also called Human Virtues, are the tools that we can use to make \_\_\_\_\_.

Choose only ONE **best** answer.

- A. Decisions.**
- B. Pizza.
- C. The other virtues
- D. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit



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Temperance CCC 1809

Control our desire for things.  
Self Mastery!  
With fortitude we can detach ourselves from things.  
Remember Sin? It is a failure to love and an attachment to things.



SELF-CONTROL  
sem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Vivamus et lectus mollis, ornare lacus sit, dapibus metus. Etiam consequat nisi eget velit nulla pulvinar.

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Pop Quiz

Temperance gives us the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ from things.

Choose only ONE **best** answer.

A. Run.  
B. Hide.  
C. Detach.  
D. Shield.



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The Beatitudes and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit Support and sustain

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Beatitudes support, enhance and sustain the practice (Habit) of the Cardinal Virtues in our lives.



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What does the Holy Spirit do for me?

**Begin Your Day**

7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit CCC 1830-1832

Walk up the steps each morning.

Wisdom\* - the ability to exercise good judgment.  
 Understanding\* - Enlightenment.  
 Counsel\* - To inform and guide.  
 Fortitude\* - constancy in doing Good.  
 Knowledge\* - The "Good" use of Information.  
 Piety - an attitude of reverence and respect for all creation and God.  
 Fear of the Lord\* - develop a relationship with God. ← Start Here

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