

Diocese of Boise Office of Religious Education and Catechetical Leadership

The Office of Religious Education and Catechetical Leadership of the Diocese of Boise by assisting the Bishop in carrying out his role as the chief catechist of the Diocese.

Advanced Catechist Certification
Morality & Ethics

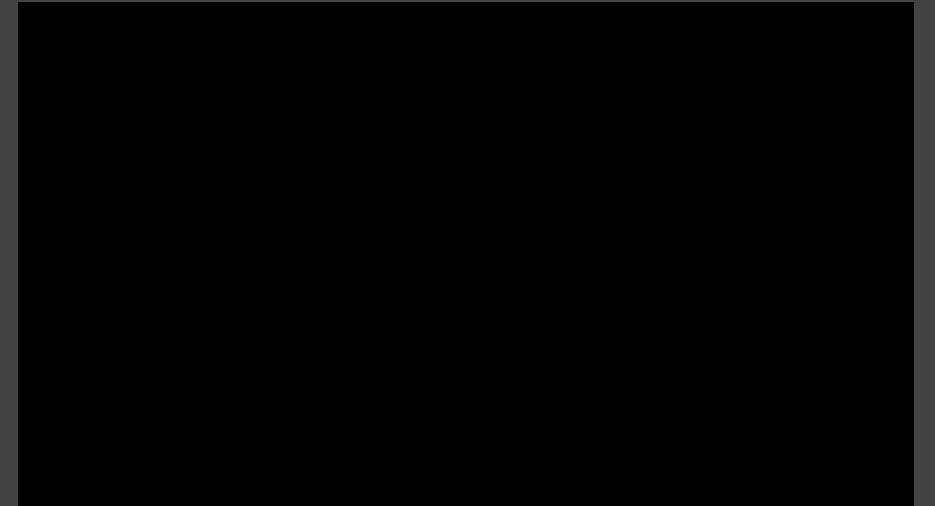


Kathy Barkdull, Presenter

- Explain how the call to dignity of each human person and the common good, ground us in the Church's teaching in personal and social morality.
- Define objective moral truth and the sources of moral norms in the Church.
- Explain what is meant by a "well-formed conscience."
- Be able to use a process for Catholic moral issues.
- Explain how the Christian virtues, Theological and Cardinal, are relevant to moral decision making.
- Explain the primacy of the Church's moral teaching in the life of the believer and the inviolability of human conscience.

Outcomes for Morality & Ethics

Opening Reflection





SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

“Our response to the initiative of God’s offer
of love”

- Catholic Social Teaching
- Catholic Medical Ethics
- Catholic Sexual Ethics
- Catholic doctrines on individual moral virtue and moral theory
- “How one is to act” vs “What one is to believe”

Catholic
Moral
Theology

Ethics of Being

- Patterns of actions.
- Habits we acquire.
- Vision we have of life.
- Values, convictions or beliefs we live by.
- Intentions we have.
- Dispositions and what affects our actions.





Ethics of Doing

“What sort of person should I be, and what sort of action should I do by virtue of being a believer of Christ?”



The Dignity of the Human Person



“The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God; it is fulfilled in his vocation to divine beatitude.

It is essential to a human being freely to direct himself to this fulfillment. By his deliberate actions, the human person does, or does not, conform to the good promised by God and attested by moral conscience.

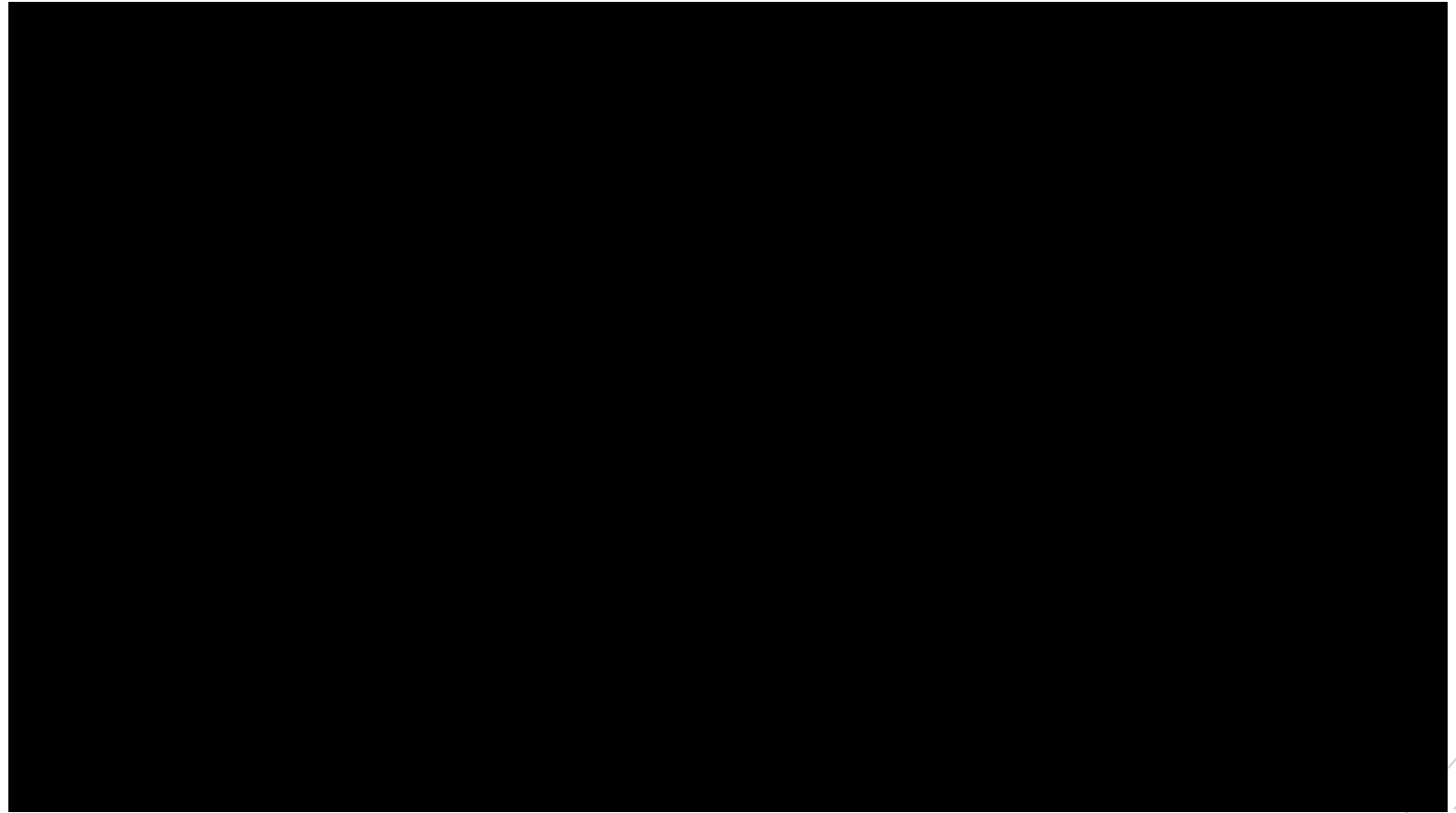
Human beings make their own contribution to their interior growth; they make their whole sentient and spiritual lives into means of this growth.

With the help of grace they grow in virtue, avoid sin, and if they sin they entrust themselves as did the prodigal son to the mercy of our Father in heaven.

In this way they attain to the perfection of charity.” (CCC 1700)



Human Dignity and Catholic Social Teaching



“recovery of sight to the blind...”

“liberty to captives...”



“...whatever you did for the least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

“to bring glad tidings to the poor...”



Life and Dignity of the Human Person in Scripture

- “God created man and woman in his image.” (Gen. 1:26-31)
- “God loves the orphan, the widow, and the stranger.” (Dt. 10:17-19)
- “The Lord is the maker of both rich and poor.” (Prv. 22:2)
- “The good Samaritan recognized the dignity in the other and cared for his life.” (Lk. 10:25-37)
- “Jesus broke with societal and religious customs to honor the dignity of the Samaritan woman.” (Jn. 4:1-42)
- “Love one another, contribute to the needs of others, live peaceably with all.” (Rom. 12:9-18)
- “All Christians are one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal. 3:27-28)
- “Honor the Poor.” (Jas. 2:1-8)
- “See what love the Father has for us, that we should be called Children of God.” (1 Jn. 3:1-2)
- “Let us love one another because love is from God.” (1 Jn. 4:7-12)



Virtue

“A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself.”
CCC 1803

“The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God.” St. Gregory of Nyssa (335-395 AD)

Cardinal Virtues

“Hinge” Virtues that enable us to live moral lives.

Prudence

Justice

Fortitude

Temperance

Theological Virtues





Basic Freedom or Freedom of self-determination

- Hereditary genetics
- Social-Cultural Environment

Freedom of choice

- Unconscious motives
- Peer pressure
- Drugs
- Ignorance
- Passions
- Fears
- Blind Habits
- Other Outside influences

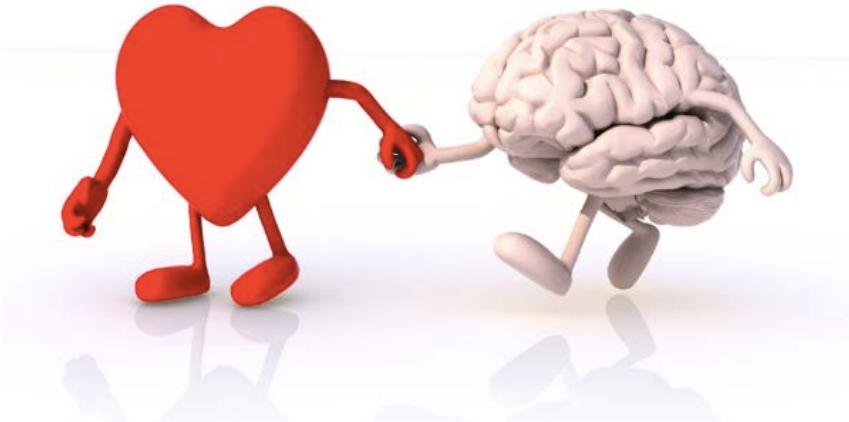


Conceptual Knowledge

- Knowledge of Self
- Knowledge of Moral Values



- Evaluative Knowledge





Reality

Sin




“Sin is present in human history; any attempt to ignore it or to give this dark reality other names would be futile. To try to understand what sin is, one must first recognize the profound relation of man to God, for only in this relationship is the evil of sin unmasked in its true identity as humanity’s rejection of God and opposition to him, even as it continues to weigh heavy on human life and history.”

CCC #386

God Calls, We Respond

Sin: The Biblical
Perspective





Know
Your
Worth.

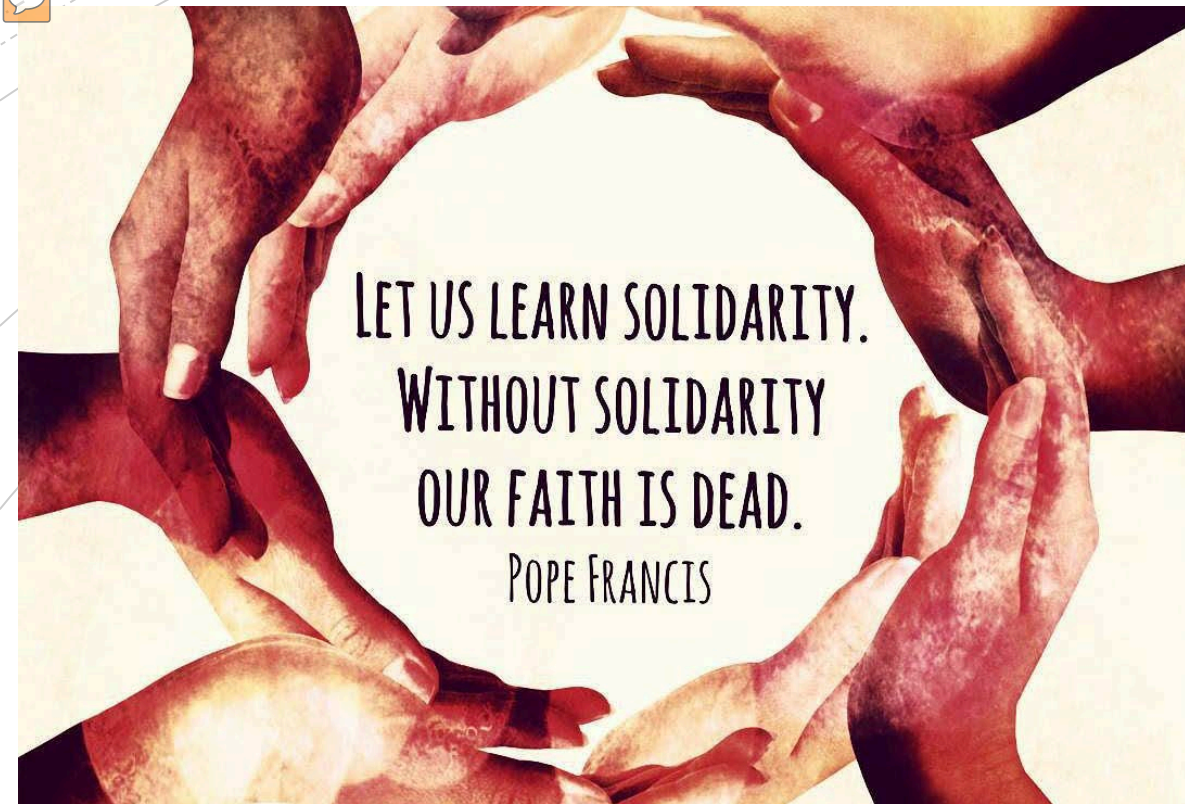
“I have called you by name; you are mine.”

“How could I give you up, Ephraim, or deliver you up, Israel?...My heart is overwhelmed, my pity is stirred.”

“Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.”

We Respond with Self-Worth





“This then is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.” Pope John Paul II

“Solidarity helps us to see the “other” – whether a person, people or nation – not just as some kind of instrument, with a work capacity and physical strength to be exploited at low cost and then discarded when no longer useful, but as our “neighbor,” a “helper,” to be made a sharer, on a par with ourselves, in the banquet of life in which all are equally invited by God.” Pope John Paul II

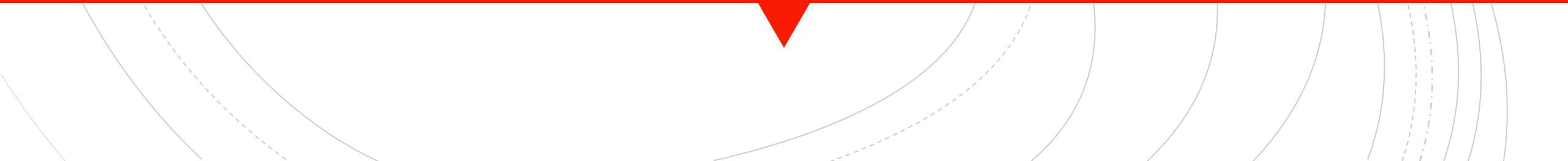
We Respond in Solidarity



loyal
faithful
solid **endure**
rock **steadfast**
fidelity
reliable



We Respond with Fidelity

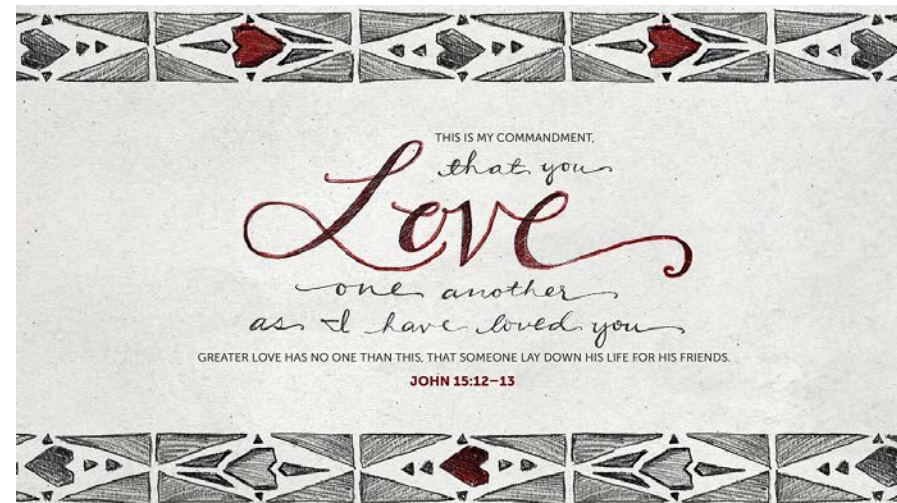


Sin: The
Arrogance of
Power

- **Transcendent Dimension**



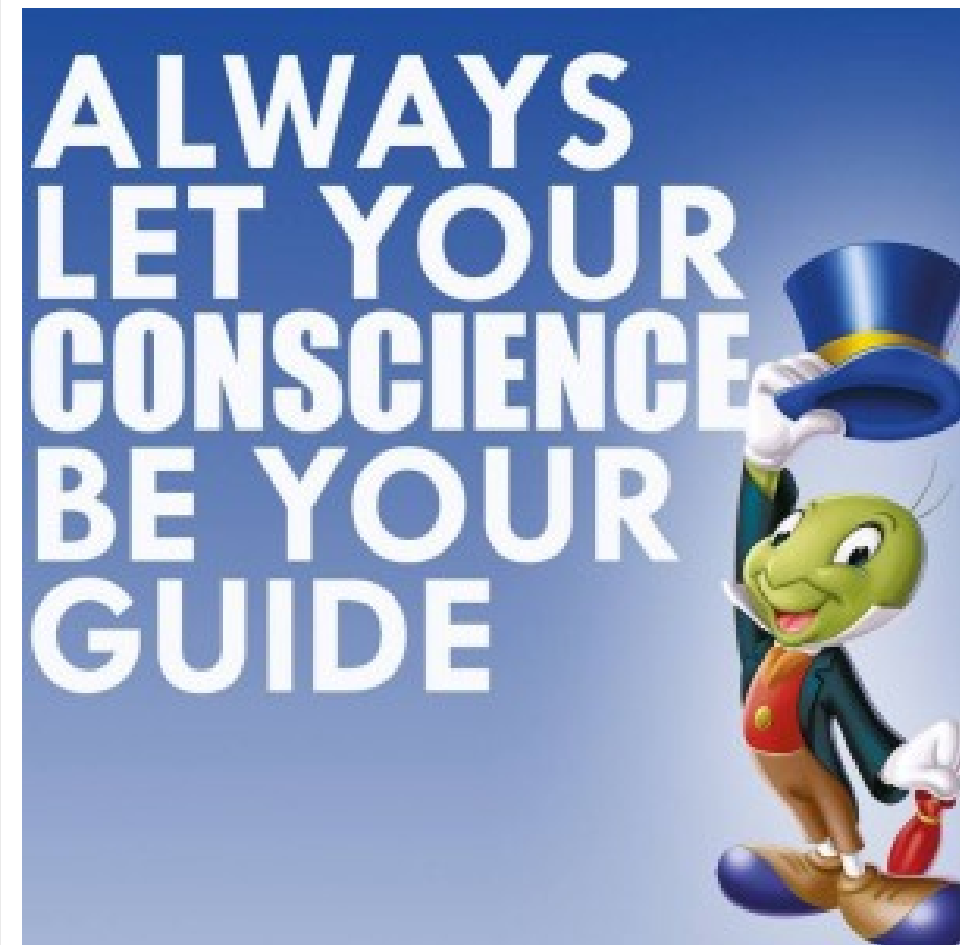
- **Immanent Dimension**



Breaking the Dynamic Power of Sin



“I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what the master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give to you. This I command you, love one another.” Jn 15:15-17



Conscience

“Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened. A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful.

CCC #1783



Moral Conscience and Catholic Tradition

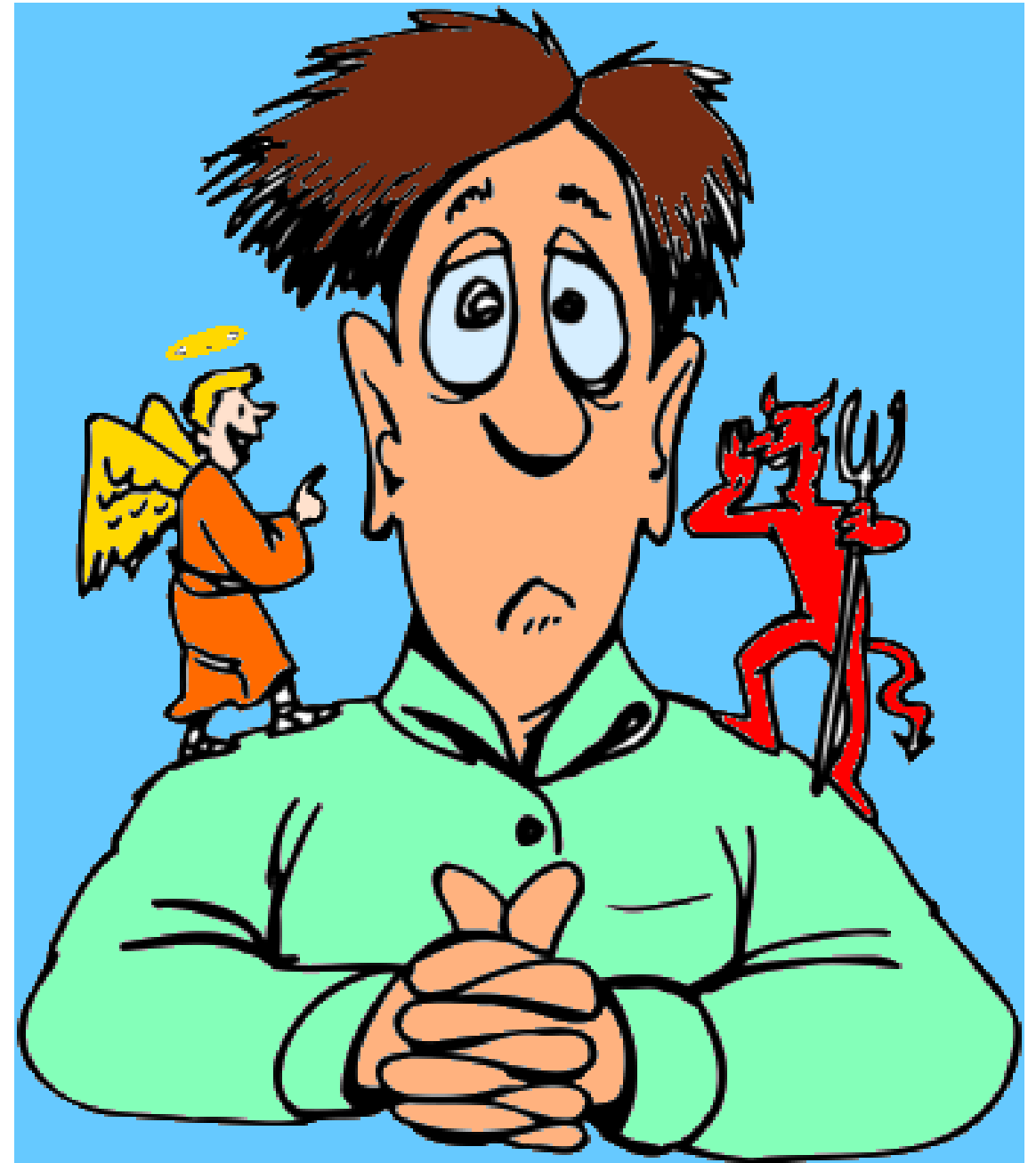
“In the depths of his conscience, man detects a law which he does not impose upon himself, but which holds him to obedience. Always summoning him to love good and avoid evil, the voice of conscience can when necessary speak to his heart more specifically; do this, shun that. For man has in his heart a law written by God. To obey it is the very dignity of man; according to it he will be judged.

Gaudium et Spes #16

The Formation of Conscience

What should I do?

What sort of person should I become?





Sources of Moral Wisdom in the Formation of Conscience

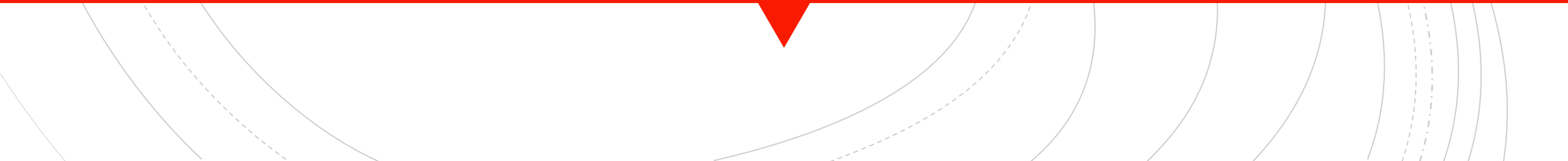
As Humans: Family, Friends, Colleagues & Experts in the field pertaining to the judgment at hand.

As Christians: Scripture, Creeds, Lives of the Saints, & Theologians past and present.

As Catholics: The official Teachings of the Magisterium as well as our rich heritage of Stories, Images, Language, Rituals, Devotional Practices & Spiritual disciplines.



Conscience and Character

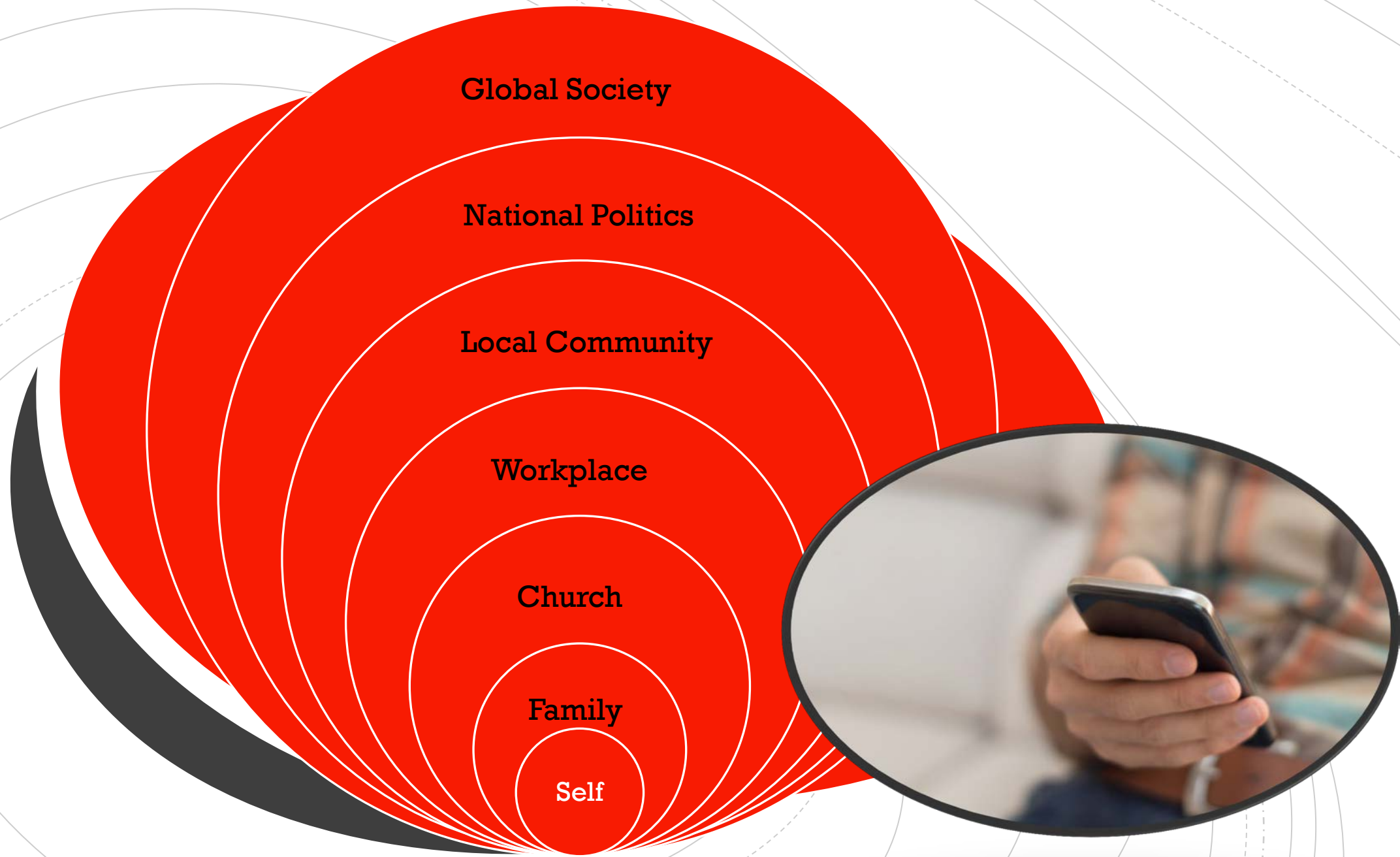




VISION

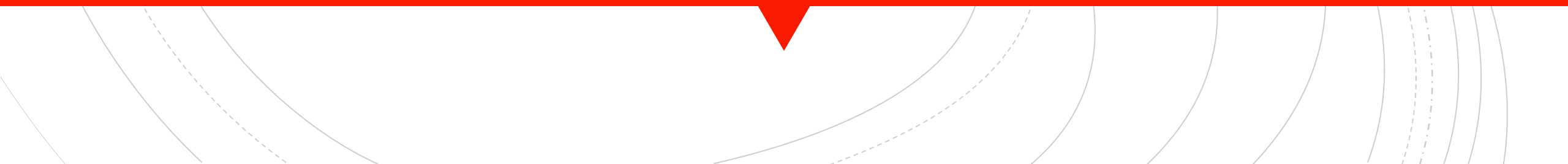
Formation of Conscience

What is going on?





Moral Conversion





Conscience and Choice

- What? – the human situation of the moral reality
- Who? – ourselves and others
- When? and Where?
- Why? – the question of motivation
- How? – a matter of style
- What if? – the foreseeable effects
- What else? – possible alternatives



Conscience and Church Authority

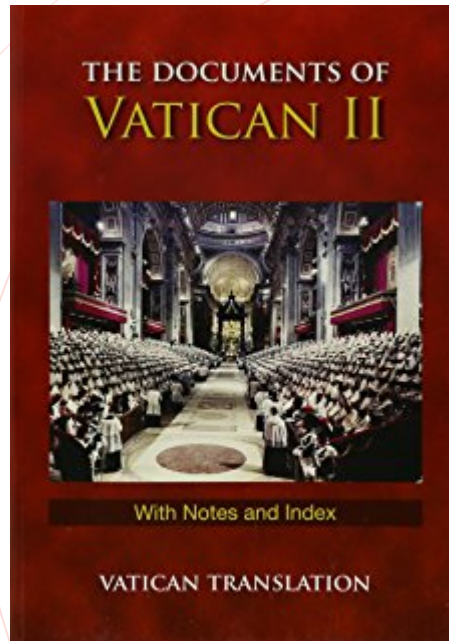
The Magisterium and the Holy Spirit



Response to Official Teaching

“In matters of faith and morals, the bishops speak in the name of Christ and the faithful are to accept their teaching and adhere to it with a religious assent of soul. This religious submission of will and of mind must be shown in a special way to the authentic teaching authority of the Roman Pontiff, even when he is not speaking *ex cathedra*.” LG 25

“Let the layman not imagine that his pastors are always such experts, that to every problem which arises, however complicated, they can readily give him a concrete solution, or even such is their mission. Rather, enlightened by Christian wisdom and giving close attention to the teaching authority of the Church, let the layman take on his own distinctive role. GS 43





The Role of the Church and all the Baptized in the Moral Life



Moral Norms

The Moral Memory of the
Community

A word cloud centered around the word "Moral" in large blue letters. Other prominent words include "fairness" in blue, "values" in purple, and "community" in purple. Smaller words in various colors include "ethical issues", "respect", "dilemmas", "views", "discrimination", "role models", "judgements", "equity", "knowledge", "care", "wrong", "crime", "resolution", "consequences", "truth", "integrity", "justice", "welfare", "cultures", "promises", "relationships", "feelings", "moral codes", "moral virtue", "right", and "contract".

Formal Norms

- The Great Commandment.
- The Golden Rule.
- Do Good and Avoid Evil.
- The language of Virtue.

Material Norms

- What should I do?

MORAL IMAGINATION



First-hand experience.

Appreciation of the limitations of moral norms.



What is morally right?



What should I do in the name of love?



Deontological Method

What does the law require?

What is my duty?

Strength: Preserves consistency and stability.

Weakness: Simplifies the past and present without considering the future.



Teleological Method

What is my Goal?

What are the Consequences?

Strength: Considers future implications.

Weakness: Trades parts of morality for the consequences.


The background of the slide features a blue carpet with several white paper figures holding hands in a circle. The figures are simple, stylized human shapes made of paper, with their arms raised and hands clasped together. A semi-transparent red box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text.

Relational-Responsibility Method

“What is happening in the midst of relationship?”

Strength: Behavior judged within actual relationships.

Weakness: A “less clear” process.

- 
- Identify the moral judgment to be made.
 - Gather all relevant information.
 - Seek Counsel.
 - Evaluate the alternatives.





Reflect and Pray

“Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment...For man has in his heart a way inscribed by God...His conscience is man’s most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths.” GS 16



I AM THE LORD
THOU SHALT HAVE NO
OTHER GODS BEFORE ME
THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO
THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE
THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE
NAME OF THE LORD THY
GOD IN VAIN
REMEMBER THE SABBATH
DAY, TO KEEP IT

THY GOD
HONOUR THY FATHER AND
THY MOTHER

THOU SHALT NOT KILL
THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT
ADULTERY

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL
THOU SHALT NOT BEAR
FALSIFY WITNESS

THOU SHALT NOT COVET
THY NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE
THY NEIGHBOUR'S WIFE
THY NEIGHBOUR'S SERVANT
THY NEIGHBOUR'S OX
THY NEIGHBOUR'S ASS
THY NEIGHBOUR'S MULE
THY NEIGHBOUR'S DONKEY
THY NEIGHBOUR'S SHEEP
THY NEIGHBOUR'S GOAT
THY NEIGHBOUR'S CATTLE
THY NEIGHBOUR'S FIELD
THY NEIGHBOUR'S VINE
THY NEIGHBOUR'S OLIVE
THY NEIGHBOUR'S GARDEN
THY NEIGHBOUR'S ORCHARD
THY NEIGHBOUR'S PLANTATION
THY NEIGHBOUR'S WOOD
THY NEIGHBOUR'S MEADOW
THY NEIGHBOUR'S PASTURE
THY NEIGHBOUR'S STREAM
THY NEIGHBOUR'S RIVER
THY NEIGHBOUR'S LAKE
THY NEIGHBOUR'S SEA
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The Law and Holiness

“I will be your God and you will be my people.”

God's Law and Tradition

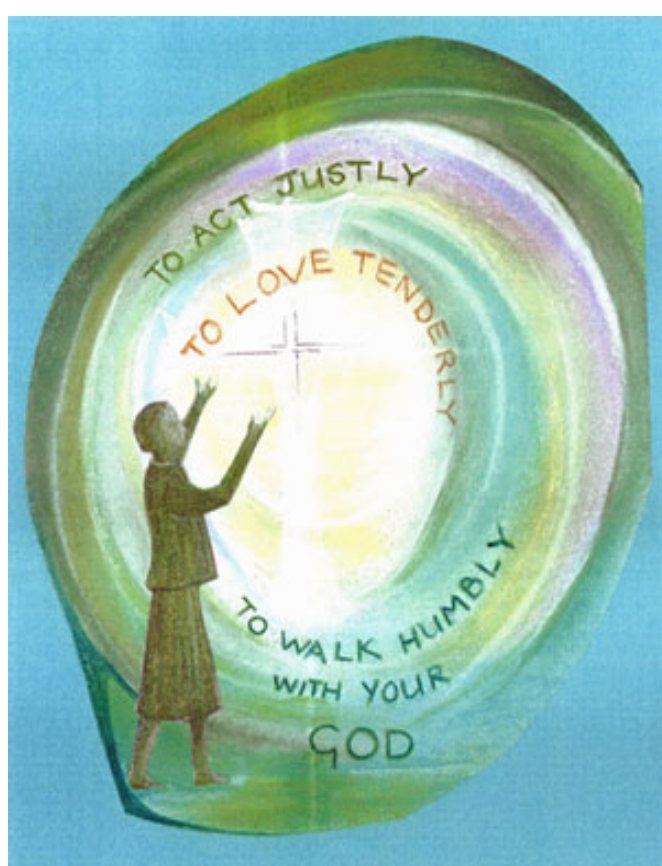
“What do I care for the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord.”

“Trample my courts not more!”

“Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim; redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow.”

Is 1:11-17

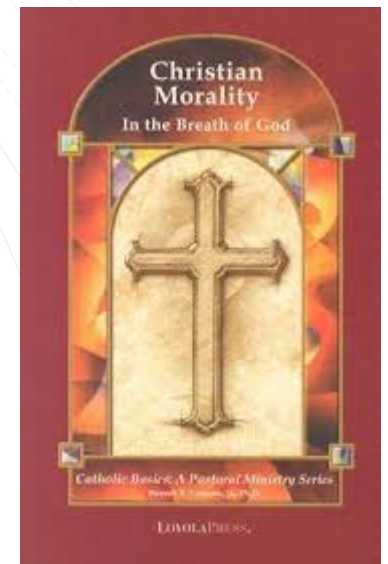
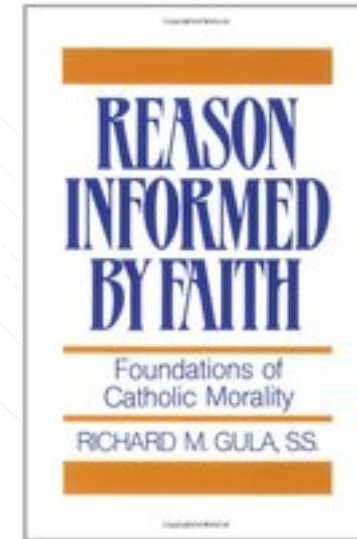
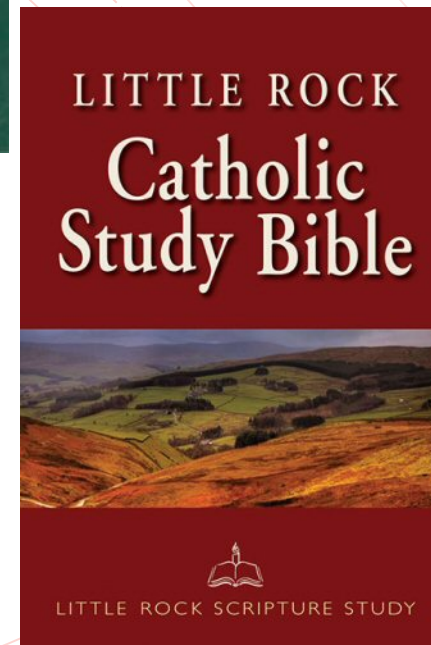
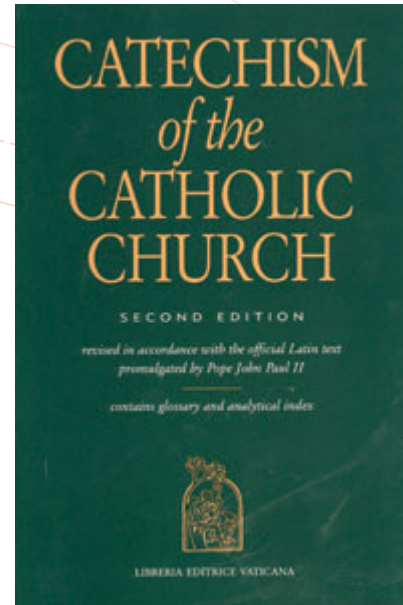
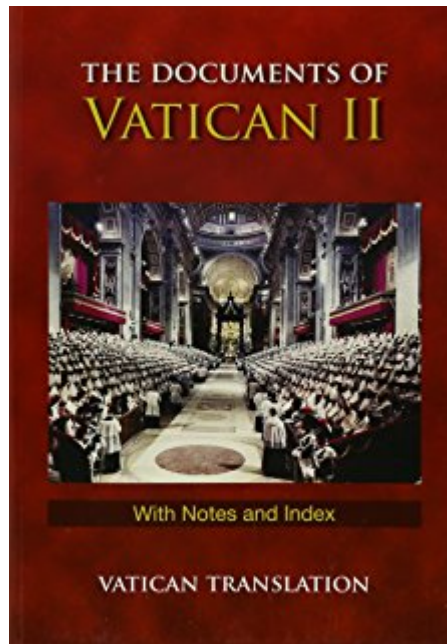




What Binds Us to God?

“Be doers of the Word and not hearers lest you deceive yourselves.” Jas 1:22

Resources for Morality and Ethics



Diocese of Boise
Office of Religious Education and
Catechetical Leadership

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Reflection Questions



- What is included in Catholic Moral Theology?
- What “Questions” are the focus with the Ethics of Being and the Ethics of Doing?
- What is the basic principle of the Christian Moral Life?
- What is the role of Catholic Social Teaching in Moral Theology?
- What is the difference between the Cardinal (Human) Virtues and Theological Virtues?
- Explain the difference between the Freedom of Self-Determination and the Freedom of Choice.
- What is the difference between Conceptual Knowledge and Evaluative Knowledge.
- Explain the 3 ways we respond to God’s Call.
- What is the role of the Magisterium in the formation of Conscience?
- Describe formal and material Norms and how they relate to imagination.
- Describe the three methods of moral decision making and the strengths and weaknesses of each.