FOUNDATIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN MORAL LIFE

U.S. CATHOLIC CATECHISM FOR ADULTS - Chapters 23-24

RCIA PRESENTATION – JAN 24, 2017 BRETT SMITH

The Human Person

Created

Imago Dei – the image of God (Genesis 1)

Reason – to know the natural law

Free will – to choose the good freely

<u>Fallen</u>

(The image remains, but with hindrance)

<u>Ignorance</u> – difficulty in knowing the truth

<u>Concupiscence</u> – inclination to disordered love (sin)

The Decalogue

<u>Given</u>

To Israel in Exodus and Deuteronomy

First Table – commands pertaining to God (1-3)

Second Table – commands pertaining to other people (4-10)

Perfected

By Christ in the gospels

Greatest Commandment – Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength

Second greatest – Love your neighbor as your self

The Precepts of the Church

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

The Precepts (USCC 334-335)

 Attend mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation

(also refrain from unnecessary work)

- Confess sins at least once a year
- Receive the Eucharist at least during Easter season
- Observe prescribed days of fasting and abstinence
- Provide for the needs of the Church (time, talent, treasure)

Who is sufficient for these things?

- We cannot keep the Law due to our sin and weakness
- But God gives us grace through the Sacraments, sourced in the Paschal Mystery
- God keeps the Law through us, so that our works are both <u>divine</u> (done by the Holy Spirit) and <u>human</u> (done with our free consent)
- Divine- makes them worthy of eternal life
- Human- makes them truly ours



The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb from the Ghent Altarpiece by Jan and Hubert Van Eyck

The Tools of the Moral Life: Making Moral Decisions

Sin: "An utterance, deed, or desire contrary to the eternal law"

-Augustine, Contra Faustum 22

(see USCC 312 and CCC 1849)

3 conditions for a mortal sin: (uscc 313):

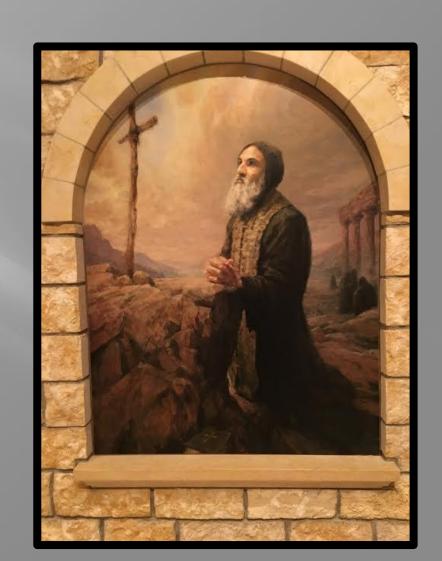
- Grave matter
- Full knowledge
- Deliberate consent (freedom)
- All 3 must be present for a sin to be mortal
- Other sins are venial
- See 1 John 5:17

The Tools of the Moral Life: Making Moral Decisions

3 elements of a moral act (uscc 311-312):

- Objective act (what)
- Subjective goal or intention (why)
- Concrete circumstances (who, when, etc.)
- All 3 must be good for an act to be good

Conscience: "a judgment of reason by which the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act" (CCC 1796; see also USCC 314)



The Tools of the Moral Life: Making Moral Decisions

How to form your conscience (USCC 314)

- Internalize the Word of God
- Learn from the advice and example of others
- Submit to the teaching of the Church
- Receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit (through the sacraments)
- Regularly examine your conscience

How to follow your conscience (USCC 315)

- Follow a certain conscience
- Change an incorrect conscience
- Do not act with a doubtful conscience

The Tools of the Moral Life: Habits to cultivate or destroy

7 virtues

4 cardinal virtues:

- Prudence
- Justice
- Fortitude
- Temperance

3 theological virtues:

- Faith
- Hope
- Love

The Tools of the Moral Life: Habits to cultivate or destroy

7 deadly sins

- Pride
- Avarice (Greed)
- Envy
- Anger
- Lust
- Gluttony
- Sloth



The Holy Spirit and the Seven Deadly Sins floriated initial from a 15th century German manuscript

The Tools of the Moral Life: Living in society

The common good: "the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and easily" (CCC 1924; cf. *Gaudium et Spes* 26.1 and USCC 326)

"Governments should help and support individuals and groups for whom they are responsible without controlling their freedom and initiative" (USCC 326; cf. CCC 1883)

The principle of subsidiarity:

Foundations of the Christian Moral Life: Questions?