

Confirmation Make-Up #4 for October 22, 2012
Moral Decision Making – Formation of Right Conscience

Business

Sponsor Essay due today.

Living Your Strengths book given at last meeting and today. Complete Strengths-Finder Assessment by Nov. 26.

Read Luke 8:4 – 15.

(This is one of the Gospel options for the Confirmation Mass.)

Reflection

- What connections can you think of between this Gospel, making good moral decisions and forming a right conscience?

Read and respond.

Moral Decision Making/Formation of Right Conscience

1. When faced with a moral choice, how do you decide?
2. Are there people or groups that you trust or go to? If so, why?

List all that you consider. Include Church/religious teaching, natural law and the use of reason, and the importance of character development.

From your *Bible*, read -

- on page 926 or 872, *Sin and Moral Decision Making*
- Two Great Commandments (C36 follows p. 1536 or 1522)
- Old Law – 10 Commandments (C36)
- New Law – Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7) beginning with the Beatitudes (also found @ C36)
- Catholic Social Teaching (C-24 between pp. 896-897 or 946-947)
- Church Law
- Precepts of the Catholic Church (C38)
- Catholic Church's Moral Teaching on Medical Ethics (summary, http://www.lifeissues.net/writers/gro/gro_052medicalethics.html)
- Catholic Church's Moral Teaching on Medical Ethics and Sexual Ethics

In addition, we

- pray for guidance.
- Does ignorance that an action is wrong always excuse us? **No, we are responsible for forming a right conscience!**
- Catholics are bound to consider Church teaching – what the Catholic Church teaches and why.

Also read and reflect on page 2 of this handout.

Please consider the above and include in your reflection for these -

Scenarios of Moral Dilemmas

- Parents have a son/daughter who is a good soccer player. The family usually goes to and are involved in ministries at the 10:30 Mass. This weekend there is a game scheduled for Sunday morning as part of a weekend tournament. The son/daughter would like to skip Mass. The Coach suggests, "They don't need to go to Church *every* Sunday for goodness sakes."
3. How would you advise those parents?
 4. Recall California Proposition 34. Keeping in mind the Church's Social Teaching, should the State of California repeal the death penalty? (See <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/death-penalty-capital-punishment/q-and-a.cfm>.)
 5. The Bishop is deliberating what to do about its very successful and highly regarded Catholic Charities adoption service because state law requires that same sex couples be included in the program. How would you advise him?

Reporting options for above topic #4:

- A. By appointment (ssftmk@aol.com), meet with Dr. Tom Kilbridge after 10:30 AM Mass in the church chapel. Be prepared to give oral presentation (informal, relaxed, not graded) reflecting on the 5 questions above.
- B. Written report – type a one page report responding to the 5 questions above. Turn in to Silvia Chiesa or Dr. Tom Kilbridge. (Have a parent or sponsor review oral presentation or read written report. Do not spend more than 1 ½ hours on the above make up.)

Essay Due Dates

Sponsor Essay:

Assigned: 9/24/2012

Due: 10/22/2012

Confirmation Name Essay:

Assigned: 10/1/2012

Due: 11/12/2012

Justice, Peace, Charity, Service Essay

Assigned: 10/15/2012

Due: 1/7/2013 (or 1/14/2013 if participating in Jan. 7th St. Anthony service project.)

Many situations are not black and white!

What makes something moral?

1. whether the act itself is inherently good or evil
2. the intention of the person doing the action
3. the circumstances of the action.

Examples? killing, rape – ever morally justified?

Killing – self defense or defense of an innocent.

Intent is to stop the action, not to kill or murder.

(from Bible p.926 or 872, read and reflect **Sin and Moral Decision Making**)

Does ignorance that an action is wrong always excuse us?

We are responsible for forming a right conscience!

The Catholic Church teaches the following as Sources of Moral Truth:

Natural Moral Law

because humans made in God's image - use of Reason

Two Great Commandments [(BibleC36) follows p. 1536 or 1522]

Old Law – 10 Commandments (C36)

New Law – Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7) beginning with the **Beatitudes** (C36)

Catholic Social Teaching (see Bible C-24 [between pp. 946-947]) and that whole section

Church Law

Precepts of the Catholic Church (C38)

Church's Moral Teaching

Church's Moral Teaching encompasses

Catholic social teaching, (Bible – C24)

Catholic medical ethics,

terminal illness, euthanasia, sterilization, contraception, embryonic research, genetic research, etc.

Sexual Ethics

abortion, artificial insemination, contraception, family & marriage, homosexuality, etc.

various doctrines on individual moral virtue and moral theory.

Catholics are bound to consider Church teaching –

What does the Catholic Church teach and why?

Moral Decision-making for Catholics (from Tom)

A. The Formal approach (used in major societal issues such as death penalty, abortion, etc.) A Decision Tree

1. What does Scripture say?

(contradictions?, eg. Old vs. New Testament)

2. What has the Church taught in the past?

Does Church Teaching ever change?(slavery, usury, freedom of religion, the death penalty)

3. What does our experience teach us?

4. The application of Reason

5. Prayer: Guidance of the Holy Spirit-

Example: California State **Proposition 34** to ban the DP (See Commission of Catholic Bishops statement regarding death penalty (1995 and after) and positions regarding. Propositions are available on line.)

- Scripture: Cain and Abel
Ten Commandments
- Others: see Humanae Vitae for examples
- Church teaching:
“Consistent teaching” regarding sacredness of human life at all stages, from conception to natural death.
(teaching not always “consistent” unfortunately
e.g. Middle ages.
e.g. The perceived need to protect society has dictated the need for Capital Punishment
- Experience: see Bishops statement as well as the position statement* of proposition backers for examples of how the DP has been arbitrary, costly and ineffectual.
- Reason (vs. Emotion)
Eye for an Eye mentality
Consolation and vindication for victims and families

B. Informal Approach (day to day decisions)

MORAL CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Football analogy - “Eli Manning scenario”

How does a NFL team line up for a play (e.g. a run), recognize it wont work, and change to a different play (eg a pass) in space of 8 seconds ? not by chance!

1. Coaches analyze game tapes endlessly
2. complex play books are drawn up and memorized by every player
3. a visual and auditory communication system is perfected
4. practice, practice, practice
5. a quick witted quarter back is essential
6. discipline is key - anger resulting in a foul negates many a touchdown
7. Crowd noise is circumvented

Day to day moral decisions are usually made rapidly, without formal analysis and are based on moral principles (the play book), family, teachers, mentors and friends input (the coaches), communication thru life (adult reading, discussion, sermons, etc) and insights into life experience. Making difficult and painful decision requires discipline and prayer. Crowd noise (media distractions, etc) are ignored.

i.e. we are talking about a lifetime commitment to
DEVELOPING A MORAL CHARACTER.