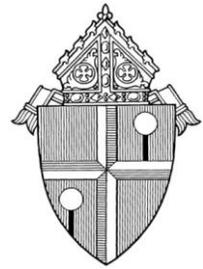


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110: Catholic Morality

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS

Catechist Session I: Prepare for the Journey

Distribute *Catholic Morality*

Pray together using prayer on page 8.

Explain: The third pillar, or section, of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "Life in Christ," addresses the topic of morality. Morality deals with how we are to live as Christians. We seek this understanding in and through Jesus, who describes himself as "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). The goal of this module is to explore the foundations of Catholic morality and the practice of the moral life.

Let's take a look at your booklet. Each of the four segments in this module is divided into two parts. For example, in the first segment, part 1 is covered on pages 11 - 13 and part 2 is covered on pages 14 - 18.

Here is an overview of all four segments:

1. Foundations of the Moral Life

Part 1: What is Morality?

Part 2: What is Virtue?

2. Objective and Subjective Morality

Part 1: What is Objective Morality?

Part 2: What is Subjective Morality?

3. The Morality of Human Actions

Part 1: What Makes an Action Moral?

Part 2: What is Sin?

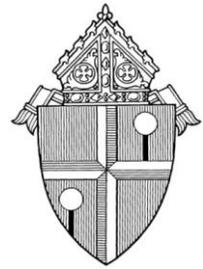
4. Conscience and God's Law

Part 1: What is Conscience

Part 2: Why Are There Commandments?

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Activity and Discussion: Use pages 6 - 7. *This is an important step in getting to know each other before getting into deeper faith sharing.*

Read the article together and allow catechists to discuss their answers with each other. After discussion, tell catechists that they will be given two weeks to view the CD and answer all the questions in the booklet.

Catechist Session II: Discussion

*Note: Remember that the CD that comes with the booklet can only be read on a computer. If your parish does not have a computer that can be connected to a project and external speakers, you will need to borrow the **Catholic Morality** DVD from the Office of Religious Education. The DVD format may be played on a TV/DVD combination.*

Greet catechists.

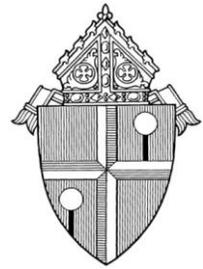
Play video. Stop at the end of each section and have catechists discuss their responses to the questions as a whole group.

Ask each catechist what one or two things (s)he will do differently because of what was learned in this course of study.

End the session with the *Praying the News* prayer on page 41.

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Page 1

110: Catholic Morality

ASSIGNMENT SHEET

Instructions:

View your ENTIRE booklet, guided by the compact disc located on the back page. The CD works only in a computer, not in a DVD player. Write your answers to all questions, paying particular attention to the following:

Segment 1: Foundations of the Moral Life

Part 1: What is Morality?

Page 13

- a. Reflect on the statements of the three moral theologians on the video about the meaning of morality. Then summarize in your own words the Church's understanding of Christian morality.
- b. Jesus is the model for the moral life. Name three values you have learned from the message of Jesus that have helped you to live as a moral person.

Part 2: What is Virtue?

Page 15

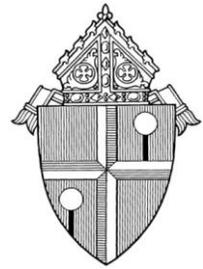
- a. The video identifies and describes the cardinal virtues. Describe the ways you practice them. When has the practice of one of the cardinal virtues helped you to make a moral decision?
- b. Recall the definition of beatitude or happiness given in the video, then write or draw your understanding of true happiness.

HAPPINESS IS...

Complete the *Living in Christ* exercise on page 16.

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Page 2

Segment 2. Objective and Subjective Morality

Part 1: What is Objective Morality?

Page 21

- a. Ron Jackson describes how he and his wife drew up a moral code that expressed the values that their family tries to live by. In the space below, describe the moral values that are held most sacred within your family.

OUR FAMILY'S VALUES

- b. Jesus told us that "[A]nd you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32). How does knowing an objective moral truth free you rather than impede you when you make a personal choice?

Part 2: What is Subjective Morality?

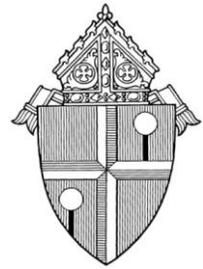
Page 23

- a. Father Sparks speaks of the need to love the person even as we may challenge some of his or her actions. Give some examples in our contemporary culture where this understanding could improve the quality of dialogue among persons or groups.
- b. The students in the video describe a school environment in which their peers seem to place little value on objective moral rules. What example can you offer them through which you came to understand the value of an objective code of conduct?
- c. In light of the ideas expressed in the video, respond to the following statement: "The Church has no right telling me what to do in my private life."

Complete the *Living in Christ* exercise on page 24.

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Page 3

Segment 3: The Morality of Human

Actions Part 1: What Makes an Action Moral?

Page 29

- a. Recall the Gospel account of Peter's betrayal of Jesus (Luke 22:54 - 62). Describe the intention and circumstances of Peter's action.
- b. Fr. Massingale points out in the video that every action has a social dimension. Consider each of the following situations. Describe what implications each might have for the common good.

SITUATION: A woman shares gossip she has heard about another person.

IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMON GOOD:

SITUATION: A man decides to understate his income on his tax

IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMON GOOD:

SITUATION: A parent criticizes a child in front of others.

IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMON GOOD:

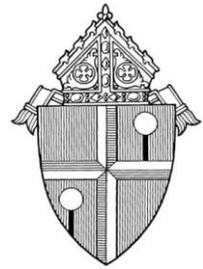
Part 2: What is Sin

Page 31

- a. Why are venial sins a cause for concern in an individual's moral life?
- b. Recall the story of Bob and Alicia Waning. What qualities allowed them to break the patterns of behavior which might have led to the permanent ending of their marriage?

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Page 4

- c. Consider each of the following three hobbies. What set of circumstances might cause each of these actions to become an occasion of sin for the person who enjoys them?

COOKING
PLAYING ON A SOFTBALL TEAM
HIKING

Segment 4: Conscience and God's Law

Part 1: What is Conscience?

Page 37

- a. Complete the following three statements in your own words:

CONSCIENCE IS...

INFORMING ONE'S CONSCIENCE MEANS...

I FEEL AT PEACE WHEN I...

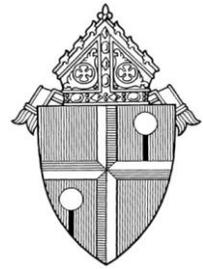
- b. The McNaughton's story describes a family struggling with a complex moral issue. Describe the process they followed in coming to their decision and eventually experiencing a sense of inner peace.
- c. What sources have you turned to when you made a serious moral decision? How did each assist you in making your decision?

SOURCE

INFLUENCE ON MY DECISION

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Page 5

Part 2: Why Are There Commandments?

Page 39

- a. Dr. Egan tells us in the video that Jesus' Law of Love is a maximalist ethic which invites us to challenge our present behaviors. Choose one of the Ten Commandments. List some of the positive ways a Christian can keep it in ways that are beyond the letter of the law.

COMMANDMENT

RESPONSE

- b. Practically speaking, what does it mean on a daily basis to love God with you whole heart, soul and mind?
- c. Imagine that all the nations of the world agreed to adjust the laws to reflect the values expressed in the Ten Commandments. List five changes that would occur.

Pages 42 – 51 contain a series of four essays. **Select one** of the essays to read. Write your response to the *For Reflection* questions located at the end of your selected essay.