

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE: INTRODUCTION (9-8-24)

PRAYERS

- I. “Signum Crucis”: “In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.”
- II. “Prayer to the Holy Spirit”
- III. Saints and Virtue:
 - A. Saint Gianna Molla
 - B. Faith

TRUE/FALSE

1. Since love requires freedom, no one can command a person to love.
2. Before the fall of Adam and Eve from grace, there was only one prohibitive commandment.
3. Because of Man’s disobedience, knowing God’s will became more difficult.
4. Commandments are intended by God primarily to be burdens, not to be blessings.
5. We know that, in the world, we will experience far greater happiness following our own will rather than following God’s will.
6. Grace and holy love make obedience to God easier.
7. Christ came to eliminate all law and replace it with love.
8. A human person can become perfectly obedient using his own natural gifts without the help of grace.
9. Only God, not men, can make laws we must obey.
10. Men and angels have the freedom to do things that God cannot do.

INTRODUCTION: PART II—THE COMMANDMENTS

- I. Christian “Calculus” for the Children of God:
 - A. Communication + Union x Holiness = Holy Communion
 1. Communication (TRUTH)—Intellect (Word = Christ Jesus):
 - a. Belief (Creed)
 - b. Prayer
 2. Union (LOVE)—Will (Heart/Holy Spirit)
 - a. Worship/Sacraments
 - b. Life—Sacrifice and Service
 3. Holiness (LIFE/FREEDOM)—State of Grace

4. Holy Communion:
 - a. In the Church—Militant/Suffering/Triumphant
 - b. In Heaven—the Eternal Holy Communion of the Divine Persons in Whom Live the Angelic Persons and Human Persons (Saints)
- B. Four Pillars of the Catechism: Inform us for Formation in Christ
 1. Creed (Belief in the Truth)
 2. The Commandments (Life in this Truth)
 3. The Sacraments (Truth that Frees us for Life and Love)
 4. Prayer—Communication that deepens our Life in Truth, Freedom, and Love
- II. “To Gain the happiness of heaven, we must know, love, and serve God in this world.”
 - A. Know God = Belief (Part 1—The Creed)
 1. Father: “This is My Beloved Son: **LISTEN** to Him” (Transfiguration)
 - a. Christ the Head
 - b. The Church—Magisterium/Apostolic Tradition/Scripture
 2. Filling the MEMORY and shaping the INTELLECT
 - B. Love God = Worship in Spirit and in Truth by Loving Sacrifice and Service (Part 3—Sacraments)
 1. “**DO** this in memory of Me” (Jesus, the Last Supper)
 2. Mary: “**DO** whatever He tells you.” (The Wedding Feast of Cana)
 3. Uniting the WILL to the Father’s through the Sacred Heart and in the movement of the Holy Spirit (sanctifying grace)
 - C. Serve God = Life in “The Way, The Truth, and The Life” (Part 2—The Commandments) —“Deny yourself, pick up your cross daily, and **FOLLOW** Me” (Christ to His disciples).
 1. Obedience transformed by love and expressing love
 2. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
 3. The Way of sacrificial love and service
- III. Maturing through faith, worship, and life:
 - A. Purgative Way (Obedience)
 - B. Illuminative Way (Wisdom)
 - C. Unitive Way (Charity/Love)
- IV. Prayer (Part 3): Holy communication for holy communion
 - A. Vocal (Knowledge—Belief): Word accepted and offered
 - B. Meditative—Intellect (Knowledge/Understanding)

- C. Contemplative—Union of Heart with the Will of the Father, the Sacred Heart of the Son, and the movement of the Holy Spirit

TABLE TALK QUESTION

Why does God command us to do His will rather than make us do His will?

MISSION/FINAL PRAYER