

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE: THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS (9-15-24)

PRAYERS

- I. "Signum Crucis": "In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Santi. Amen."
- II. "Prayer to the Holy Spirit"
- III. Saints and Virtue:
 - A. Pope Saint John Paul II
 - B. Hope

TRUE/FALSE

1. The Ten Commandments destroy our freedom. F
2. We must love God more than our parents. T
3. If we deliberately let slip by opportunities to love God, we are not fulfilling perfectly the first great commandment. T
4. Doing dishes has nothing to do with love of God. F
5. If someone does something wrong to us, we should get even. F
6. God expects us to be kind to people we don't like. T
7. Selling drinks to make money is a corporal work of mercy. F
8. We should think as much of the needs of others as of our own needs. T
9. If we do what we have to and even a little more than we have to, that means we love God perfectly. F
10. If a man is poor because he is unemployed, chaste because he keeps the sixth commandment, and obedient to the laws of God, he is keeping the Evangelical Counsels. F

THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- I. The Way: "Listen" (Believe), "Do" (Obey), "Follow" (The Way of Discipleship), "Tend" and "Feed" (The Work of Apostleship = Love—Sacrifice/Service):
 - A. "Thou Shalt" = Affirming The Way to Heaven (Truth/Freedom/Life/Love)
 - B. "Thou Shalt Not" = Forbidding The Ways to Hell (Lies/Slavery/Death/Malice)
- II. The Two Great Commandments of Love of God, of Others, and of Self:
 - A. Thou Shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart (will), and with thy whole soul (memory/intellect/will), and with thy

whole strength commandments of the God—3 = Trinitarian Number: mind (thoughts/imaginings), and with they whole (will/emotions/body)—Ties to the first three Ten Commandments that concern

1. Forbids Idolatry.
2. Forbids profaning or lacking reverence for God's Name.
3. Affirms keeping the Lord's Day.

B. Thou shalt love thy neighbor (everyone, even enemies) as thyself—Ties to the last seven of the Ten Commandments that concern neighbors—7 = Covenant Number:

4. Affirms honoring parents.
5. Forbids murder.
6. Forbids adultery.
7. Forbids stealing.
8. Forbids bearing false witness.
9. Forbids coveting a neighbor's wife.
10. Forbids coveting a neighbor's goods.

III. Love concerns acknowledging and bringing to clarity and fulness the sacred image of Christ in others—being like Christ and doing the works of Christ so that others will remain (or become) like Christ and do the works of Christ:

A. The image of Christ in Christians = Restored but imperfect

B. The image of Christ in Pagans = Buried and disfigured

C. Corporal Works:

1. Feeding the hungry
2. Giving drink to the thirsty
3. Clothing the naked
4. Visiting the imprisoned
5. Sheltering the homeless
6. Visiting the sick
7. Burying the dead

D. Spiritual Works (Primary works—Soul takes precedence over the body—yet trusting relationship usually begins with corporal

works):

1. Admonishing the sinner
2. Instructing the ignorant
3. Counseling the doubtful
4. Comforting the sorrowful
5. Bearing wrongs patiently

6. Forgiving all injuries
 7. Praying for the living and the dead
- IV. The Religious Life—Most Perfect Way of Loving God and Living the Gospel of Christ—Radical imitation of Christ:
- A. Evangelical Counsels:
 1. Voluntary poverty
 2. Perpetual Chastity (Virginity/Celibacy)
 3. Perfect Obedience (To a Superior):
 - B. Kinds of Religious:
 1. Priests
 2. Brothers or unordained Monks
 3. Sisters or nuns
 - C. Signs of the Call to Religious Life:
 1. Suitability (physical, mental, and moral)
 2. Right intention (desire to please God)
 3. Freedom from impediments

TABLE TALK QUESTION

Why is the call to religious life exceptional and certainly not deemed necessary for salvation and holiness according to Christ and His Church?

MISSION/FINAL PRAYER