

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE: THE FIRST COMMANDMENT OF GOD (9/22/24)

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 Maria Goretti
 - B. Charity

TRUE/FALSE

1. When a person graduates from high school, he knows all that he needs to know about religion.
2. For a father to support materially his wife and children, it is all right for him to commit sins to see that they have the necessary goods.
3. God is offended if we do not love Him enough to study the teachings of our Faith well.
4. Except in exceptional circumstances, it is not right for Catholics to go to non-Catholic churches for services.
5. Living a good life helps our faith.
6. To be pleasing to God, our worship must be an act of love.
7. We understand freedom to mean the right God has given us to chose to believe what I want to believe.
8. Everyone should worship God the way he feels he should.
9. It is good to seek good luck through various good luck charms.
10. Bad example not only hurts others, but is against the love we owe to God.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT OF GOD: "I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange gods before me." (198)

- I. We offer God alone the supreme worship that is due Him:
 - A. In justice we owe the Supreme Being reverence and adoration as:
 1. The chief object of our worship (Latria)
 2. The chief source of our happiness
 3. The chief teacher of truth
 4. The chief moral guide (199)
 - B. Operation of the theological virtues (faith/hope/charity) in our adoration of God and our prayers to Him.

- II. Faith—Motivated by love, we are obligated to:
 - A. Make efforts to find out what God has revealed
 - B. Believe firmly what God has revealed
 - C. Profess our Faith openly whenever necessary (202)
 - D. Safeguarding the Faith:
 - 1. Making frequent acts of faith
 - 2. Praying for a stronger faith
 - 3. Studying Catholic teaching
 - 4. Living a good life in accordance with the Faith
 - 5. Good: relationships, reading and viewing, material possessions, and surroundings (204)
 - E. Sins against the Faith:
 - 1. Apostasy—completely leaving the Faith of Christ to profess non-Christian religion or no religion at all
 - 2. Heresy—a deliberate denial of one or more of the truths of the Faith by one who professes to be Christian
 - 3. Indifferentism—the belief that one religion is as good as another (205)

“The One True religion is the Catholic Faith, and to embrace knowingly the practices or beliefs contrary to the Faith is to abandon the Truth of Christ.” (206)

- III. Hope—Motivated by love, we are obligated to trust firmly that:
 - A. God will give us eternal life
 - B. God will always give us the means to attain it (202)
 - C. Sins against hope:
 - 1. Presumption— a person trusts that:
 - a. He can be saved by his own efforts without God’s help
 - b. He can be saved by God’s help only, without his own efforts (208)
 - 2. Despair—One deliberately refuses to trust that God will give him the necessary help to save His soul (209)
- IV. Charity—Obliges us to:
 - A. Love God above all things because He is infinitely good
 - B. Love our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God (203)
 - C. Sins against charity:
 - 1. Hatred of God and of our neighbor
 - 2. Envy—resenting another’s good because I lack the same good
 - 3. Sloth—laziness, especially in doing good to others

- 4. Scandal—bad example which could lead others to sin (210)
- V. Other sins against the First Commandment:
 - A. Superstition—one attributes to a creature a power that belongs to God alone: Reading Tarot cards, palms, or crystal balls; interpreting signs of the Zodiac or of Astrology; all forms of magic and the “New Age” (Yoga/Reiki); charms; fortune-telling; consulting spirits and using a ouija board (212)
 - B. Sacrilege—mistreats sacred persons, places, or things (213)

TABLE TALK QUESTION

Based on what we know about Catholic doctrine upheld by Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium, did Christ come to unite all religions within the Catholic Church so that all people could recognize the many ways to God the Father and, with this enlightenment, begin to live on earth in universal peace and international fraternity?

MISSION/FINAL PRAYER