



Roots & Wings

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The Eighth Commandment:

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor (Exodus 20:16)

By: Laurie Liesen

There are many ways we can bear false witness against someone. Most people understand the importance of telling the truth in a court of law, and the consequences that may occur if they do not. However, we do not

have to be in a courtroom to be concerned about whether we are living according to the Eighth Commandment. We can violate this commandment everyday in ordinary conversations with our family and friends. By gossiping and perpetuating rumors, we can ruin another's reputation. In addition, we are not honest with others if we flatter them or if we just plain lie to them about something. We tend to lie because we want to hide something, mislead others, or avoid the consequences of our actions. While it may be tempting to be dishonest in the short-term, lying can cause long-term damage. Not only

does it ruin one's relationships with others, it destroys the liar's soul and reputation for the truth (Aquinas 1992).

The Eighth Commandment invites us to truthful living. It liberates us from lying and deceit. When regard for the truth declines, it calls everything into question and breaks down families, associations, and communities. Truth is essential to trust (McBride 1990; 2001). Truthfulness is a virtue that calls us to be true in deed and in words (Catechism 1995). It is important to realize that this commandment is calling us

to do more than just "tell the truth." We must speak the truth in the context of love. Consequently, truth is more than an idea; it has beauty, attractiveness, and the unifying power of love that leads us to God. As Alfred McBride states,

Truth belongs to a triad: to know, to love, to act. Once truth is known, loved, and lived, then its magnificent promise is realized. One of the main reasons skepticism and relativism have prevailed in our culture is these attitudes influenced people to think of truth as only an idea divorced from the loving and living steps. When this happened, truth, held only as an idea, withered before the onslaught of the 'marketplace of ideas' where opinion counted more than the truth (2001:148).

Consequently, living a life of truth is one of the ways we love others and become closer to God and his promise of the eternal life.

Sources:

Aquinas, St. Thomas (1992). *God's Greatest Gifts: Commentaries on the Commandments and the Sacraments*. Manchester, NH: Sophia Institute Press.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (1995). New York: Doubleday.

McBride, Alfred (1990). *The Ten Commandments: Sounds of Love from Sinai*. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.

McBride, Alfred (2001). *The Ten Commandments: Covenant of Love*. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.



"Thou shalt not
bear false
witness
against thy
neighbour."

Exodus 20:16

Friends of Conservation

4th and 5th Grade Partnership Program with Talek School in Kenya, Africa

By: Rachael Phillippe

As a continuing program with Friends of Conservation, the 4th and 5th grade classes have been working on projects to be sent to our partnering school in Kenya, Africa in May.

Our first package assembled by 4th grade students will contain friendship bracelets, and essays on their daily lives. The 4th graders will soon be participating in 'Pioneer Days' and we will be sending photos from this event as well. The 5th grade students from Miss Peterson's class are putting together a photo album on class projects such as 'President's Day' where the students dressed up as various U.S. Presidents. The package will also contain photos of our school, descriptions on our recycling programs, and other information of interest. The package will be shared by all of the Talek School 4th and 5th grade equivalent students. Those students in turn will be sending a package for IJP's 4th and 5th graders to read.

A representative from Friends of Conservation will be traveling to Kenya and will deliver our package to the Education Director. For more information on The Friends of Conservation visit their website www.friendsofconservation.org.



Eighth Commandment Bibliography

Compiled by : Pam Bartuiewicz

These materials are available through your local library as well as Metropolitan Library System.

Ages 5-8:

Kroll, Steven. **Jungle Bullies.** The larger jungle animals bully the smaller ones until Mama Monkey shows them all the benefits of sharing.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **King of the Playground.** Kevin learns to deal with a bossy contemporary at the neighborhood playground.

Ages 8-11 and older:

Breguet, Teri. **Frequently Asked Questions About Cyberbullying.** Discusses cyberbullying, and provides information on what it is, identifying threats, how to stop the abuse, and laws about it.

Grimes, Nikki. **The Road to Paris.** Inconsolable at being separated from her older brother, eight-year-old Paris is apprehensive about her new foster family but just as she learns to trust them, she faces a life-changing decision.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Wringer.** As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.

Warner, Sally. **Super Emma.** Third-grader Emma becomes a reluctant heroine when she defends a friend from the class bully.

Whelan, Gloria. **Homeless Bird.** When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

Yep, Laurence. **Cockroach Cooties.** Teddy and his little brother Bobby devise strategies using bugs to defeat the school bully.

Ages 10-13:

Levine, Karen. **Hana's Suitcase.** A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust.

Lupica, Mike. **Travel Team.** After he is cut from his travel basketball team, twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

Rue, Nancy N. **Sophie loves Jimmy.** Paired with her classmate Jimmy for school and church projects, twelve-year-old Sophie must find a way to dispel the boyfriend rumors and to stop the cyberbullying campaign directed against her and a former school bad boy.

Williams, Laura E. **Behind the Bedroom Wall.** Thirteen-year-old Korinna must decide whether to report her parents to her Hitler youth group when she discovers that they are hiding Jews in a secret space behind Korinna's bedroom wall.

Our Catholic Culture: Books Reviews

The IJP school library houses many books related to the Our Catholic Culture Program. Mrs. Bartelt's English students have been busy reviewing some of these books. Look for more reviews in future issues of *Roots and Wings* and look for books with the "Our Catholic Culture" sticker in the IJP library.

Gandhi

Wheeler, Jill C. (2003). *Gandhi*. Abdo Consulting Group, Inc., Edina, Minnesota

Reviewed by: Zachary Best

Mohandas Ghandi was a leader who urged all Indians to live in harmony. Mohandas was born on October 2, 1869, in the town of Porbander, India. Mohandas had two brothers and three sisters. Mohandas taught fairness by saying Hindus and Muslims should get along. He would go around like Martin Luther King, Jr. and tell people that they should treat each other equally. Mohandas will be missed and I already know this because, as I read this book, the Muslims and Hindus are fighting again. In the book they say they wish they had another Mohandas to stop all the fighting.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Feeney, Kathy. (2002). *Martin Luther King, Jr.* Bridgestone Books, Capstone Press.

Reviewed by: Brianna Jenkins

This book is about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Civil Rights leader during the 1950's and 1960's. This is also about the racism and laws that made it hard for African Americans to experience equality. Dr. King promoted fairness and just treatment for others by standing up for those who didn't receive equal rights. He didn't defend other's rights by using violence. He did the exact opposite; he used the strategy of nonviolence. He believed that everyone should be treated equally and in that belief his actions demonstrate that he followed the Bible's teachings "Love your neighbors as yourself."

StronGirls / The Boy Project 2007

The IJP 7th grade girls are participating in an 8 week program called StronGirls. The program addresses the issue of relational aggression among girls. This program is designed to teach girls healthy ways to establish relationships with each other.

The 7th grade boys are participating in the Boy Project. This program deals with our cultural rules about being a boy. The central goals of the curriculum will be to help boys develop an emotional vocabulary and to create a safe forum in which they can express themselves.

These programs have been developed by Drs. Karen and John Farrell. **An informational program for parents will be presented on May 9, 2007 at 7:30 PM.** For additional information, please phone Angie Gehm at 799-5200 Ext. 245.

April Prayer

Let us all become a true and fruitful branch on the vine Jesus, by accepting him in our lives as it pleases him to come:

*as the Truth—to be told;
as the Life—to be lived;
as the Light—to be lighted;
as the Love—to be loved;
as the Way—to be walked;
as the Joy—to be given;
as the Peace—to be spread;
as the Sacrifice—to be offered;
in our families and our neighbors.*

Mother Teresa of Calcutta





Bearing False Witness over the Internet

By: Natalie Lamb

Communication over the Internet is a common practice in our children's lives. While we have all certainly talked to our children about safety on the Internet, we must also remember to talk to them about their behavior on the Internet. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops addressed this issue in a Statement entitled *Your Family and Cyberspace*. The Bishops wrote:

"Ultimately, the best protection against internet misuse is the presence in your home of an atmosphere of prayer and the sharing of Christian values, in which these concerns can be openly discussed by all family members. In this atmosphere, your continued interest and involvement in your children's internet use will come naturally—even if you are not particularly computer savvy..."

The starting point of safe internet use is to recognize that the rules you live by in the real world apply in Cyberspace, too. If you tell your children not to talk to strangers, the same applies on the Internet. Just as you ordinarily expect your children to tell you where they're going, ask them with whom they log on when they "go out" on the Internet. You listen to your children when they talk about their friends, so listen to them when they talk about what they're finding on the Internet."

One author describes the Internet as a grey area for social interactions. Others believe the Internet deletes social inhibitions. Our children may believe that the apparent anonymity of the Internet relieves them of responsibility for their actions. They say things over the Internet they would never say face to face. They may believe that they couldn't possibly bully someone else in cyberspace, but they can.

One way kids bully is through instant messaging :Two friends are at a computer instant messaging someone at another computer in an another location. But only one acknowledges his or her presence. This is, in effect, a lie. The person at the other end may "message" things he or she wouldn't normally say to the silent participant. Internet users may spread rumors and gossip about classmates and teachers over the Internet. Sometimes "friends" will steal each other's passwords, break into e-mail, IM accounts and personal profiles, and send destructive messages under assumed identities. This can be "bearing false witness" and it can devastate. As one columnist wrote, "juicy" material is quickly passed around, in print or by word-of-mouth, indelibly marking the fabric of the school community.'

It is our job as parents and members of the IJP school community to monitor and mentor Internet behavior. As parents, we would not hesitate to discipline our children for inappropriate behavior at school, in classrooms or at someone else's home. We don't have the luxury of ignoring their behavior on the Internet and we can't hide behind our lack of technological knowledge as an excuse. We must help our children live lives of truth in all their activities.

Sources used:

NCCB/USCC, June 16, 2000; Copyright © 2000, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Inc. All rights reserved; <http://www.usccb.org/comm/cyberspace.shtml>.

Simmons, Rachel, *Cliques, Clicks, Bullies and Blogs*; <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&contentId=A8020-2003Sep26>; *Cliques, Clicks, Bullies And Blogs*.

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.
4. Honor your Father and your Mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's.



"There are two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children.

One is roots, the other wings."

Hodding Carter II