



Roots & Wings

A publication of the Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Life Committee

Welcome Back

The Catholic Life Committee is pleased to begin a tenth year of the **Our Catholic Culture in Christ** program. This year, Infant Jesus of Prague school will focus on The Ten Commandments. It is our goal to examine the gift our Father has given us in The Ten Commandments and its meaning in the day to day lives of our parents, teachers, administrators, and most importantly, our students. Throughout the year, **Roots and Wings** will publish articles and essays on The Ten Commandments as we have done in the past with Virtues, The Beatitudes and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Each month teachers in the parish school will receive information and activities related to one of the Commandments. We will also examine The Ten Commandments through bulletin boards, banners, art projects and masses.

Roots and Wings will continue to publish other articles and information relevant to living as Catholics in today's culture. The Catholic Life Committee is always looking for writers and recommendations of books, articles, movies and websites relevant to raising children in **Our Catholic Culture**. Feel free to contact Jane Peabody (957-8214, jtctmj@sbcglobal.net) or Lisa Moore (534-0926, moorelp@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to help us out.

Our Catholic Culture:

The Ten Commandments

When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments at Sinai, they were a confirmation of His love for the Israelites. The Decalogue literally means "ten words," which were a gift given to us directly by God. Through this revelation, these ten words or values tell us how to live a life free from the slavery of sin, selfishness, and death. With Christ's coming and Resurrection, the Ten Commandments were not abolished but were fulfilled. Christians are called not just to "obey" them, but to rediscover them and live them in the spirit of God's love and covenant with us.

There are several ways in which we can understand and live by the Ten Commandments. The first three commandments pertain to our relationship with God, and the latter seven deals with our relationships with each other. We can examine the Decalogue as both prohibitions against specific behaviors as well as positive, moral ways to live our lives. The Decalogue brings unity and coherence to our religious and social lives, telling us what behaviors to avoid in order not to break our covenant with God. They are eternal moral values for loving God, ourselves, and others, guiding not only our actions, but what should be in our hearts (McBride 1990).

The First Commandment:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them (Exodus 20:2-5).

As Thomas Aquinas (1992) reminds us, God issued the First Commandment because people were worshipping different entities, such as demons, heavenly bodies, earthly elements, and even their own (continued next page)



ancestors. God calls us to worship only Him, and He deserves our adoration for several reasons. God's own dignity as Creator calls us to adore Him; we receive all things from God. Through our covenant with Him, we have promised to worship Him and He has offered us eternal life.

The First Commandment is a prohibition against not just the false gods of idols, but also those of money, power, sex, or fame. In the context of our lives, we can violate this commandment by deliberately refusing or even hesitating to believe as true what God has revealed to us. This is seen when people tempt God, commit sacrilege, or espouse atheism or agnosticism. In addition to sins against faith, we can violate this commandment through sins against hope in which we cease to believe in salvation or presuming that our own capacities are greater than God's. We can also commit sins against love or charity by refusing to love God and others (Catechism 1995).



"You shall have no other gods before me."

Exodus 20:3

The purpose of the First Commandment then is to invite faith in the real God, and to live a life of faith, hope and charity. Our faith is the acceptance of and response to God's love and letting Him love us. We need the virtue of hope that God will bless us and help us to love Him and others. Finally, we need to love God above all else for all we are and all creation comes from Him, and we can love God through adoration, prayer, sacrifice, and good works (Catechism 1995; McBride 2001).

Written by: Laurie Liesen

Resources:

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.

Images and Idols

Many of our friends from other religions often question Catholics on the use of statues, pictures, candles and other images in our prayer lives. Some ask whether these are false idols that we are worshipping in violation of the commandments. Of course they are not. These items have no meaning in and of themselves but they are an aid to us in our prayer lives because they represent spiritual realities. If the statues were destroyed, the spiritual realities would still exist.

Statues of the Infant Jesus of Prague or the Sacred Heart of Jesus remind us of Jesus' love for us. Statues of Mary and the saints recall their holy-filled lives, their heroism, and the types of lives we should strive for. Their lives are occasions for us to teach our children. In honoring saints, we honor God who has worked such good and holy things in and through the saints.

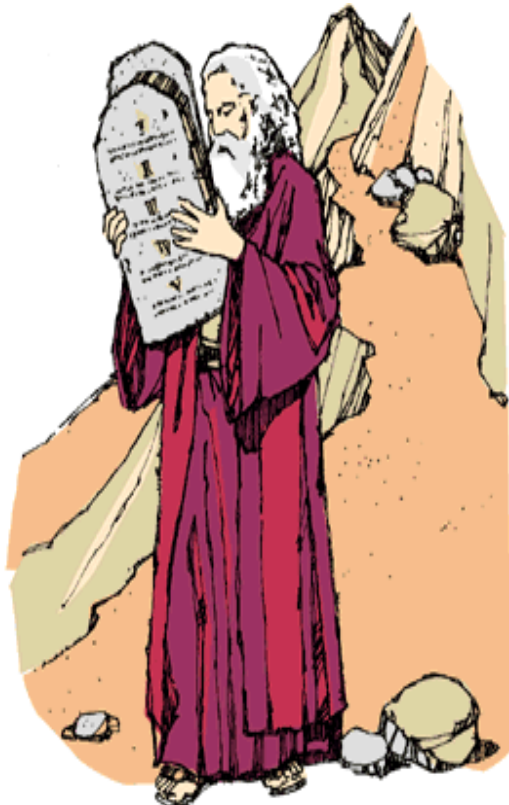
Resources:

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/Nov.1997/wiseman.asp>

<http://americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/ac1001.asp>

The Ten Commandments

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
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.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.



Ten Vows of Caring Parents

1. I'll be there for you.
2. I'll love you no matter what.
3. I'll love you "toughly"
4. I'll love you in the real world.
5. I'll help you learn from failure.
6. I'll help you realize that an uncertain decision is better than no decision.
7. I won't punish you for making a different decision than I'd make.
8. I'll teach you not to be ashamed to say, "I'm sorry."
9. I'll trust you with another chance.
10. I'll encourage you to think for yourself.

-author unknown

Good Media

Children's Books On The Ten Commandments:

Bernall, Misty. *She said yes: the unlikely martyrdom of Cassie Bernall*

Carlstrom, Nancy. *White. Does god know how to tie shoes?*

Cone, Molly. *Who Knows Ten? : Children's Tales of the Ten Commandments*

Daniels, Patricia. *The Ten Commandments*

Greene, Bette. *Summer of my German soldier*

Holland, Isabelle. *Abbie's God book*

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Dancing in Cadillac light*

Krause, Ruth. *The carrot seed*

Kroll, Virginia L. *Especially heroes*

Matas, Carol. *Sparks fly upward*

Storr, Catherine. *Moses in the Wilderness*

Taylor, Kenneth Nathaniel. *Giant Steps for Little People*

Be sure to check out the books tagged "Our Catholic Culture" in the IJP library. Many of the books referenced here are located on a conveniently located shelf!



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

One is roots,
the other wings.”

-Hodding Carter II

But Whom Do You Say That I AM?

ETACOVDAEWH RURETSAMFOG AVRSUSEJLNO WRETMWAYICL VINYDAAKDDO RATSGNINROM												
DAYSTARCPTSALDNATSRIFORERUNNER EVGFNOPHHOTUJGROLESNUOCHCNARBO NMPEIAGONOFUORHADUJFONOILIFEIT EEMVMIMOSRSFKHORN OFSALVATIONSA RSAAHOFFETKEENDOGYTHGIMLAMENHI ASSQNGDDOILANINOSNETTOGEBYLNOD ZITJOUNNNNDECAEPFOECNIRPHYPLPE AAEDYOEAGACORSTNENIVDIVADFONOSM NHRZWHS LQARSDPOCJTLAMBOFGODBVF												
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| Advocate | Door | Lawgiver | Redeemer |
| Almighty | Emmanuel | Life | Resurrection |
| Alpha and Omega | Everlasting | Light | Rock |
| Amen | Faithful and True | Lion of Judah | Savior |
| Apostle | First and Last | Lord | Servant |
| Beloved Son | Forerunner | Lord of Lords | Shepherd |
| Bishop | Foundation | Master | Son of David |
| Branch | Governor | Master | Son of God |
| Bread | Head | Mediator | Son of Man |
| Captain | High Priest | Messiah | Vine |
| Carpenter | Holy and Just One | Mighty God | Way |
| Chosen | Horn of Salvation | Morning Star | Wonderful |
| Christ | I AM | Nazarene | Word |
| Consolation | Jesus | Only Begotten Son | |
| Cornerstone | Judge | Passover | |
| Counselor | King | Priest | |
| Day Star | King of Kings | Prince of Peace | |
| Deliverer | Lamb of God | Prophet | |

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