

EVERYTHING YOU FORGOT FROM CCD

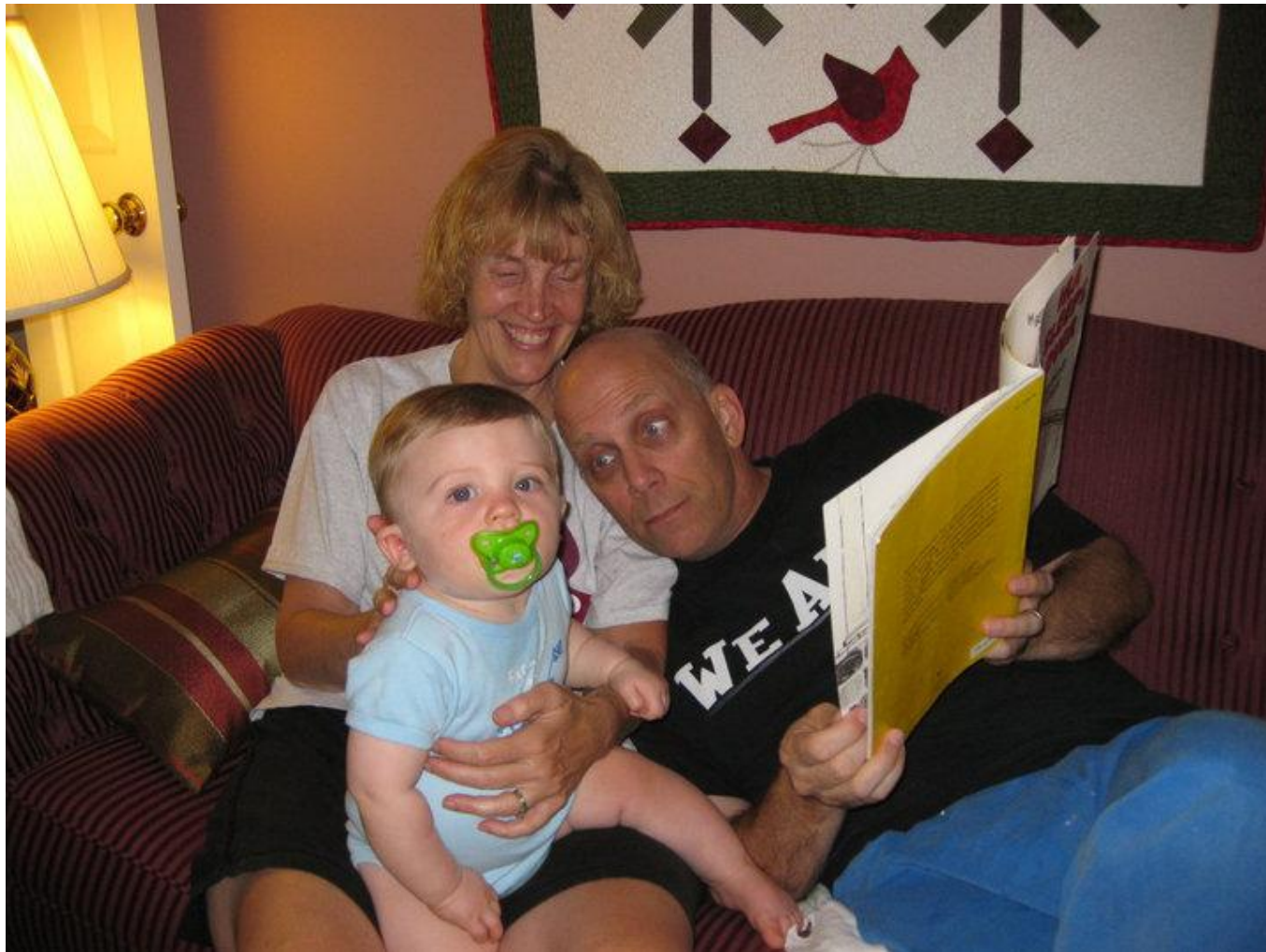
Session 2 - Fall 2010

St. Raymond's Roman Catholic Church

BIG BOY AND LITTLE BOY



GRAMMY AND GRANDPA



SUMMERTIME



THE OBJECTIVE...

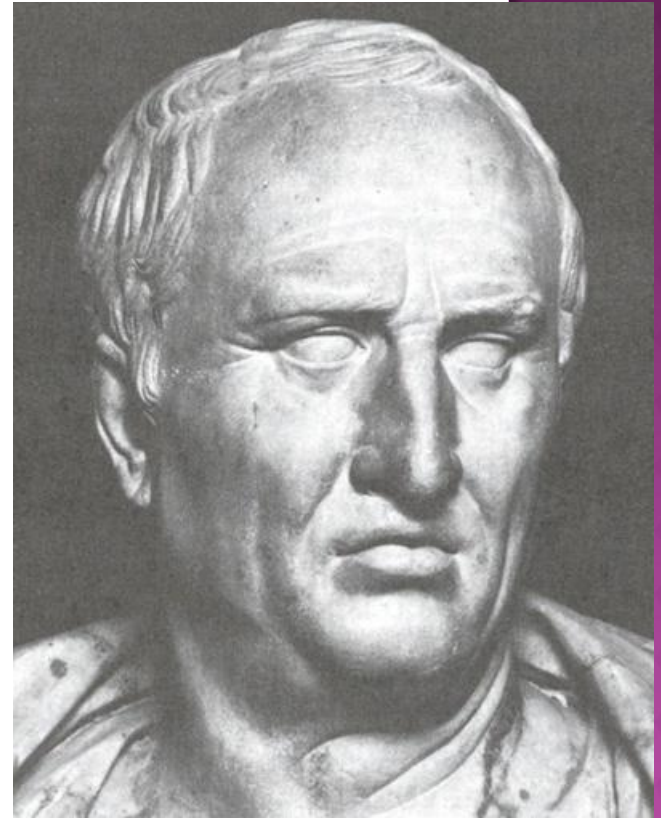


The oldest prayer in the Bible is called the *Shema* and begins, “Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might!” Jesus himself said this was the greatest commandment. What does this mean, and how do we get there?

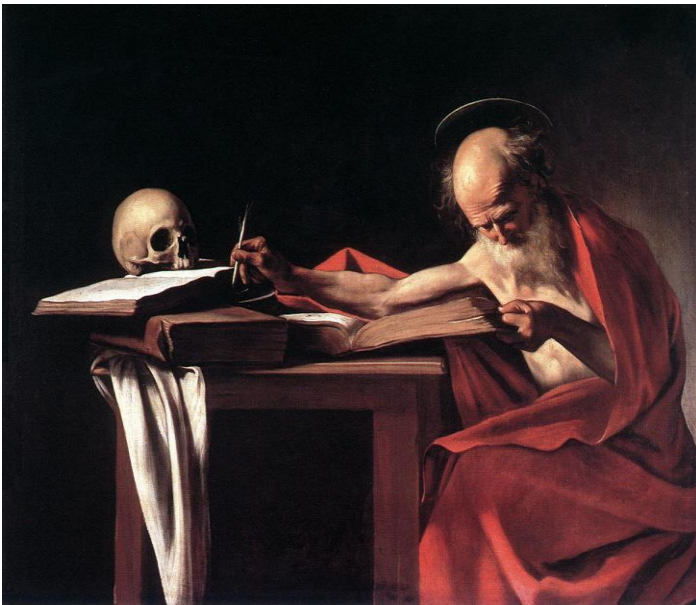
FOUR WORDS...

The Roman statesman Cicero wrote of four words for love, each one higher than the one before.

1. Cupiditas - *desire*
2. Amor - *romantic love*
3. Amicitia - *friendship*
4. Dilectatio - *sacrifice*



THE FATHERS...



Many of the ancient Christian Fathers had such great respect for Cicero that they worried they were more Ciceronian than Christian. St. Jerome regarded Cicero's teaching on love to be a faithful model of the growth of a Christian soul. The moral teaching of the church is designed to produce people who love God, and their neighbor as Christ does.

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” (Exodus 20:1-3). This is the commandment of radical monotheism. There is only one God, only one Truth. How does this commandment help produce people who love better?



PERSONHOOD



The first commandment emerges in the context of a story where God engages his people personally. God respects his people as *persons*. Later on we will find that we keep our status as persons in this life and the life to come. Not all religions do this.

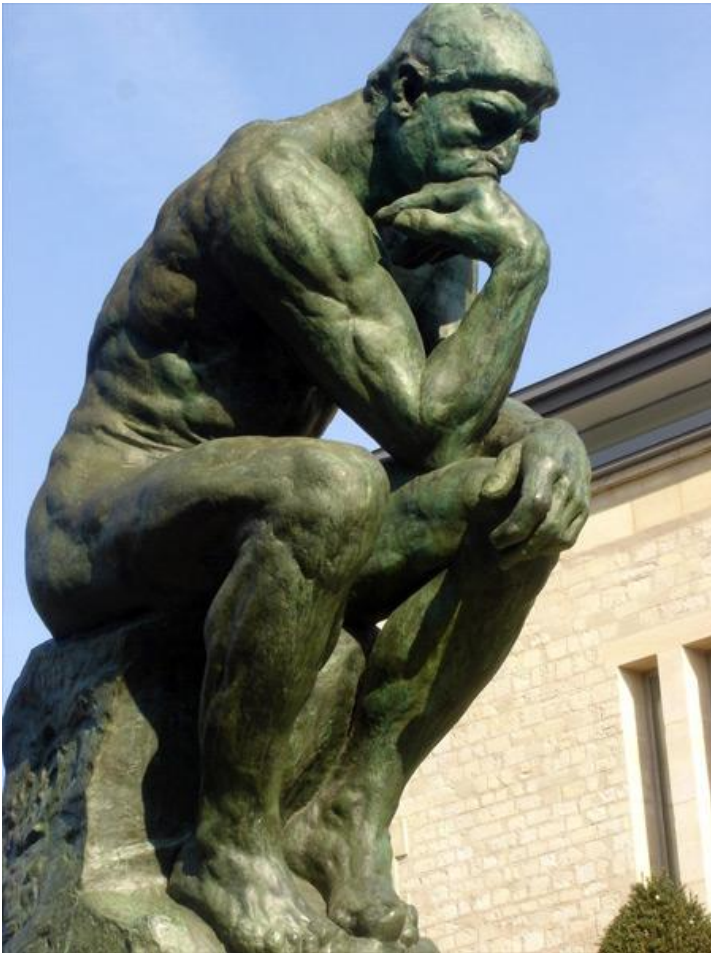
MONISM



Monistic traditions include
Hinduism and Buddhism

Monism is the view that ultimate reality is all one thing. This view became popular during the Vedic period as the Indo-Aryans sought unity in the totality of things. From that one thing all creation originated, and to that one thing all creation would return. Persons, as such, do not have ultimate reality. Why then should we be over concerned if persons suffer?

ONE TRUTH - NOT MANY



The claim that there is only one God, and one Truth is the basis of all rationality. None of the characteristics of the world we value is possible if there can be multiple truths. Rationality, Community, Compassion, Justice, Courage, Wisdom, Love – all of these depend on the oneness of Truth. Monotheism is one of those limitations that makes any kind of goodness possible.

EVEN SCIENCE...

Jewish monotheism, emerging in the pursuit of goodness, even makes science possible. Scripture teaches that the world is *good*, and God intervenes to protect and advance that goodness. Such an assumption about the world is necessary for science to begin. The First Commandment makes science possible!



NO GRAVEN IMAGES



“You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth” (Exodus 20:4). People make things to worship for only one purpose, viz., to control the natural forces around them. Nature religions do not stand the test of time.

WHAT ABOUT SAINTS?



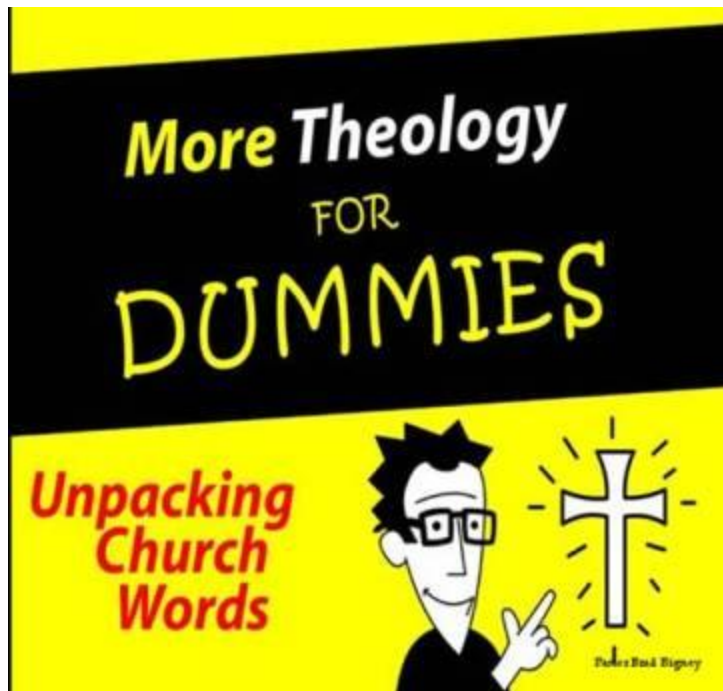
Some object that images of saints are a violation of the first commandment. Not so. Catholics don't pray *to* saints, but *through* saints. We ask for saints to pray for us the same as we would ask anyone else. We presume that prayers of saints may have more efficacy because scripture says they do. "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT



“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain” (Exodus 20:7). Thinking and language go together. In fact, no thinking can take place without language. The more we know about language, the better our thinking becomes. The kind of language we use forms the kind of thinking we can do.

GOD TALK



Theology is simply talk about God. Bad talk about God leads to bad theology and bad religion, leading ultimately to bad citizenship and an unhappy world. Catholics are taught to use God talk carefully because not doing so is disrespectful, dangerous and unkind.

GOD QUESTIONS

- ◉ Why is there something rather than nothing?
- ◉ Why do we have this kind of universe rather than another kind?
- ◉ Why do I even think about thinking? What purpose does it serve?
- ◉ Why do I care about questions like right-wrong, true-false, safe-unsafe?
- ◉ Why doesn't nature religion satisfy my curiosity? Why don't nature religions survive?
- ◉ Why doesn't agnosticism satisfy my curiosity?

COMPASSION



Damir Sagolj / Reuters

Careless talk about God often leads people not to ask these questions, or not to trust the answers when they hear them. Catholics are careful in their speech about God because we want people to have answers to the questions that are most important to them.

NEXT TIME...

The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.

Honor Your Father and your Mother.