EVERYTHING YOU FORGOT FROM CCD

Session 4 - Fall 2010

St. Raymond's Roman Catholic Church

THE OBJECTIVE...

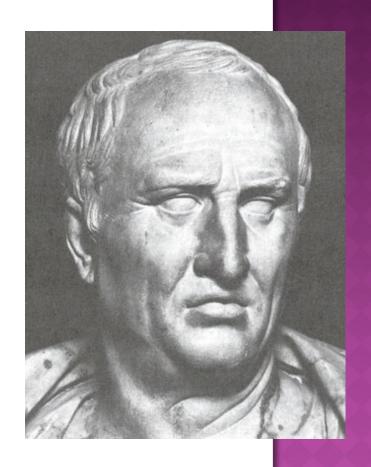


The oldest prayer in the Bible is called the Shema and begins, "Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might!" Jesus himself said this was the greatest commandment. What does this mean, and how do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

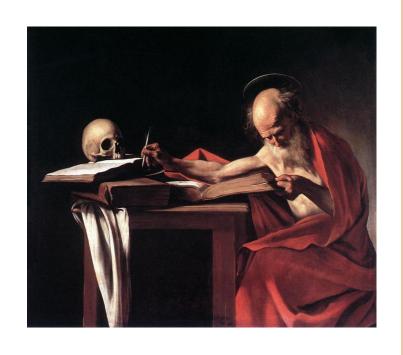
FOUR WORDS...

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 AIM OF APOLOGETICS...

Apologetics doesn't aim at the "isms" (atheism, cynicism, fascism, etc.). Any "ism" claims to have something more true than God, and all eventually collapse under their own weight. The real adversary is the sloppy thinking that doesn't recognize the exaggeration of ideas. Challenging how people use speech is immensely important.

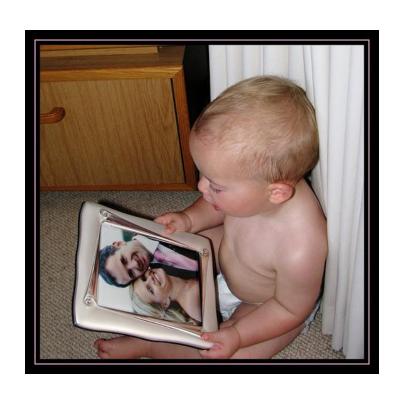


KIDS WITH ISSUES...



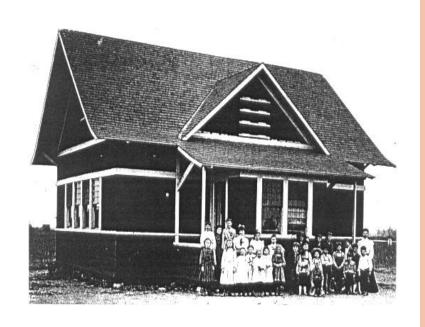
The increase in divorce and single parent homes is staggering. One in ten children in the U.S. today live with a grandparent. Over 70% of black children live in singleparent homes. The incidence of single parenting has risen over 60% since 1970. Parenthood ain't what it used to be.

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT



"Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving to you" (Exodus 20:12). This is the only commandment that comes with a promise, as Paul pointed out (Ephesians 6:2). The sustainability of a culture is directly related to the sustainability of our homes.

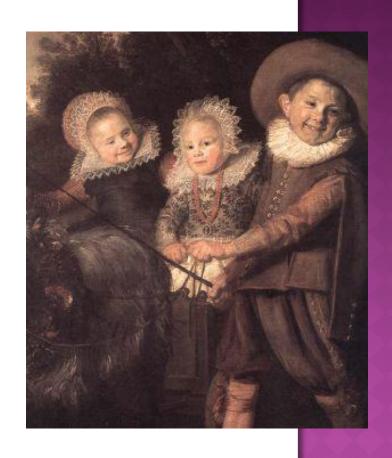
THE FIRST SCHOOL



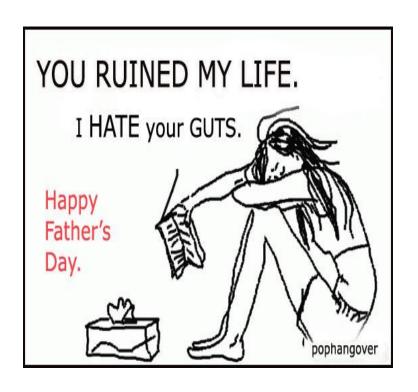
The first school children experience is the school of the home, and parents are the first (and by far the most influential) teachers. Paul notes that while children should honor their parents, he also advises, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

A PROTECTED TIME...

The idea of "childhood" emerged in the Renaissance. Education had risen as a cultural priority, and it was determined that education is best accomplished early in life. So people began to think of childhood as a protected time when children would benefit best from instruction. Honoring parents presumes parents are honoring childhood and taking the instruction of the young seriously.



HONOR MOTHERHOOD/FATHERHOOD



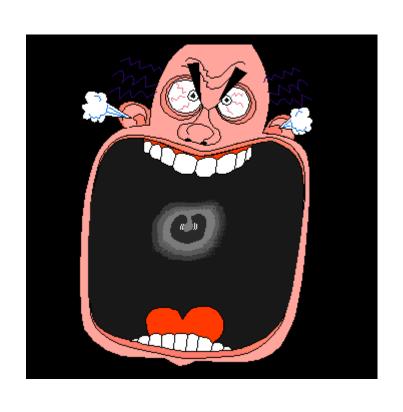
What do children/parents do who have had bad examples of parents? How do they honor their mothers and fathers? They accept that their experience was bad, and resolve not to repeat it. These people above all need love, patience and instruction to have a more uplifting view of what parenthood is.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not kill." -Exodus 20:13. Sometimes this is rendered, "You shall not murder," yet the idea is the same. The taking of life, especially innocent life, is inconsistent with the love of God and neighbor.

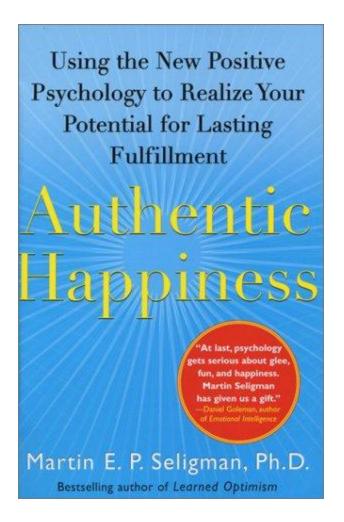


AMPLIFIED VERSION...



Jesus amplified this commandment to read, "If you are angry with a brother or sister you will be liable to judgment.... If you insult a brother or sister you will be liable to the council..... Be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come offer your gift" (Mt. 5:21-26)

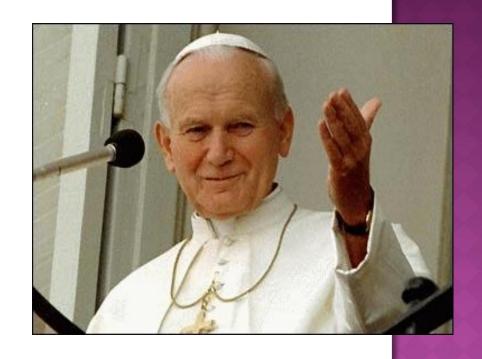
BEING AND DOING



Jesus knew that every bad act begins as a bad thought. Every act of violence comes from violently disordered thinking. Well-ordered thinking, therefore, is much more likely to produce well-ordered behavior. Even psychologists today are persuaded that the secret to human happiness is virtue. Thinking focused on virtue and the building up of one's neighbor is unlikely to produce violence.

EVANGELIUM VITAE

Pope John Paul taught that it is just as unfaithful to permit the death of the unborn as to permit the death of the criminal. Sometimes (on very rare occasions) war is morally unavoidable. According to Pope John Paul, capital punishment is completely avoidable and almost always unnecessary.



NEXT TIME...

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.