

Dear RCIA-ers,

Due to the construction we had some internet connection issues and then Fr. Pawel just plainly forgot about you =). Below the last few things to read and... some of them to memorize.

The Ten Commandments

(the Catholic arrangement)

You can use your own words.

1. "I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not have any gods before Me."
Or: There is only one God.

You should worship only God. Don't waste your life on false gods like success, "eternal youth", popularity, getting rich or trying to be sexy.

2. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."
Or: Don't use God's name as an expression.

Be respectful to sacred names and things.

3. "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day."
Or: Sunday is for God and for resting.

Sunday is set aside for going to church, remembering why we are alive, getting a rest. Once a week your running forward needs to stop. You owe it to God who gives you everything. You owe it to your loved ones who want to enjoy your presence and your health - not your money. You owe it to your body and your emotions.

4. "Honor thy father and mother."
Or: Respect your parents.

...even if they are annoying. They earned it that you put up with them – they have been putting up with you since your first squeak in the maternity ward. Respect the fact that older people have experience more than you. Respect the fact that there are bosses, police, IRS, and instructions how to use the elevator. Respect the social order. It allows us to live in a safe environment.

5. "Thou shalt not kill."

Don't waste your life in trying to get even, in trying to hurt in revenge for your hurts. It will poison you and those you love. Embrace the joy of life and let vipers fight among themselves. As long as you don't "kill" or burn bridges, you can always win over a new sibling in Christ. On occasion you will have to push back. Just don't turn it into your life's mission. On occasion you will have to fight for your life. Killing an innocent person is considered murder. Killing an unjust aggressor to preserve your own life is still killing, but it isn't considered murder or immoral. It is self-defense.

6. "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

The sixth and ninth commandments honor human sexuality. This commandment forbids the actual, physical act of having immoral sexual activity, specifically adultery, which is sex with someone else's spouse or a spouse cheating on their partner. This commandment also includes sex between unmarried people, prostitution, pornography, homosexual activity, masturbation, group sex, rape, incest, pedophilia, bestiality, and necrophilia. In today's Western culture you are expected to be sexually active. The Church can give you very insightful explanations why not to do all the above.

7. "Thou shalt not steal."

The seventh and tenth commandments focus on respecting and honoring the possessions of others. This commandment forbids the act of taking someone else's property. The Catholic Church believes that this commandment also denounces cheating people of their money or property, depriving workers of their just wage, or not giving employers a full day's work for a full day's pay. Embezzlement, fraud, tax evasion, and vandalism are all considered extensions of violations of the Seventh Commandment.

8. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

Or: Don't lie.

Only in the truth will we find true happiness. We tell lies in the false assumption that falsehood leads to happiness. Happiness based on lies needs constant propping up with new lies in order not to collapse. Happiness based on truth has solid foundations that allow you to relax. So a good Catholic is who you want to buy a used car from.

9. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife."

Or: Don't cultivate lustful thoughts

Such thoughts shape your way of thinking, influence your decisions and make others feel uncomfortable around you. They prevent you from discovering others who they really are. Instead, lustful thoughts turn people to toys. You are not able to relate to them as brothers and sisters. In this way, you remain alone surrounded by people.

10. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods."

Or: Don't desire other people's things

The feelings of envy, greed, and jealousy poison you and your joy of life. Happiness starts when you embrace in peace the fact that you will never have all you want. Happiness starts with your ability to appreciate and enjoy what you have.

The 5 Church precepts

Please know the Precepts but you can phrase them in your own words.

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit

In other words – this is what happens in your life when you open your heart to the Holy Spirit. Please remember at least 4 of them.

**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**

In our session you will be asked the following questions:

Which one seems to be the most needed in your life right now?

Which ones you have experienced as you tried to live your Christian faith?

Which ones you observed in other good Christians?

Works of Mercy

Based on Matthew 25: 31-46

Which works of mercy below do you feel called to in a special way?

The 7 Corporal Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy are acts of love that address the physical and material needs of others.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are:

Feed the hungry.

Give drink to the thirsty.

Clothe the naked.

Visit the imprisoned.

Shelter the homeless.

Visit the sick.

Bury the dead.

The 7 Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Spiritual Works of Mercy address the needs of peoples' minds, hearts, and souls. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

Admonish the sinner. (Give correction to those who need it.)

Instruct the ignorant. (Share our knowledge with others.)

Counsel the doubtful. (Give advice to those who need it.)

Comfort the sorrowful. (Comfort those who suffer.)

Bear wrongs patiently. (Be patient with others.)

Forgive all injuries. (Forgive those who hurt us.)

Pray for the living and the dead.