OCIA Session on Commandments: 4th, 5th, and 6th

Living God's Love in Family, Life, and Marriage

Introduction

The Ten Commandments are not merely rules. They are God's gift to guide human freedom, protect human dignity, and lead us toward holiness. Jesus summarized the commandments in two great laws: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart... and your neighbor as yourself" (Mt 22:37-39). The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments teach us how to live that love within the family, society, and human relationships.

The 4th Commandment: Honor Your Father and Your Mother.

(Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16)

Biblical background: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you." (Ex 20:12) The commandment was given to the Israelites as part of the covenant at Sinai. Family life was considered the foundation of faith, culture, and community.

Jesus Himself obeyed Mary and Joseph: "He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them." (Lk 2:51). St. Paul teaches: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord." (Eph 6:1-3)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: "The fourth commandment opens the second table of the Decalogue. It shows us the order of charity." (CCC 2197). "God has willed that, after him, we should honor our parents." (CCC 2197)

This commandment extends beyond parents to teachers, leaders, pastors, and legitimate authority.

Martin Luther's explanation: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them." Luther emphasizes respect, obedience, gratitude, and service.

Social importance: The family is the first school of faith, love, respect, and responsibility. Strong families build strong communities. The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls this commandment "one of the foundations of the social doctrine of the Church" (CCC 2198)

Also, honoring parents helps us learn to honor God. Parents cooperate with God in giving life. This commandment teaches: Humility, respect for authority, and responsibility towards others. It reminds us that love begins at home. This commandment helps us to grow in gratitude, to practice forgiveness, learn obedience, build healthy relationships, and experience God's fatherly love. A grateful heart becomes a holy heart.

Reflective questions: Do I honor my parents and those in authority? Do I show gratitude and respect?

The 5th Commandment: You shall not kill (Exodus 20:13)

Biblical background: Human life is sacred because every person is created in God's image. After Cain killed Abel, God defended the dignity of human life (Gen 4:8-12). Genesis teaches: "God made man in his own image." (Gen 9:6)

Jesus deepens the commandment: "Everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment." (Mt 5:21-22) The commandment forbids not only murder but also hatred, vengeance, and violence**. Catechism of the Catholic Church:** "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God." (CCC 2258). "God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end." (CCC 2258). The Fifth Commandment protects: Human life, human dignity, peace, justice, and respect for every person.

Martin Luther's explanation: "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor but help and support him in every physical need." Not only "do not kill," but actively help others. **Social importance:** This commandment protects unborn Children, the elderly, the sick, the poor, and every human person. Without respect for life, society becomes unstable and unjust.

Every human being bears God's image. To harm another person is to attack a life loved by God. This commandment teaches: Mercy, compassion, forgiveness, respect, and peacemaking. When we respect life, we become more compassionate,

we imitate Christ, we grow in mercy, and we learn true charity. Protecting life strengthens the soul and deepens our relationship with God.

St. John Paul II teaches: "The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' message." Jesus came so that all may have life abundantly (Jn 10:10). The Church therefore defends the dignity and sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death.

Reflective questions: Do I respect all human life? Do I avoid hatred, anger, and revenge?

The 6th Commandment: You shall not commit adultery (Exodus 20: 14)

Biblical background: Marriage was established by God in creation. "The two shall become one flesh." (Gen 2:24). Marriage is a covenant of faithful love. Jesus deepens the commandment: "Everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Mt 5:27-28). Jesus calls believers to purity of heart, not merely external obedience.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: "God is love." (CCC 2331). God created man and woman for love, communion, marriage, and family life. Sexuality is a gift from God and should be expressed according to God's plan. The Catechism explains: "Sexuality affects all aspects of the human person" (CCC 2332). Martin Luther's explanation: "We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other." Luther emphasizes purity, faithfulness, and mutual respect.

The Sixth Commandment protects: marriage, family stability, trust between spouses, and children's well-being. The Catechism teaches that adultery harms spouses, children, and society. Faithful marriages strengthen communities.

Marriage reflects God's faithful love. St. Paul compares marriage to the love between Christ and the Church (Eph 5:25-32). This commandment teaches: fidelity, self-control, respect, chastity, and authentic love. Human sexuality becomes a path to holiness when lived according to God's design.

Purity of heart helps us: Love authentically, respect others, grow in self-mastery, develop virtue, and draw us closer to Christ. Faithfulness in relationships

strengthens spiritual integrity. St. John Paul II calls the family a: "community of life and love."

Reflective questions: Do I respect the dignity of marriage? Do I live chastely according to my state in life?

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