

Host or designated reader/leader begins the Upper Room prayer hour by reading this message from Fr. David:

Message for April

Dear friends in Christ:

Last month we considered the Fear of the Lord. This month we will consider our conscience as it relates to the moral life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says this about "Conscience":

The interior voice of a human being, within whose heart the inner law of God is inscribed. Moral conscience is a judgement of practical reason about the moral quality of a human action. It moves a person at the appropriate moment to do good and avoid evil. (CCC Glossary pg.872)

Notice that faith or religion is not mentioned here, only that God has inscribed it in every human being upon their hearts. We all have the capability to make the right decision and avoid evil because God has given us a conscience to guide us.

I want to focus your Upper Room this month on preserving the voice and judgement of practical reason and how to form it properly

In Christ;

Fr. David

Open with Sign of Cross and Prayer to the Holy Spirit Prayer

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

L: Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created.

R: And You shall renew the face of the earth

L: Let us pray - God our Father, pour out the gifts of your Holy Spirit on the world. You sent the Spirit on Your Church to begin the teaching of the Gospel; now let the Spirit continue to work in the world through the hearts of all who believe. Through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen

L: You, O lord, will open my lips.

R: And my tongue shall announce Your praise.

L: Incline unto my aid, O God.

R: O Lord, make haste to help me.

L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

R: As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen

Please read:

Genesis Chapter 37

- ✓ Discuss Reuben and what you think is behind his attempt to defend Joseph.
- ✓ Jealousy is the motivation behind the brothers' sins against Joseph and Jacob, his father. What principle(s) is(are) ignored by a "well-formed-conscience" with this sin?
- ✓ The Midianites sinned too here, buying Joseph and putting him in slavery. What was wrong with the conscience of the Muslims here?

Please read:

Luke 17:11-19

- ✓ Recall what it means to be a Samaritan in Israel.
- ✓ Look up on a smart phone or the internet what leprosy was like in the day of Jesus and how lepers were treated?
- ✓ What does the sin of ingratitude look like in a person?
- ✓ Why do you think that only this one leper returned?

Please read:

Luke 22:54-65

- ✓ Why is Peter afraid to reveal his relationship with Jesus?
- ✓ What bothers you about lying?
- ✓ What informed Peter's conscience after the denial had taken place? (hint v.60)
- ✓ Would that we kept the face of Jesus ever before us, would we sin?

General Questions:

- ✓ Sin is committed more frequently when we are: **tired** **lonely** **depressed**
overly excited **overly hungry** **feeling vulnerable** **un-appreciated**
drunk or high
- How do each of these "triggers" affect our moral lives and our decision making?
- ✓ Have you ever committed a sin to "reward" yourself for being or doing something good? What is going wrong in your conscience here? Discuss.
- ✓ How does one form one's conscience? (hint: confession, counsel, study of scripture and CCC)
- ✓ Does a Christian need to inform one's conscience or is it set once you are an adult?
- ✓ What in your opinion is the biggest problem we face in our culture in regards to conscience?

Prayer

For Prayer say a Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Next Month the Upper Room will be on Natural Law

**P.S. Upper Room Leaders Please Report
Back to Aggie before MAY a List of Who
Your Active Members Are.**

Thank you!

Fr. David