

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

### **Message for May**

Dear friends in Christ:

This month we will consider "Natural Law". What it is and how it relates to the true and the good. When we participate in the wisdom and goodness of the Creator we act in harmony with Natural Law. Natural Law is the basis or foundation of all law, goods and governance. The Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph #1955 says this:

*The "divine and natural" law shows man the way to follow so as to practice the good and attain his end. The natural law states the first and essential precepts which govern the moral life. It hinges upon the desire for God and submission to him, who is the source and judge of all that is good, as well as upon the sense that the other is one's equal. Its principal precepts are expressed in the Decalogue (Ten Commandments). This law is called "natural," not in reference to the nature of irrational beings, but because reason which decrees it properly belongs to human nature*

Even when it is rejected it cannot be destroyed by us (no matter what we or our governing bodies decree). It is a permanent reflection of who we are and how we are designed to live.

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

## Read Catechism Quote #1956 below

*(The numbers and bold type are my addition)*

The natural law, present in the heart of each man and established by 1) **reason**, is 2) **universal** in its precepts and its authority extends to all men. It expresses the 3) **dignity of the person** and determines the basis for his 4) **fundamental rights and duties**:

*For there is a true law: right reason. It is in conformity with nature, is diffused among all men, and is immutable and eternal; its orders summon to duty; its prohibitions turn away from offense . . . . To replace it with a contrary law is a 5) **sacrilege**; 6) **failure to apply even one of its provisions is forbidden; no one can abrogate it entirely.***

A) The words and phrases that are bolded please discuss with these questions:

- 1) Talk about the difference between someone who has not reached the age of reason and someone who has. More specifically talk about the difference in behavior between one with the use of reason and one without. Is religion and right living something for children? Does the natural law apply to them?
- 2) The sunshine and the rain fall on everyone and natural law applies to all correct? Are there exceptions to this? Does someone who is completely handicapped, verbally and physically, experience the precepts of the natural law? How about little children or the developmentally delayed?
- 3) How do the 10 Commandments safeguard the dignity of human beings?
- 4) What is your opinion on what some of our religious duties are? (hint: look up the word “duties” in the index of the Catechism.
- 5) A simple definition of a sacrilege is: “not treating with respect, something sacred or blessed”. Just examining the 10 Commandments what are the objects in each commandments that are being safeguarded?
- 6) This means you can’t throw any of them out (the 10 Commandments). Discuss which commandment is under the most attack in this day and age and how it can be reclaimed.

B) The desire for God and to submit to His will takes a special grace and knowledge. How would you teach or talk to someone who lacks a desire to be one with Him? Could you use Natural Law to make your argument? Discuss

C) How do things like abortion, artificial forms of birth control or sterilization, homosexual sins (not the sinner), masturbation, stealing or swearing (e.g.) specifically (talk about each one) defy the Natural Law?

## For Prayer Read Chapter 19:1-10 of Luke

**Sit silently in prayer for 5 minutes. Discuss each characters inclination in the story (that is) what each feels drawn to do and why?**

**Close with Decade of Rosary**

**June’s topic will be on the New Law or the Law of the Gospel**

