

Being Like Jesus

Among many things, Jesus prayed, taught the ignorant, fed the hungry, healed the sick, consoled the grieving, talked with outcasts and strangers, admonished the sinner, challenged those in power, and forgave. His challenge to each of us in everyday life is “Love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15: 12)

The Least of My Brothers (Matthew 25: 34ff)

‘I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ The corporal and spiritual works of mercy, commandments, beatitudes, and recent Church teachings give us concrete examples for how to love others. Consider what you can personally do (time, talent, treasure) - starting at home and reaching out to others via GSCC ministries.

Corporal Works of Mercy

Matthew 25: 34ff is the source of these. Catholic Charities, GSCC Volunteer Outreach Ministries and others listed below assist you in performing corporal works of mercy.

1. Feed the hungry (GRACE, Mother's Manna and Union Gospel Mission)
2. Give drink to the thirsty (GRACE)
3. Clothe the naked (GRACE)
4. Visit the prisoners (Prison Ministry)
5. Shelter the homeless (ChristCare; GRACE, Trinity Habitat for Humanity)
6. Visit the sick (Prayer Shawl; Homebound Visitation ministries; GRACE; Mid-Cities Care Corp)
7. Bury the dead (Lazarus and Bethany ministries)



Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Admonish the sinner
2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Counsel the doubtful
4. Comfort the sorrowful
5. Bear wrongs patiently
6. Forgive all injuries
7. Pray for the living and dead

The Greatest Commandment

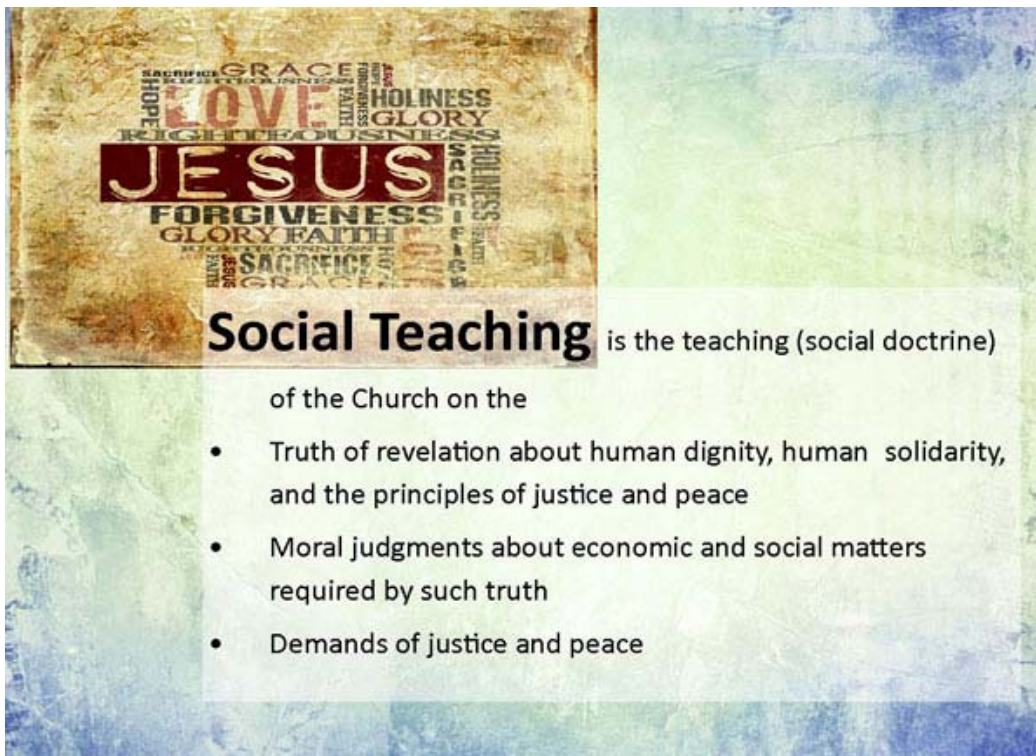
The Greatest Commandments are found in Luke 10:25-28 and Deuteronomy 6:5 of The New American Bible, Revised Edition.

You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all our mind,

and your neighbor as yourself.

Neighbor: Jesus clarifies what it means to be someone's neighbor in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 29-37). The neighbor in the parable is a Samaritan, who would be considered an enemy by Jews.

What if: Imagine yourself as a totally vulnerable victim laying in a ditch when your "enemy" shows up. How would you want to be treated? If you came upon your enemy laying vulnerable in a ditch, what would you do?



Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 4:6ff. The following is an elaboration with positive aspects to enhance our union with God and neighbors (from Invitation: The Search for God, Self, and Church).

1. You shall honor no other God but me.

Against idolatry of self, others, or the state.

For faith in a loving and forgiving God.

2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord, your God.

Against irreverence for God and people or making light of the mystery of their relationship.

For the reverence and value of the mystery of God and human beings..

3. You shall keep holy the sabbath day.

Against refusal to acknowledge our dependence on God's love and mercy and providential care for all creation.

For a proper observance of the Christian Sunday by attendance at the Eucharist, attention to family nurturing, and rest from our labors.

4. You shall honor your father and mother.

Against any force or influence that weakens or destroys family life for all creation.

For behavior that builds strong, Christian family life.

5. You shall not kill.

Against those who deny or destroy the sacredness of human life by murder, torture, abortion, euthanasia, etc.

For honoring of every human life as sacred.

6. You shall not commit adultery.

Against dehumanizing sexuality and irreverence to the marriage vow of fidelity. Sins include adultery, fornication, homosexual acts, incest, masturbation, divorce, and pornography.

For human dignity and fulfillment in light of covenant love, fidelity in marriage, chastity, and the positive role of sexuality in marital love..

7. You shall not steal.

Against stealing personal property, including exploitation of the poor.

For protection of personal property and economic justice for poor and oppressed people.

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Against lying, cheating, and defamation of character.

For the values of truth and honesty in society.

9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

Against lust and the permission of disordered passions.

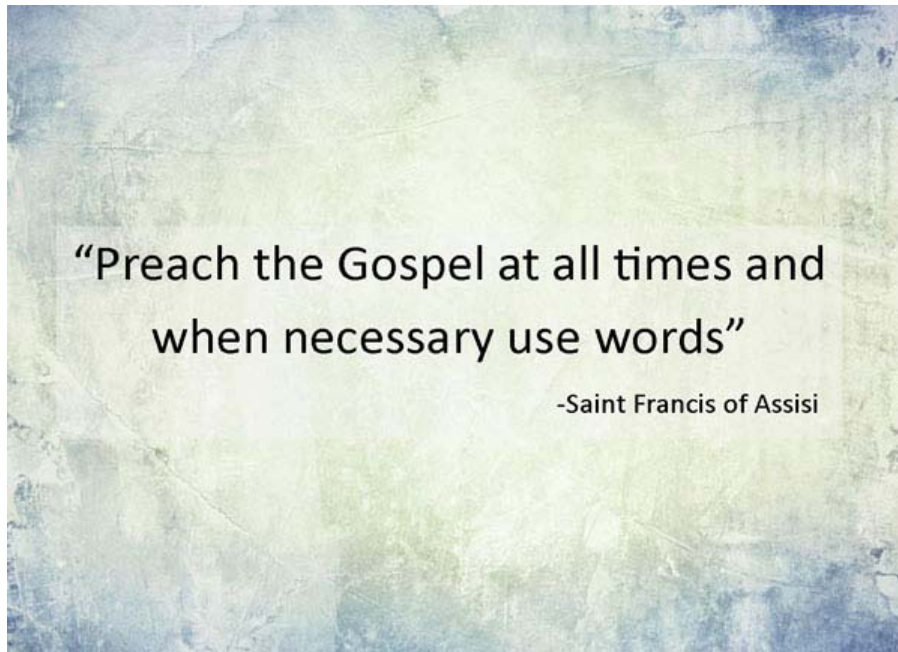
For the value of humans as worthy of love and reverence, coupled with respect for the marriage vows.

10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Against greed, great desire for wealth, or exploitation of the environment.

For wholesome love of creation, poverty of spirit, and loving care for the world's environment.

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Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3 ff) give us more guidance for being like Jesus.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Resources

U.S. Catholic Bishops Web Site - <http://www.usccb.org/>

Catholic News Service - <http://www.catholicnews.com/>

Catholic Social Teaching - <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/>

Catechism of the Catholic Church - <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/epub/index.cfm>

New American Bible - <http://www.usccb.org/bible/index.cfm>