

Catholic Anthropology

The study of being human in light of God's love and
the study of God's love in light of being human.

Kindergarten - 6th Grade



INTRODUCTION

Catholic anthropology is the study of being human in light of God's creative love and revealed in creation and Jesus Christ. The Catholic worldview of the purpose of our existence and how we relate to creation, self, others, the Church and God are truths that are often contradicted by a secular worldview. Since formation of conscience with core principles begins in early childhood, the purpose of this booklet is to address fundamental principles early and simply. For questions or comments regarding the content of this booklet, please contact the assistant superintendent for the Catholic Schools Office, Jo Ann Mathieson, at joann.mathieson@pastoral.org.

SCRIPTURE

A hermeneutical approach to Scripture is triumphed in many Church documents. This means that it is good to understand the author, audience, context, language and culture. How was it meant to be heard when written? Like the parables, not all things are meant to be literal. In the younger grades, literary genres and metaphors, etc... are not taught directly as such. The first stories in Genesis are a genre studied in detail, and we can trust the magisterium and scholars who agree on the principles within a historical-critical and reasoned approach. When children inevitably make personal faith determinations, it is a goal of this booklet to give them tools and confidence to accept the reality of the Faith which is altogether reasonable.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The questions and answers in this program intend faithfulness to the Church and suggest further reading of each topic in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* cited in the footnotes as "CCC". If something does not have a citation, the CCC reference may be found in a previous grade's introduction of the topic.

SOCIAL JUSTICE/CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

This presentation of the understanding of the human person and the relationship the person has with creation, self, others, the Church and God directly relates to one's participation in society and the principles found in the Catholic Social Teaching. This Catholic Anthropology program intends to assist in the forming of consciences for faithful citizenship. Catholic Social Teaching concepts will be introduced early and broadly. The fact that something appears to be a 'big word' and concept should not deter its presentation as we are planting seeds in the younger grades to hopefully bear fruit as each student matures. These basic principles will assist in navigating the complex issues that will most likely be a continual concern in all areas, such as bioethics, justice issues, political and policy development, human sexuality, psychology, environmentalism... as well as daily situations in the home or classroom.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Referencing Erik Erikson's stages of psycho-social development, it is well argued that the early childhood years, this program's audience, are the years where determinations are made regarding one's sense of self and view of others. This program intends to establish fundamental building blocks enabling a humbly confident understanding of self and respectful view of others. Similarly, it intends to provide the foundation needed to help students navigate the questions and decisions in their future and make a positive

contribution to society. Understanding of the topic may not occur right away, but presentation and repetition of the material is important for understanding and application.

SUGGESTED PEDAGOGY

Many concepts are repeated at each grade level and new concepts introduced at each level. Each grade should review the previous grades' questions and answers. A student may not understand a concept immediately and this is best aided through repetition. Referencing the principles is suggested when discussing classroom rules, applicable lessons in Literature, Social Studies, science, etc.

It is recommended that parents and teachers read through all grade levels of the booklet for a deeper understanding of the concepts. It is also recommended that grades 7-12 review the concepts in this booklet.

CATHOLIC WORLDVIEW

A Catholic worldview attempts to view reality within God's perspective (using our "Godgles," per se). The Catholic worldview sees faith, science and reason as completely compatible. The Catholic world view values divine attributes of truth, beauty and goodness and can see them in all subjects. Other aspects of the Catholic worldview can be categorized in general ways. One dimension of the Catholic worldview is that it is a *Sacramental worldview* which sees the invisible realities in the visible. Another dimension is that of a *Trinitarian worldview* which views all in terms of the relationship of persons with creation, self, others, the Church and God and our call to communion. The Catholic worldview is *Incarnational* as God taking on flesh in Jesus is the pivotal reference point for all questions. Because of the nature of God, there are 'infinite' dimensions to the Catholic worldview, but the lenses mentioned previously are most accessed in this booklet.

ARTWORK

The illustrations for the cover and the introduction of each grade level in this booklet were drawn by a current Catholic school student in our diocese. Shealyn graciously used her gifts to contribute to this effort.

Artist's note regarding illustrations: "The flowers between the people on the cover sketch are Bell Flowers. They symbolize gratitude and everlasting love. I placed the large one bloomed above the others to represent God and His everlasting love for us. The others to represent gratitude that we should always show toward Him. Scattered throughout the other pictures you may find some more."

CROSS-CURRICULAR THEMES

As truth is universal, all subjects integrate with the Faith inexhaustibly. In academic subjects, national standards and textbooks center on developmentally appropriate themes per grade level. The questions/answers in this booklet integrate fundamental principles into common national curricular themes in Religion and Social Studies and has attempted to remain within these themes for easier integration. Below are the topics most commonly nationally deemed as appropriate per grade level for both religion and Social Studies that most textbooks and state standards address.

Overview of year themes in Religion, Social Studies and Catholic Anthropology

Kindergarten	Religion Standards' Theme: <i>God made the world and it is good.</i>	Social Studies' Theme: <i>Self and others</i>	Catholic Anthropology Theme: <i>Goodness in all creation</i>
First Grade	Religion Standards' Theme: <i>God loves us. We are called to love God, others and ourselves.</i>	Social Studies' Theme: <i>Community and state</i>	Catholic Anthropology Theme: <i>Freedom to choose love or sin</i>
Second Grade	Religion Standards' Theme: <i>Jesus shares God's life.</i>	Social Studies' Theme: <i>My family, other families, now and long ago (North American Interactions)</i>	Catholic Anthropology Theme: <i>Made for communion</i>
Third Grade	Religion Standards' Theme: <i>We are a family.</i>	Social Studies' Theme: <i>Communities around the world (global interactions)</i>	Catholic Anthropology Theme: <i>Solidarity and interdependence</i>
Fourth Grade	Religion Standards' Theme: <i>Covenantal relationships</i>	Social Studies' Theme: <i>Migration and settlement (US and KY)</i>	Catholic Anthropology Theme: <i>Relationships: self, others and God</i>
Fifth Grade	Religion Standards' Theme: <i>The Church shares God's life.</i>	Social Studies' Theme: <i>The US: first inhabitants and the Constitution</i>	Catholic Anthropology Theme: <i>Sacramental worldview: Unity of physical/spiritual</i>
Sixth Grade	Religion Standards' Theme: <i>A people of God</i>	Social Studies' Theme: <i>Development of civilization</i>	Catholic Anthropology Theme: <i>Catholic worldview</i>

Some terms introduced at each grade level include:

Kindergarten	1 st grade	2 nd grade	3 rd grade	4 th grade	5 th grade	6 th grade
all-knowing	agape	accompany	conscience	5 senses	Bioethics	Catholic Anthropology
all-loving	choice	agape	forgiveness	analogy	Catholic Social Teaching	Christian Anthropology
all-powerful	consequence	communion	formation of conscience	beatitudes	civil marriage	composite
body and soul	dominion	gift	happiness	common good	dignity	disorder
Creator	eternal	individuality	hierarchy	covenant	external/ internal	literary genre
dignity	gratitude	individualism	mercy	intellect	faithful citizenship	order
Father, Son and Holy Spirit	inter-dependence	physical/ spiritual	original sin	natural law	metaphor	original
free will	Jesus	sacrificial	permit	passions	objectification	Scripture/ Tradition
feelings/ emotions	love	sin	plural pronoun	religious being	resurrection	Secular Anthropology
image and likeness	prudence	steward	rational animal	vice	sacrament	self-possession
reason	self-knowledge	unconditional	self-preservation	virtue	sacramental marriage	self-gift
responsibility	unique	visible/ invisible	solidarity		unity	self-knowledge
					utilitarianism	social being
						transcendent

Kindergarten

Goodness in all creation



K.1 Who made you?

God made me. Parents cooperate with God in bringing new life into the world.¹

K.2 Who is God?

God is an all knowing, all powerful and all loving creator.² God is also a communion/unity of three divine persons: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.³

K.3 Who made every human being?

God made everyone on purpose.

K.4 Does God love every human being?

Yes, God loves every human being every second of the day – no matter what.

K.5 Does God love people who make bad choices?

God loves us even when we choose sin/selfishness. Nothing can change God's love for us⁴.

K.6 Is there ever a good reason to be unkind to a person?

No, there is never a good reason to be unkind to anyone. All are made in God's image and loved by God.

K.7 Is all creation good?

Yes, God made all creation good.⁵

K.8 Is all creation beautiful?

Yes, all creation is beautiful in God's eyes. It is good for us to reflect on the beauty in God's creation.⁶

K.9 How are people different from animals?

God gave humans the ability to know and love in a way that animals cannot.⁷ Humans are created in God's image and likeness in order to live in friendship on earth and in special friendship with God for eternity.

K.10 Do humans have a body and soul?

Yes, humans are a unity of body and soul.⁸

¹ CCC 2367; Eph 3:14; Mt 23:9

² CCC 268

³ CCC 221, 249-256; 1 Cor 2:7-16; Eph 3:9-12

⁴ 2 Tim 2:13

⁵ Gen 1:31; 1 Tim 4:4

⁶ CCC 341; Ecclesiastes 3:11

⁷ CCC 356, 2457

⁸ CCC 362-368

K.11 If I can't see my soul, how do I know it is real?

There are many spiritual realities we cannot see. For instance, our soul has reason, free will and emotions which we cannot see unless we express it in our bodies.

K.12 How do our bodies communicate for our soul?

We are embodied souls. We need our bodies to communicate, to make visible what is spiritual⁹ – whether it is in speech, facial expressions, helping others...

K.13 Why did God make you?

God made me for love. God made me to love and be loved and to live in God's friendship for eternity.¹⁰ This means knowing, loving and serving God in this world and so being united to God in eternity.¹¹

K.14 How can I love others who are not nice to me?

We can choose to be respectful while still disagreeing with another's actions and feeling angry.

K.15 Do I have any responsibility for creation?

Yes, God gave humankind the ability and duty to care for creation - to be good stewards.¹²

K.16 Do I have any responsibility to others?

Yes we have a responsibility to others. Because everyone is a child of God and is our brother and sister in God, we should have concern for everyone, especially those who are hurting in some way.¹³

K.17 When God created the first humans, did they sin?

Yes, the first humans, Adam and Eve, hurt their relationship with God by being selfish, by choosing self over God.¹⁴

K.18 What if I make lots of mistakes in things like school work, sports, music...?

Mistakes are not sins. Mistakes are chances to learn and grow. God made everyone with different abilities. God wants us to do our best.

K.19 Am I less valuable if I am not good at something?

A person's value is not based on ability or looks. It is wrong to judge ourselves or others on ability or mistakes. All have full and equal dignity because of God's love in creating us in God's image.

⁹ CCC 364,365

¹⁰ CCC 357-8, 1719

¹¹ CCC 1721

¹² CCC 372,373; 2415-17

¹³ Matt 7:12; Luke 6:31

¹⁴ CCC 390, 398, 1739, 1739

K.20 Is it bad to want to have qualities someone else has?

It is natural to recognize and admire talent in others, but we need to remember that a person's value is not in abilities, looks, etc.... Our value is that God made us in God's image and made each person with different qualities on purpose. We need to pray for gratitude on how God made us and others unique.

K.21 What is my free will?

My free will makes the choice to do good or not do good.

K.22 Is there a difference between our reason and emotions?

Yes, there is a difference. Our reason thinks and makes judgments. Our emotions are our feelings, such as sadness and joy.

K.23 Should our free will listen to our thinking or our feelings?

Our free will should listen to reason. We should think before we act. Sometimes our feelings are not in our best interest. For instance, just because I feel like I want the gum in the store does not mean I should steal it.

K.24 Why did God give us a free will?

God gave us the ability to choose so that we would freely choose to do good, to love God and freely choose to be kind to others.

K.25 Everyone God made has dignity. What is dignity?

Dignity is what makes us valuable or worthy.

K.26 What is it about me that gives me dignity?

We have dignity simply because God made us and loves us at every moment. For instance, God is so present to us that God knows how many hairs we have on our head at every moment.

K.27 Does every person have dignity?

Yes, every person has dignity. It is important to remember that God loves everyone, no matter that person's age, looks, abilities or choices.¹⁵

K.28 Why is it important to remember that every person has dignity?

It is important to remember everyone has dignity because we should always treat others with respect due a loved child of God. Sometimes our feelings don't want us to be kind, but if we think before we act and remember that God loves that person we should choose to be kind.

¹⁵ CCC 2126

First Grade

Freedom to choose love or sin



1.1 Who is God?

God is the all-knowing, all-powerful and all-loving creator of everything. God is a unity of three divine persons: Scripture names them the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.¹⁶

1.2 Who is Jesus?

The eternal God took on flesh in Jesus. As God and man, Jesus walked among us to lead us to live in God's love. Jesus is fully God and fully man.¹⁷ Scripture calls Jesus the 'Son of God.'

1.3 What does God want of us?

God who is love made us out of love us for love. God made us for relationship. Scripture says "it is not good for man to be alone."¹⁸ God wants us to live in a friendship with God now and for eternity.¹⁹ God wants us to live in love with everyone on earth.

1.4 How can I live in love when I have to do things like spelling tests or make my bed?

You can live in love by doing what you are supposed to do, which includes daily chores. Doing your best on a spelling test, for instance, is a way of loving God who made you, those who sent you to school, those who gave and grade the spelling test, your family and yourself. On earth, when we live in truth, goodness, beauty and love, we are growing in our love of God who IS all that is true, beautiful, and good.²⁰ God is love.²¹

1.5 Can I love someone I do not like?

Yes, we can love someone we do not 'like'. We are called to love all persons by showing respect due to one created and loved by God. Love involves choosing to be respectful even when our feelings don't want to do so. While it can be natural to find another person unpleasant, we must always choose to act as Jesus would. There is never a reason to be unkind.

1.6 Does being loving mean I should 'hang out' with those who seem to do bad things?

It is good to choose special friends who will help you become a better person. It is also good to avoid situations and people that may cause us harm or lead us to do wrong. However, we can disagree with someone and still be kind.

1.7 What does it mean that "God gave humankind dominion over Creation"?

Creation was made for humans and so we, out of respect, should respectfully use creation for the good of ourselves and others, now and in the future.²²

¹⁶ CCC 232 – 262

¹⁷ CCC 457-464,

¹⁸ Gen 2:18;

¹⁹ CCC 441, 1721

²⁰ CCC 356, 2500

²¹ 1 John 4:7-21

²² CCC 2415-17

1.8 Did God give humans the freedom to choose good and avoid evil?

Yes, God gave humankind a free will to choose good and avoid evil; the freedom to choose to be loving or selfish.²³

1.9 Does every choice have a consequence?

Every choice has a consequence. By our choices we shape our lives.²⁴

1.10 Are there way humans are supposed to use free will?

We use freedom well by choosing to do good. Just because I can eat someone else's food does not mean I should. As in training for anything, the more one does what is good, the freer one becomes.²⁵ Training forms habits. A good habit is called a virtue.

1.11 If I strongly feel something is good for me, does that mean it is good for me?

No, feelings do not determine what is good or bad. Feelings show us what we love but can be mistaken. For instance, if I strongly feel all I want to ever eat is red Jell-O (and nothing else), my feelings are not in my best interest. While feelings may be helpful, we should make choices using our mind and not just feelings.²⁶ We should think before we act.

1.12 If I say I love candy and I love my family – is that the same meaning of the word love?

The English word "love" is used to mean different things. Other languages have many words to describe different kinds of love.

1.13 In the many meanings of the word 'love', which is the highest form of love?

The highest form of love is when we desire/choose the good of the other, even if we must sacrifice our own interest. Jesus shows us this kind of love. Those who raised us as infants when we were totally dependent probably showed this kind of love. The Greek word for this love is "agape". Agape love is not an emotion/feeling but a choice.²⁷

1.14 What if I do not like the way God made me?

When people do not like the way they are made, they should pray for gratitude and an understanding that God purposely made all with particular qualities of gender²⁸, color, abilities... It is important to accept and to thank God for the uniqueness in ourselves and others.²⁹ God does not make mistakes. No person is a mistake.

²³ CCC 1732

²⁴ CCC 1731

²⁵ CCC 1733

²⁶ CCC 1763-67

²⁷ CCC 1765

²⁸ CCC 2333

²⁹ CCC 340

1.15 Why did God make us male and female? Why did God make everyone unique?

God designed us with uniqueness because God made us for relationship. Our differences enable interdependence and love which bears fruit in good.³⁰ God is Trinity, a communion/ unity of persons, whom Scripture names the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This makes God a relationship.³¹ God made us male and female, and each to be unique to enable us to be in relationship. In this way, we are made in the image and likeness of God who is a relationship in the Trinity.

1.16 If we are in God's image and likeness, does God have a body?

God took on flesh in time in the person of Jesus, but God is a pure spirit with no beginning or end.

1.17 Is the image of God in our body as well as our soul?

Yes, we image God in our body and soul. Our body and soul are not two separate things but comprise one human nature³²

1.18 In all of history, humans live in communities. Did God make us social beings on purpose?

God made all of creation on purpose to be interdependent.³³ God has us born into the world completely dependent on others and later to help others who are vulnerable. Humans are made to be in relationship with others and ultimately in relationship with God for eternity.

1.19 How do I know how to contribute to my communities (home, classroom, neighbor...)?

The first step to helping others is to do what we are supposed to do and we call this 'taking personal responsibility'.³⁴ Whether in 1st grade or an adult, we should do our jobs as well as we can, follow directions and always be kind. God made each person with unique qualities to contribute.

1.20 What if I do not know my unique gifts yet?

Knowing ourselves and our gifts is a lifelong process. It is important to accept ourselves and others in the present moment and trust that by being open to God's work we will grow in knowledge and appreciation of the gifts in others and ourselves.

1.21 If I feel angry, am I sinning?

Sin is a choice to be selfish. Feelings in themselves are not sinful. There is a difference between feelings and choices.

³⁰ CCC 340, 353

³¹ CCC 221

³² CCC 365

³³ CCC 353

³⁴ CCC 1914

1.22 What if I see someone making bad choices and not getting consequences?

Often, situations in the world will not fit our idea of fairness. Knowing how to react to injustice takes the virtue of prudence. It will always be important to remember God is Lord and judge of all and true fairness will happen in God's way and time.

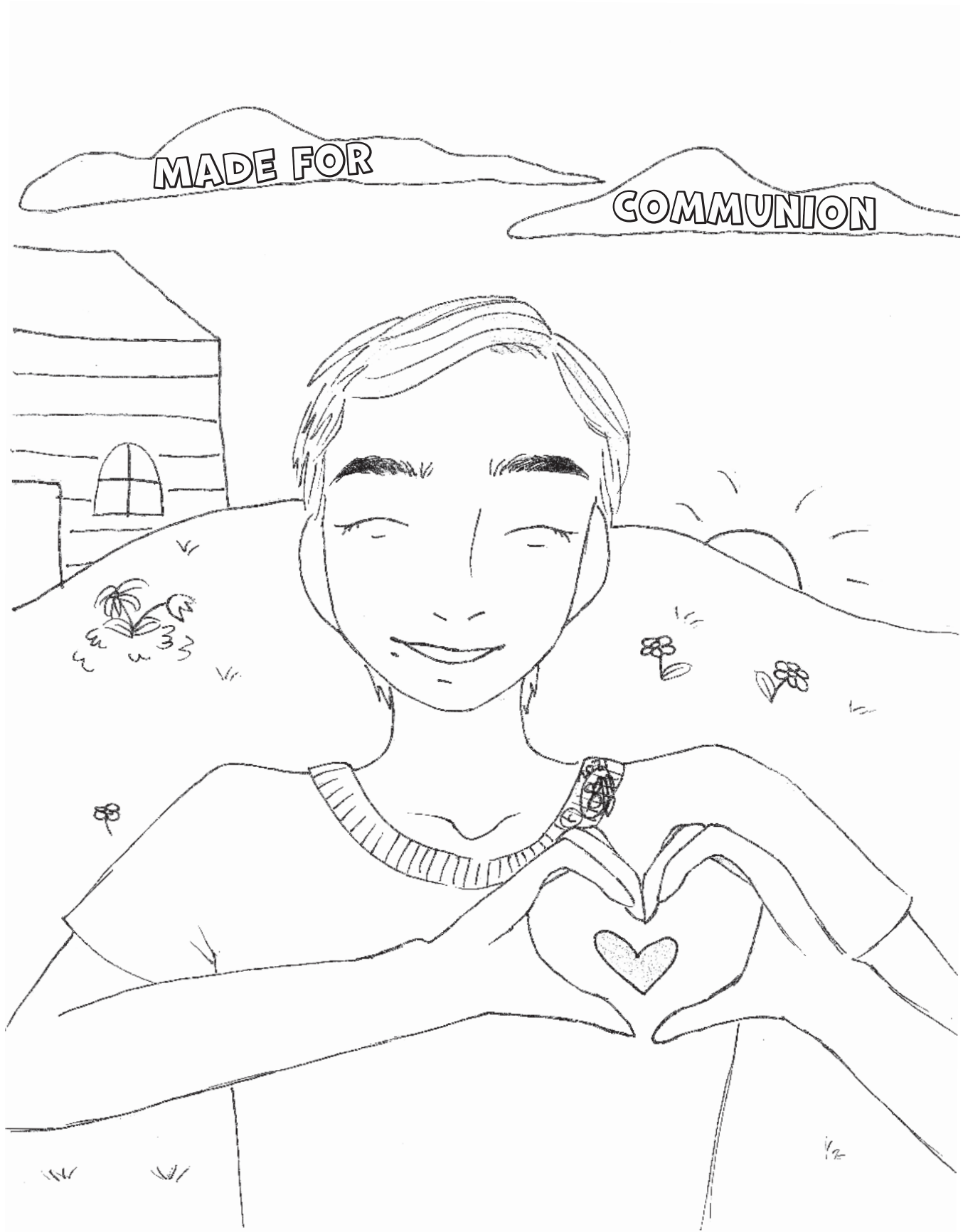
1.23 How can I learn prudence?

Growth in the virtue of prudence takes time and openness³⁵. The more I practice doing good and being open to learning what is good, the more I can grow in prudence. In 1st grade, it is important to listen and to use the mind God gave me to think about what God wants in each situation.

³⁵ CCC 1806, 1835

Second Grade

Made for communion



2.1 What does it mean to say that all creation is a gift?

All Creation is a gift because God gave creation to us for our good out of love. We show our gratitude in many ways, such as being good caretakers (stewards) of creation.³⁶

2.2 How can creepy or violent animals be a “gift”?

God made everything on purpose. All things work together for the good even if we cannot understand it at the moment.

2.3 Can animals know and love in the same way humans can?

No, animals know and have affection in different ways than humans. Animals are good, but cannot pray, be aware of God or others as humans can.³⁷ Animals cannot love the way humans can. Only humans are made in the image and likeness of God.

2.4 Will my pets go to Heaven when they die?

The Church has no official teaching on whether pets or plants will be in Heaven. But we do know that all creation was made for humans and Heaven is a state of happiness and deep love in union with God for eternity. We also know that animals and plants are not capable of ‘agape’ love.

2.5 Why did God give humans this special ability to love?

God made us with the special ability to love so that we can freely choose to be in a relationship with Him for eternity.³⁸ Showing love for others is a way of showing love for God.

2.6 What is love?

We use the word “love” in different ways. We do not love food the same way we love our family. The highest form of love is unconditional and chooses the good of the other even when it involves self-sacrifice. “Agape” is the Greek term for this kind of love.³⁹ Jesus’ love for us is the best example of agape love.

2.7 What does it mean that love is ‘unconditional’?

Unconditional love means that one does not place conditions, such as talents, looks or even choices, on loving another. God’s love is always there no matter what.

2.8 Are any two humans the same?

All humans are created equal in dignity but different from each other.

2.9 What are some examples of sacrificial love in Jesus?

That God became man in Jesus for our sake is an example of the highest form of love.

³⁶ CCC 2415-18

³⁷ De Civ. Dei i, 20

³⁸ CCC 357, 1721

³⁹ CCC 1765

Jesus continuing His Paschal Mystery in the sacraments to remain with us is another example of his love.⁴⁰ The Eucharist is called the most Blessed Sacrament because it is the real presence of Jesus in which we become physically and spiritually united with God.⁴¹

2.10 Can we have this kind of unconditional, sacrificial love?

Yes, God made humankind capable of the highest form of love (agape). We can choose this love in small ways every day. For instance, lining up when the teacher asks when you would rather keep playing, is an act of love for your classmates and God.

2.11 How can I love someone who is suffering, and I can do nothing to help them feel better?

There are times when we cannot improve another's situation; however, we can always accompany them by prayer or just being there. For instance, holding the hand of a grandparent who is sick in bed is a way of accompanying.

2.12 Is love a feeling?

One kind of affection may begin as a feeling, but the highest form of love (agape) is a choice. The Catechism defines love as "willing the good of the other."⁴² The greater the sense of responsibility for the person, the more true love there is.⁴³ For example, a person does not have pleasant feelings about changing a stinky diaper, but does so anyway out of love.

2.13 Is the highest form of love a choice?

Yes, the highest form of love is a choice. It may be helpful to remember that Jesus experienced agony in the garden but chose to do God's will.

2.14 How can God be there at Mass if we cannot see him?

Appreciating God's presence at Mass takes time, openness, and effort. We do not attend Mass to be entertained, but to receive grace, to grow in understanding and love. Just as love is an invisible reality expressed through our bodies (speech, hugs), grace is an invisible reality made present to us in the Sacraments.⁴⁴

2.15 What is communion?

Communion means being united. There are many forms of communion. Receiving the Eucharist is called communion because it is a physical and spiritual union with Jesus. The Trinity is called a communion of persons because the Trinity is unity of persons (3 in 1)⁴⁵. Marriage is a type of communion, as Scripture says a man and wife become one. Friendship is also a type of communion.⁴⁶ We are called to live in communion with God and others.

⁴⁰ CCC 947

⁴¹ CCC 1324-27

⁴² CCC 1766

⁴³ *Love and Responsibility*, p. 131

⁴⁴ CCC 2005

⁴⁵ CCC 221

⁴⁶ CCC 2347

2.16 What does it mean that the Sacraments give us grace?

As love is invisible, grace, which is God's life in our soul, is invisible. Frequent reception of the Sacraments enables frequent opportunities to receive grace.⁴⁷ Just as our bodies express our 'invisible' thoughts, the Sacraments express the invisible reality of grace.

2.17 What is sin?

Sin is choosing self over God.⁴⁸ Sin is choosing selfishness. Sin is hurtful to our call to be in a loving relationship with others and with God.⁴⁹

2.18 Is it possible for my feelings to be misguided?

Feelings can misguide us as well as help us. Just because I feel like I want to steal candy, it does not mean that I should. Because feelings can be misguided, it is important to 'think' before we act.

2.19 What should I do if I think someone is misguided in what they feel?

Every situation is different which is why it is always best to pray and, especially when young, seek advice on what is prudent. But we should always treat others the way we want to be treated. God loves each person and God is ultimately in charge of judging.

2.20 What does it mean to be "successful"?

It is important to remember that God judges success differently than 'the world' judge's success. Saint Teresa of Calcutta once said that God does not ask for success but for faithfulness.⁵⁰ Doing our best to cooperate with grace is the measure of 'success', not worldly accomplishments.

2.21 What is individualism and individuality?

Individualism is when you only care about yourself or you place yourself and your wants before everyone else. Individualism is not a good thing because it is selfish and contradicts love. Individuality is good because it sees each person as made by God to be unique and special.

⁴⁷ CCC 2003

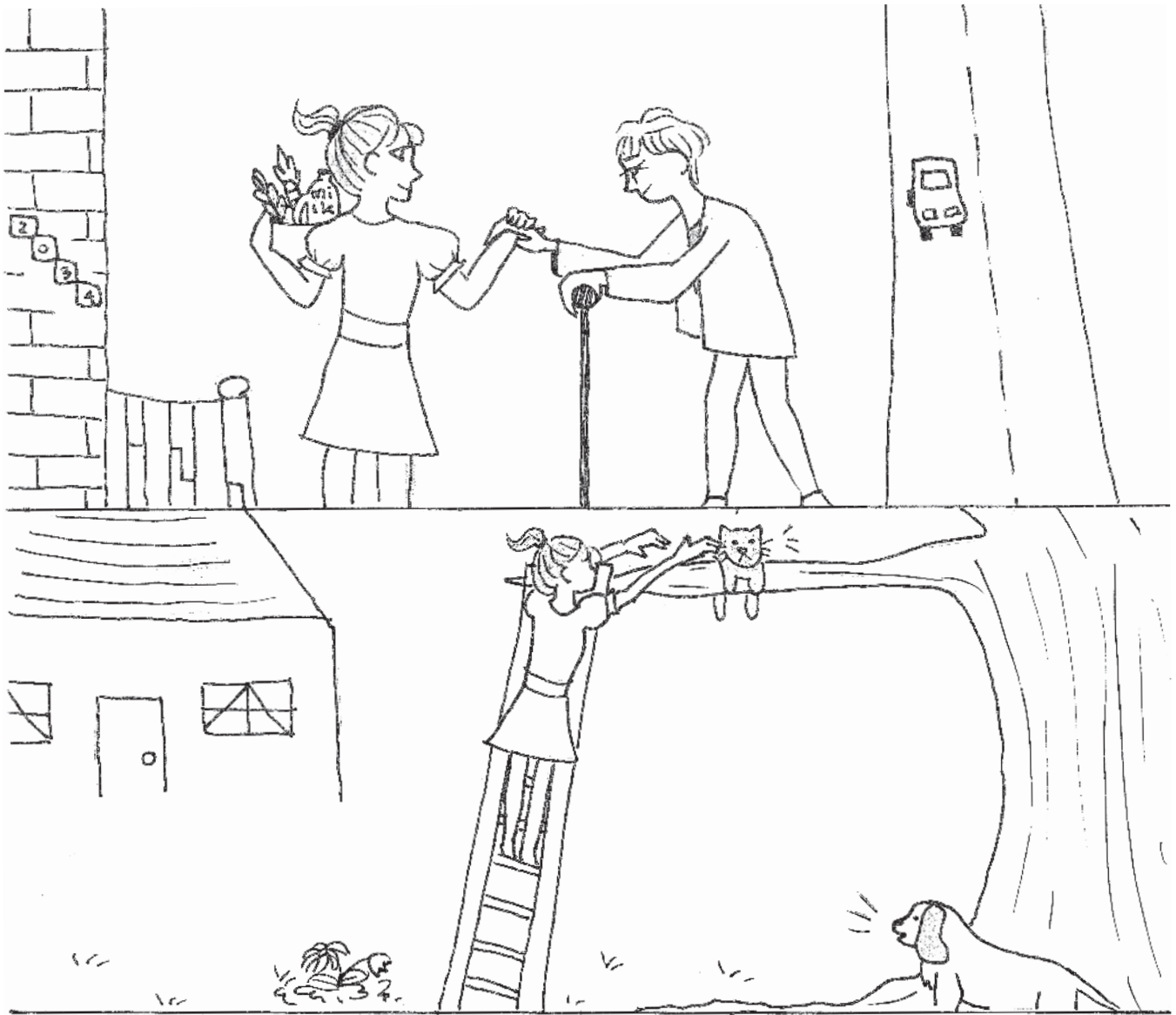
⁴⁸ CCC 1849,50

⁴⁹ CCC 1868, 1872

⁵⁰ The Joy of Loving: A Guide to Daily Living

Third Grade

Solidarity and Interdependence



3.1 What does it mean when we say everyone is our brother and sister?

All humanity are brothers and sisters because God created all of us, loves each as a beloved child and calls us to be one family with Him for eternity.

3.2 What is solidarity?

Solidarity is seeing people all over the world as our brother/sister and friend in God.⁵¹

3.3 Am I related to everyone on earth?

All people are spiritually related to everyone else as we are all children of God.

3.4 Sometimes people are mean or selfish. Do I need to still love them?

God still loves people that sin and longs for them to return to good. We can disagree with someone's choices (and even experience aversion) and still act with respect in light of God's love for them and pray for a return to good. Nothing, even another's bad choices, justifies being unkind.⁵²

3.5 How can I forgive those who hurt me?

Forgiveness⁵³ is a choice not a feeling. We can choose to be respectful in our actions toward those who hurt us and pray for them while we still feel hurt and disagree with their choices.⁵⁴ Feeling angry is not necessarily wrong, but choosing to act in vengeance and revenge through violence is wrong.

3.6 How do I know what is right or wrong?

A person should always ask what is right from wrong. We must form our conscience by asking those we trust for help. The Church has applied Gospel principles to most situations in life and it is good to study these principles and to apply these principles to your situation.⁵⁵

3.7 Does forgiveness mean that one should not receive consequences?

Every choice has a consequence. One can choose to forgive while also permitting consequences. Similarly, one may know they are forgiven, yet still need to make reparation.⁵⁶

3.8 What do Catholics believe about Adam and Eve? ⁵⁷

Catholics believe the lessons in Genesis.⁵⁸ Catholics believe in understanding as much history and science as possible to help us understand Scripture. Adam and Eve are the names Scripture has given for the first humans who were created as God originally intended. Adam and Eve chose selfishness over God; we call this first act of selfishness *original sin*.

⁵¹ CCC 361,953, 1948

⁵² CCC 1825

⁵³ CCC 2839-40

⁵⁴ CCC 1825

⁵⁵ CCC 1783,84; 2039

⁵⁶ CCC 2487

⁵⁷ CCC 109-113

⁵⁸ CCC 39, 282-289

3.9 Genesis records God using plural pronouns when God said, "Let US make humankind in OUR image. Why plural pronouns?"

God is a relationship which we call the Trinity – a unity of persons Scripture calls the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In order to create us in the image of the Trinity, God created humans to be in a loving relationship. God created us as male and female. God intentionally created every person unique. Accepting differences in unconditional love bears fruit and reflects the image of the Trinity.⁵⁹

3.10 What does it mean to say that the Catholic religion is "all about relationship"?

God is a relationship in the Trinity. God made humankind to be in relationship with creation, ourselves, others, and God. For love to exist, there must be a relationship. God designed us so that we can be happy in a relationship with God for eternity.⁶⁰ In other words, God who is love made us out of love for love.

3.11 Why does God let humankind sin?

God desires our love to be free and not forced. God gives us the ability and freedom to choose good or evil, to choose love or selfishness.⁶¹

3.12 Did God punish the first humans for sinning?

God permitted the consequences that came from choosing self over God - which was allowing the first humans, Adam and Eve, to separate from God. This original sin brought consequences of a wounded environment we inherited.⁶²

3.13 Do our sins affect others?

Much like an unseen virus, our choices affect others, whether we realize it or not. As we are all one family, our choices contribute to the family's spiritual health.⁶³ St. Paul said we are one body in Christ, and each member is important and should remain in a healthy spiritual condition. Each person is an important link in the chain of humanity.⁶⁴

3.14 Am I guilty of original sin?

That we have been born into original sin means that we are born into a wounded state - one different from before Adam and Eve sinned. Original sin is not an action we committed, but an environment/state we inherited.⁶⁵

3.15 What does it mean to say humans are 'animals'?

When science places all of creation in its hierarchical order, humans are at the top of what is called the animal kingdom (not the plant kingdom); however, it is important to remember that God made humans in God's image and likeness, that God became human for humans, that God has given humankind dominion over all creation and that God calls humans to be in a special relationship with Him.

⁵⁹ CCC 221, 369

⁶⁰ CCC 1703

⁶¹ CCC 1730-31

⁶² CCC 402-404

⁶³ CCC 1739

⁶⁴ CCC 959

⁶⁵ CCC 405

3.16 What does it mean to say that humans are rational animals?

A human's ability to be 'rational,' to think logically, abstractly, etc... is one of the many ways in which we differ from animals. The many ways our reason is different from animals enables us to reflect, pray and consciously make a gift of self.

3.17 Why does God allow suffering?

Pope John Paul II said "suffering is in the world to release love."⁶⁶ Just as doctors and parents permit us to experience pain so we may become better, God permits things ultimately intending a good we may not understand at that moment. Uniting our suffering to Jesus (offering it up to God) makes suffering redemptive and a powerful prayer.⁶⁷

3.18 What if I want to help someone who is suffering, but can't?

While we cannot fix every suffering, we can accompany those suffering. While we can at times help in a project for our brothers and sisters across the world who are suffering, we can always help in our closest circles, such as in our family and classroom. We can accompany others in prayer or simply be with another. For instance, people attend a funeral of an acquaintance's family, not because they can fix anything but simply to be there to support and to pray.

3.19 What main desire did God give every human and why?

Every person who has ever existed wants to be happy. God deliberately designed all with a desire to be happy so we will search for God, because God alone can satisfy the human heart.⁶⁸

3.20 If I want something to make me happy, does that mean it will?

History shows humans seeking happiness in power, popularity or wealth but not finding it. God alone satisfies.⁶⁹ God created us for happiness so we will continue to search until we find God.

3.21 Is death the worst thing that can happen to a human being?

No, death is not the worst thing that can happen. Being separated from God for eternity is the worst thing that can happen to a human being and we call that hell. Death itself does not separate us from God or each other and is not the worst thing that can happen to us.⁷⁰

3.22 Does being kind to everyone and turning the other cheek mean I should not act against injustice?

It is not good for us or others to be treated unjustly. Defending ourselves or others is good; however, how to act against injustice effectively takes prudence. It is good to think before we act and seek advice before taking action.

⁶⁶ *Salvifici Doloris*, 30

⁶⁷ CCC 310, 618

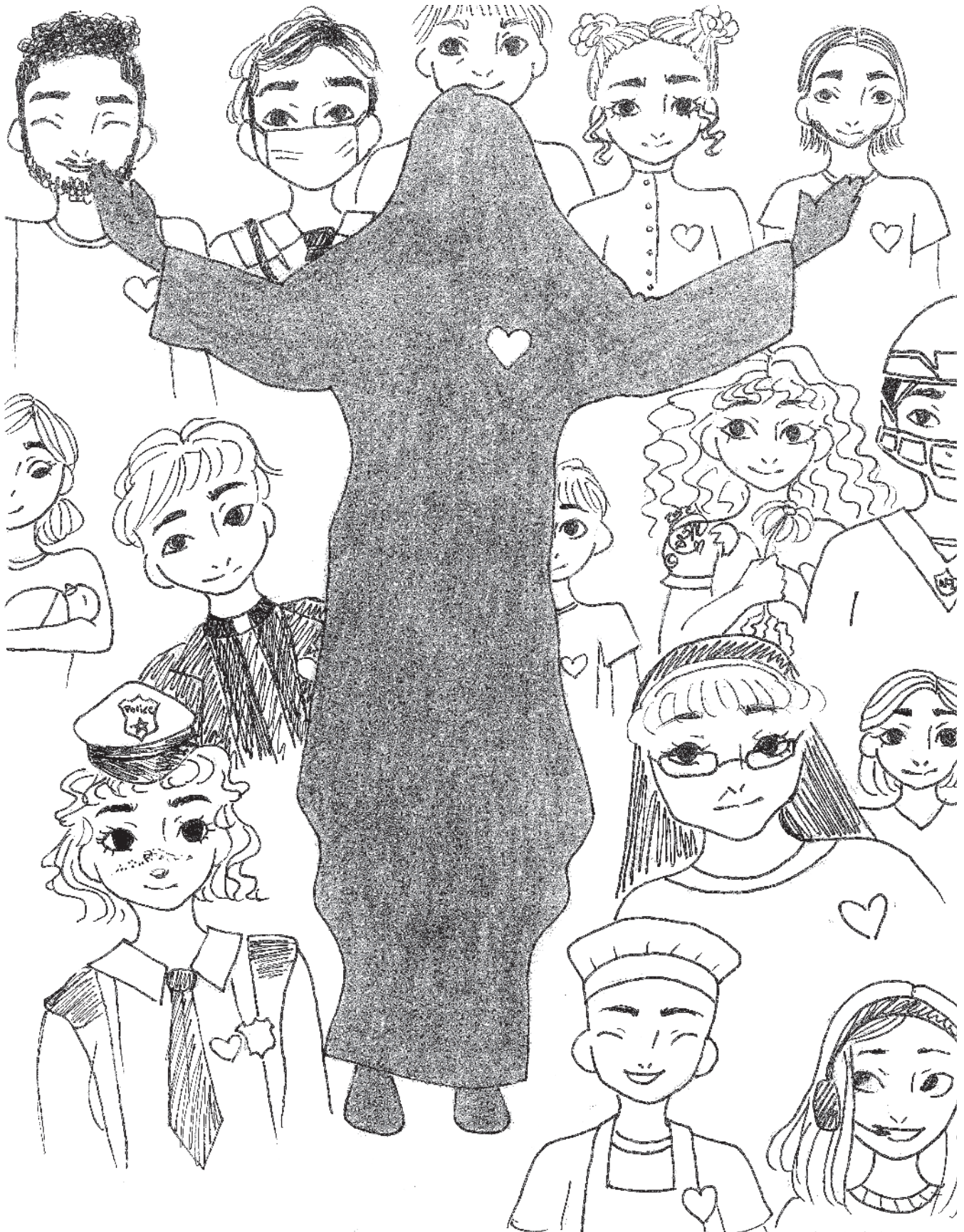
⁶⁸ CCC 1703, 1718

⁶⁹ CCC 227

⁷⁰ Romans 8:38, CCC 356, 954-7, 961

Fourth Grade

Relationship: self, others and God



4.1 What is a covenant?

A covenant is the binding of two parties (a promise/commitment). Scripture frequently uses marriage vows as a metaphor for God's covenantal love⁷¹ with humankind.

4.2 What do the Commandments have to do with a covenant with God?

God gave the 10 Commandments through Moses as humanity's way of being faithful in our covenant with God.⁷² The commandments reflect the natural law written on the heart of every person⁷³ and mirror what people expect from each other in relationships.

4.3 How do the commandments reflect what we expect from others in our relationship?

We tend to have similar expectations in relationships: being faithful, knowing and respecting the other's name, celebrating special days, accepting another's close relatives, not hurting each other, not stealing, not bearing false witness, God made us to have expectations of others that are similar to the expectations in the commandments/natural law because we are made to be in relationship.

4.4 Why do laws in even non-Christian societies throughout history reflect the 10 commandments in some way?

Humans have the natural law written in our hearts. Because God made humans for relationship, humans understand the need to protect what is good in relationships, such as family, valuing truth, respect for life and freedom.

4.5 Are all supposed to obey the commandments?

Every person has the desire for God and instinct for natural law⁷⁴ written in our consciences which we must obey.⁷⁵ We must always obey our informed consciences.⁷⁶

4.6 Does God love us less when we break the commandments?

When we break the commandments, we choose to separate ourselves from God, but God's love for us will never change. God made us so that our love must be freely given. While still loving us, God permits us to experience the consequences of our choices even if this means choosing hell (which is eternal separation from communion with God). God loves everyone in hell, but allows the consequences of our choices.

4.7 Why do we even need to have rules, like the 10 commandments?

The commandments are not just "rules", but more accurately – natural expectations in a relationship. They can be viewed as a recipe for happiness. They are guidelines for loving God and others. Knowing the 'rules' for anything helps us reach goals easier.

⁷¹ CCC 2060

⁷² CCC 2056-58

⁷³ CCC 1954

⁷⁴ CCC 1954

⁷⁵ CCC 1956, 1962

⁷⁶ CCC 1777-82

4.8 Did Jesus change the commandments?

Jesus summarized the commandments as loving God and our neighbor. Jesus also taught by word and example to encourage us in virtue and the invitation to follow Him in our hearts. Jesus' emphasis on the beatitudes demonstrates the importance of forming our hearts and mind so as to nurture the freedom in friendship to God to which we are called.

4.9 From where do we gain knowledge?

Knowledge comes through the 5 bodily senses, what we see, hear, smell, feel or taste.

4.10 How do we form our conscience?

As knowledge comes through the senses, we can educate our consciences by making good choices on what we see and hear. Reflecting on what we learn in the light of the Gospel is also important, such as asking, "What would Jesus do?" ⁷⁷

4.11 What is virtue and vice?

Virtue is a good habit and vice is a bad habit. Habits are acquired with practice.⁷⁸ For example, the more one practices poor penmanship, the more difficult it will be to use good penmanship. Practicing good handwriting may use the virtue of self-control, perseverance and patience.

4.12 What is meant by free will?

God gave us a free will to choose what is good and avoid evil.⁷⁹ Ideally, free will makes a choice based on reason and not just feelings. The highest form of love is a choice made in freedom.⁸⁰ Sin is also a choice.

4.13 What is reason?

Reason is humankind's special ability to understand and process thoughts logically. Reason searches for Truth. God designed us with reason to search and find Him who is Truth.⁸¹

4.14 What role do feelings (emotions/passions) have in virtue or vice?

Feelings show us what we love, but in themselves are neither good nor bad. Feelings can help make virtue easier or more difficult.⁸² Because it is our choices for which we are judged, it is important to form our consciences well and use our reason (not just feelings) before each choice.⁸³ (To think before we act). The more we align our understanding with God's, the easier our emotions will support God's will.

⁷⁷ CCC 1783-84, 1798, 1971

⁷⁸ CCC 1804-04

⁷⁹ CCC1731

⁸⁰ CCC 1730

⁸¹ CCC 319, 1730

⁸² CCC 1767

⁸³ CCC 1767-1770

4.15 As there is a hierarchy in creation,⁸⁴ is there a hierarchy within the human person?

There is a hierarchy in the human person. While humans are a composite of body and soul and the body is very important the soul is more important because it is there our image and likeness of God is the strongest. Of the parts of the soul, free will is most important, followed by the intellect (reason) followed by the passions.

4.16 Why is free will more important than feelings?

Free will is what makes humans a moral agent where we choose to love or to be selfish.

4.17 Is there an analogy to help explain the role of all the parts of a human?

While it is an imperfect analogy, consider a carriage with five windows, two horses and passengers, one of which is blindfolded and driving. The chariot represents the body. The two horses, named *Sensitive*⁸⁵ and *Irascible*, represent the *passions* (emotions/feelings). The windows represent our five senses. The one passenger, named *Intellect*, takes in the information from the windows, and considers the best route based all he knows (including memories, rules of the road, and knowledge of the horses...). *Intellect* informs the blindfolded driver, named *Will*, who chooses how to control the reins...whether to stay on the road or not. If one of these parts is not in order, there is chaos.

4.18 As a person who is body/soul, with a free will, intellect and emotions, which part is most responsible for keeping the commandments?

All aspects of a person are involved in the morality of an action.

The soul:

- Our emotions (passions/feelings) – show us what we love but are not in themselves good/bad
- Our intellect (reason+ conscience) – analyzes all information, makes judgements and informs our free will
- Our free will (choice) – chooses to follow conscience or emotions

The body:

- Takes in the information through our 5 senses that inform our reason
- Carries out the action the free will communicates to it

4.19 What is love?

The highest form of love is to "will the good of the other as other."⁸⁶ If we are to love others as God has loved us, this means that the highest form of love is free, total, faithful and fruitful. The Greek word for this love is "agape." Agape love is a choice and not a feeling.

4.20 How can I love someone in society I do not know?

When we view every person as loved by God and our brother/sister, it is easier to love for God's sake. When we see someone in need, we can be a friend to them out of

⁸⁴ CCC 299

⁸⁵ CCC 2515

⁸⁶ CCC 1765

love for God. When we treat others as we want to be treated, we will be kind. Kindness begins at home, in the classroom, at recess as well as in the neighborhood. (It is important to check with an adult before reaching out with good intentions to strangers because sometimes helping can be imprudent, such as giving money to someone we think needs it.)

4.21 If I am supposed to help the poor, does this mean I should give all my things to them?

There will be times we have a thing someone needs and it would be good to share. Being poor, however, is not always about "things." Someone who is lonely, sad, sick or vulnerable is poor. Those who cannot communicate well may need someone to speak up for them. Poverty comes in many forms and we should pray for prudence to recognize times we can and should help.

4.22 Why is it not always good to help when someone asks for help?

Gospel love means doing what is truly good for the other. If someone asks for money to buy alcohol instead of food, it would not help to give them the money as it is not in that person's best interest. If someone asks us to give them answers on a test, we should not because cheating is not in their best interest. (It is also a sin on your part by being dishonest and participating in stealing). Good intentions are not always correct. Sometimes enabling hurts the one we love. Prudence is the virtue that helps us know what is best for the other.

4.23 What is subsidiarity? səb-si-dē-'er-ə-tē

Subsidiarity is a complex principle often applied to relationships within institutions. In its simplest meaning, subsidiarity means that people should act at the appropriate level, do their own job well and not do the job of those who can and should do it for themselves. For instance, it may be ok for a parent to help with homework at times, but it would not help the child if the parents always do all homework for him/her. Similarly, if a student has a question on homework, it should be asked of a friend, parent or teacher and not the principal.

4.24 How is it that scientists say humans in all of history are said to be "religious beings"?

Without divine revelation, as is found in Jesus, cultures responded to the knowledge of a creator in different religious expressions. Most cultures in history have forms of worship and sacrifice.⁸⁷ God gave us reason to know that only God can create something from nothing. God is the first cause.⁸⁸ God created us with this instinct on purpose.

4.25 What happens to people who never heard of Jesus?

God loves every person that He created and judges them on the choices they make in good conscience.⁸⁹

⁸⁷ CCC 28, 44

⁸⁸ CCC 31

⁸⁹ CCC 1257, 1778

4.26 What is meant when someone says they are doing something for the “common good”?

The common good⁹⁰ is the good of a group. Classroom, school, and government rules exist to protect the common good and help it flourish. Sometimes individuals make small sacrifices to help the common good. For example, just because someone wants to run around a classroom yelling fire, does not mean it is ok since it is disrespectful to the common good.

4.27 What is a sin of omission?⁹¹

We sin by omission when we choose to not act when we could have and should have. Knowing when to act takes prudence. For example, standing up for someone is a good thing, but if the offender has a gun, it may not be a good thing.

4.28 What is sin by cooperation?

We can cooperate⁹² in wrongdoing by encouraging the action, not stopping the action when we are able, by not telling the appropriate people what they should know or by protecting the person when it is not right to do so.⁹³

⁹⁰ CCC 1905-1910, 2237, 2401,2420

⁹¹ CCC 1853, 2326,

⁹² CCC1868

⁹³ CCC 1868

Fifth Grade

Sacramental worldview - the spiritual in the physical



5.1 How is God a 'unity'?

God is one, but also a relationship⁹⁴/unity, the Trinity, whose persons Scripture names the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.⁹⁵ Jesus, the Son of God, is also a type of unity in that He is both fully God and fully man.

5.2 If we are made in God's image and God is a 'unity', how is a human a 'unity'?

God made every human to be a unity of the physical and spiritual, body and soul.⁹⁶ The human soul has a unity of reason and free will, bearing the fruit of love.⁹⁷ God also made humanity male and female so the two may become a unity in marriage, bearing the fruit of life.⁹⁸

5.3 Why can I not see the soul?

The soul is a spiritual reality and is invisible,⁹⁹ just as many realities, such as love, reason, free will and emotions, are invisible. Our bodies make these invisible parts of the soul visible.

5.4 Will the soul live forever?

The soul will live forever, and our bodies will be resurrected.¹⁰⁰

5.5 What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church to give grace.¹⁰¹ A sacrament is a visible sign of an invisible reality.

5.6 Why do sacraments have external rituals?

Just as a human has a physical and spiritual component,¹⁰² the sacraments have a physical and spiritual component. The physical/visible communicates the invisible reality. Just as our bodies communicate our invisible soul (thoughts, feelings, choices), the sacraments communicate the invisible reality of invisible grace.

5.7 How are our bodies like sacraments?

Our bodies are like sacraments because the body, and only the body, is capable of making visible the invisible realities.¹⁰³ We express love through our bodies, such as facial expressions, speech, hugs, helping others, etc.

5.8 What is virtue (and vice)?

Virtue is a good habit that empowers human persons to love God and others freely.¹⁰⁴ Vice is a bad habit that enslaves us to selfishness. Like practice in music or sports, the

⁹⁴ CCC 255

⁹⁵ CCC 1702

⁹⁶ CCC 362-5

⁹⁷ CCC 1704

⁹⁸ CCC 371, 2331

⁹⁹ CCC 366-7

¹⁰⁰ CCC 366

¹⁰¹ CCC 1127

¹⁰² CCC 364-5

¹⁰³ TOB 19:4

more we practice good habits, the freer we become.¹⁰⁵ When we choose good/virtue, we are participating in God's love.¹⁰⁶

5.9 Why is the Church called the "Bride of Christ"?

Marriage, where Scripture notes two become one, is the most used image/metaphor in Scripture which describes God's love for us.¹⁰⁷ As God is perfect, all metaphors for God's love are inadequate, but it is said Scripture's use of marriage as a metaphor for God's love is the best inadequate metaphor. Through all history in Scripture, God is seeking a covenantal communion with us, the Church.¹⁰⁸ In this metaphor, God is the groom who proposes and we, the bride, respond to the invitation.

5.10 What are qualities of married love?

Married love is called to mirror God's love for us which is free, total, faithful and fruitful.¹⁰⁹

5.11 Marriage seems difficult and can have problems. How can marriage be an image of God's love for us?

In all of history, humankind is continually failing in love while at the same time, God remains unchanging and faithful.¹¹⁰ Our relationship with others and with God is a lifelong process, but we know that God is faithful. In the Catholic Church, marriage has the opportunity to be a sacrament to receive grace in the relationship.

5.12 What is the difference between a civil marriage and a sacramental marriage?

A civil marriage is one acknowledged by the state as legal. A sacramental marriage is one which publicly acknowledges the desire for the grace of the sacrament of the Church, and the Church agrees to witness the marriage. While both use the word marriage, they are different.

5.13 Why does the government have a say in our lives and relationships?

People need protection and assistance in flourishing, and this is the purpose of the government and laws. While certain people or laws may be misguided at times, the role of government and law is good.

5.14 If something is a law and practice of the Government, does it really matter to our Faith?

Yes, we have a responsibility to be good citizens and take an active part in bringing our view of the human person into policies and systems. Faithful citizens have a responsibility to try to influence good laws and change unjust laws.

¹⁰⁴ CCC 1834

¹⁰⁵ CCC 1733

¹⁰⁶ CCC 1803,1804

¹⁰⁷ CCC 808

¹⁰⁸ CCC 1602

¹⁰⁹ CCC 1602-05,

¹¹⁰ CCC 1608

5.15 Why is the focus on a human's dignity so important? Are there other ways of viewing a human person?

In today's society, there are different opinions on what gives a person dignity. Some believe a person's worth is in talents, looks, usefulness, etc. This means that a person is treated as an object instead of a person with inherent dignity. Others may believe a person is just an animal with no soul and thus can do anything they want, even if it hurts someone else. The Catholic understanding of the human person is essential for society and is the golden thread linking together every occupation and subject, whether in government, businesses, classrooms, hospitals or friendships.

5.16 What is objectification?

One meaning of objectification is when we treat another person as an object instead of a person with dignity. An example can be when a business owner is more interested in making money and treats employees poorly and doesn't pay them well.¹¹¹ The opposite of "to love" is "to use."

5.17 What is Catholic Social Teaching?

Catholic Social Teaching gives us Gospel principles to apply to all aspects of society, such as economics, public policy, business, government relations, immigration, poverty etc.... All are encouraged to form their consciences on the issues of the day, apply Gospel principles and make a difference in society. For instance, a 5th grader begins applying the principles by contributing to family, school and society. As one matures, one's responsibility as faithful citizen increases.

5.18 How does Catholic Anthropology and Church teaching apply to Social Justice issues?

Catholic Anthropology views the human person as having dignity simply by being created in God's image and likeness. Anywhere the human person is involved, the Church cares. If there is a practice that disrespects the human person, the Church should make this known and we as citizens try to affect change for the good.

5.19 How can I make a difference in society?

In addition to doing one's job well, forming one's conscience, becoming an active citizen and praying, the ideas for making a difference are as limited as one's creativity. Writing letters to appropriate persons is a customary way of taking a stand.

5.20 Do I have to be friends with everyone?

There is never a reason to be unkind, but it is good to choose close friends that will encourage you to make good choices. Similarly, those called to marriage should choose a spouse that will support each other in a virtuous life.

¹¹¹ CCC 1887

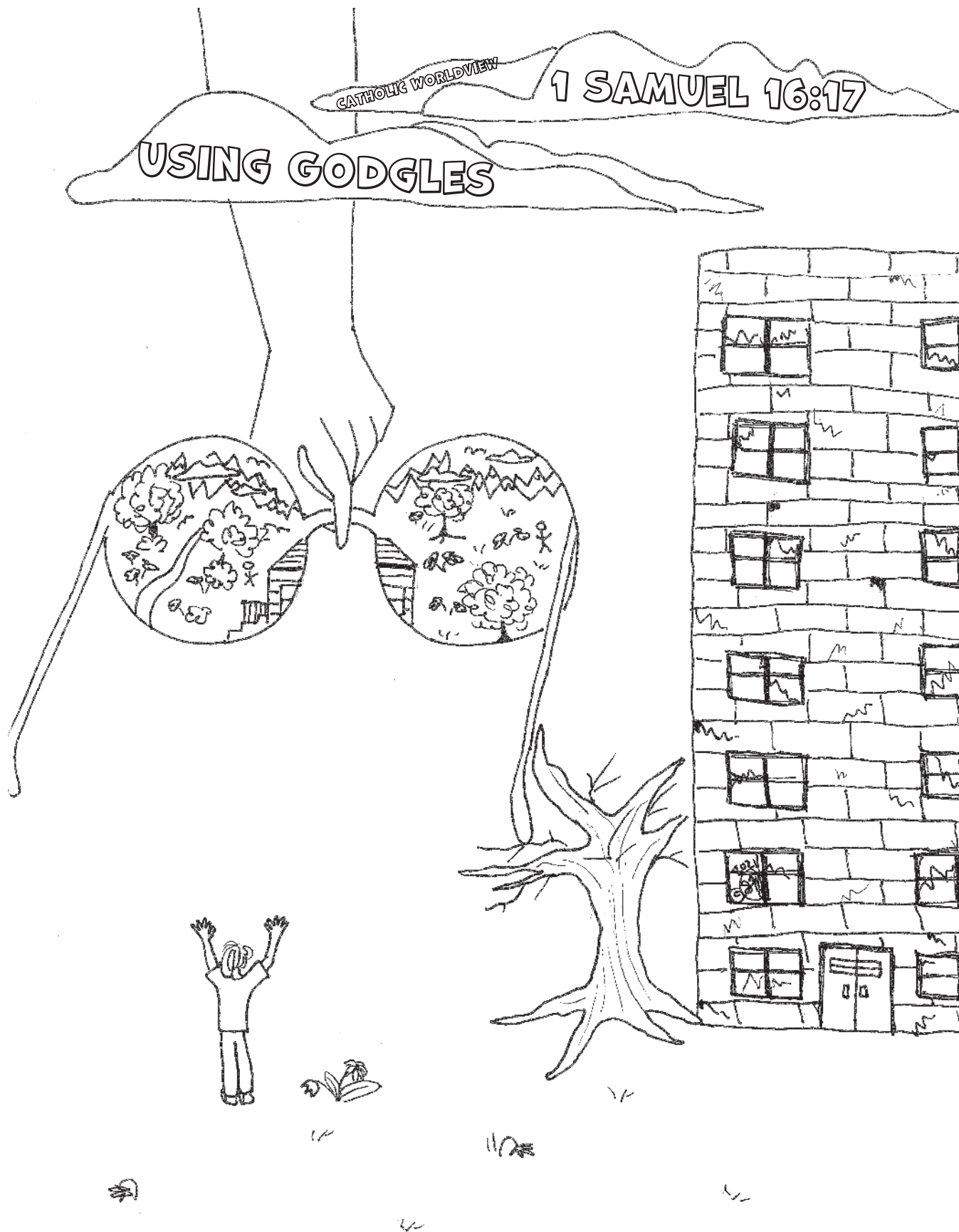
Sixth Grade

Catholic Worldview

CATHOLIC WORLDVIEW

1 SAMUEL 16:17

USING GODGLASSES



6.1 Are there ways of viewing a human other than being a unity of body and soul?

The Church teaches that a person is a unity of body and soul – meaning that the body and soul are not dualistic, but one. But, in society some may separate the body and soul by overemphasizing or ignoring one aspect. Some claim a person's identity is primarily spiritual – meaning a person is simply how one thinks or feels with disregard of their biology. Others claim a person's identity is only biological, not taking into account one's spiritual side.

6.2 What does it mean to say that the universe was created with "order"

Creation has a hierarchical and interdependent order.¹¹² Each creation has a purpose in this order and for the whole of the order. Humans are the pinnacle of creation and must intelligently respect creation's order as God intended it to be. Humans must have proper relationships with creation, others as well as ourselves.

6.3 How can one have a relationship with oneself?

We must respect how and why we were made: to know we have intrinsic worth because we are made in God's image; to be grateful for our uniqueness and to know we are an essential part of God's family. Only a human being is capable of the kind of self-knowledge and self-possession that enables the choice of self-gift in a relationship.¹¹³

6.4 Are animals not capable of love?

Animals are loved by God, have levels of affection and have a specific purpose in the order of creation, but are not capable of the kind of self-knowledge and self-possession needed for the highest form of love for which humans are made.

6.5 When one has a disorder, is that bad?

Having a disorder¹¹⁴ in biology or feelings in itself is not sinful, but simply means something is not ordered for its designed purpose. Everything in nature follows an order and has a purpose to the whole.¹¹⁵ Eyes were made to see, and when one cannot see, there is something 'disordered' causing non 20/20 vision. The digestive system was made for nutrition so when one eats only red Jell-O, there is a disorder prohibiting the goal of nutrition. Sin comes from the will, from our choices.

6.6 Do disorders affect a person's dignity?

No, disorders do not affect a person's dignity. It would be wrong to think less of ourselves or others for any disorder. Most likely, every person has a disorder or some kind.

6.7 Is there a proper order of the soul's free will, intellect and passions (emotions)?

Yes, one's choices shape one's life and so free will is at the top of the hierarchy, followed by intellect and feeling. Our emotions aid in attracting us to what is good, our

¹¹² CCC 342,353

¹¹³ CCC 357

¹¹⁴ CCC 2535

¹¹⁵ CCC 339

reason makes judgements on what is good, but it is our choices for which we are judged by God. Love and sin reside in the will.

6.8 What is meant by the word "original" when placed before "man," "unity," "nakedness" etc. ...?

The word "original" refers to the state of the first human beings before their first choice of selfishness, which we call original sin.¹¹⁶ It was a choice to be selfish that caused the consequences of separation from God.

6.9 Do we need to take the creation account in Genesis literally?¹¹⁷

The creation story in Genesis is a literary genre which uses metaphors to teach real principles, which we believe.¹¹⁸

6.10 How am I to view the many scientific theories on the creation of the world and how humans came to exist?

Truth cannot contradict itself. Nothing that is true in science can contradict faith.¹¹⁹ One need never worry that Faith, science and reason will have conflict.¹²⁰ If there seems to be a contradiction, it is in our current understanding.¹²¹ We believe God created everything out of nothing, God's creation is good and God sustains it.¹²²

6.11 Why do the people in the Old Testament have animal sacrifices?

Anthropology teaches us that human instinct understands that love involves sacrifice. The elements of Hebrew sacrifice mirrored other cultures at that time. Jesus' sacrifice, once and for all,¹²³ was to put an end to misguided notions, heal our desire for redemption, and teach us the meaning of self-gift.

6.12 How does Jesus make God's love visible?

That God became man in Jesus and as man experienced suffering, death and resurrection demonstrates powerful aspects of the love¹²⁴ to which we are called. Jesus as revealed in Scripture and Tradition demonstrates God's love. Similarly, Jesus in His Paschal Mystery remains with us in the Sacraments.

6.13 How can we be made in the image and likeness of God, who is Trinity, three persons in one?

The Trinity is one God, made of three persons who Scripture names the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is a unity of these 3 persons united in one God who give themselves to each other in perfect love. God made us with the ability to love in self-gift. God who is a relationship designed us for relationship. God designed us as male and female where two become one in marriage. God made each person unique so we

¹¹⁶ CCC 388-90

¹¹⁷ CCC 109-113

¹¹⁸ CCC 117, see also *Divino Afflante Spiritu and Dei Verbum*

¹¹⁹ CCC 159, 215-17

¹²⁰ CCC 159

¹²¹ CCC282-289

¹²² CCC 300-301

¹²³ CCC 606

¹²⁴ CCC 609-16

will be interdependent. Each person is also a unity of body and soul which rely on each other. The soul has the unity of reason and free will which must work together to produce love. As each person is a unity of body and soul, our bodies are used to express this love; for example, we need our bodies to express "I love you."

6.14 Do our choices change how we are made in God's image?

Nothing, including our choices, changes the fact that we are created in God's image. God loves all despite our choices (unconditionally). God said we are to love others as He has loved us, so this means we should love others unconditionally.

6.15 How can our choices be wrong if we have good intentions?

Humans choose what they see as good at the time. Just because an action may feel right does not necessarily mean that it is a good choice. Any action that jeopardizes humans' relationship with God is a wrong action. The end does not justify the means.¹²⁵ One should not do evil that good may come of it. Cheating on a test to keep our parents happy does not justify cheating on a test. Drinking gasoline because it smells good and we want to does not mean it is the best choice. Formation of conscience and reflection are important before making choices.

6.16 Other cultures existed alongside the Hebrews in Old Testament times. Why do we focus so much on the Hebrews and the Old Testament?

God chose the small Hebrew/Jewish nation to reveal His nature. It is from this "people of God" that God took on flesh in Jesus fulfilling all in the Old Testament. Understanding the Old Testament helps us understand God's love and the Church, especially the Paschal Mystery in the sacraments. As Jesus is the promised Messiah and fulfilled all in the Old Testament, Catholics are "fulfilled Jews."

6.17 What does it mean that we should not judge others?¹²⁶

Our intellect/reason was given to us so that we can and should make judgments on the goodness or badness of things. We should not, however, judge the conscience of others because we do not know what is happening in that person's soul, which only God can know and judge. Our reason can and should know if something is a bad action, but we cannot say how God will judge the person.

6.18 How can we say that a sinner has dignity?

Every human is created and loved by God unconditionally. One's choices do not affect being made in the image and likeness of God. A person may choose to separate from God by selfishness, but God's love always remains. God gave us freedom to choose to live for eternity in His love or in the consequences of our selfish choice to separate from union with God.

6.19 What if I do not like the way I am made?

God intended us to be made as we are – gender, skin color, ability, etc. and in a specific time and place. We are not by chance or accident. Knowing ourselves well is a

¹²⁵ CCC 1749-1761

¹²⁶ Matthew 7:1-2

lifelong process. We should pray to be open to gratitude for and acceptance of how we are made and how others are made.¹²⁷

6.20 How does one grow in wisdom?

Greek philosophers before Christ and subsequent saints and scientists affirm the essential first stage for growth in wisdom is to "Know Thyself." We can learn from science about our human nature. Additionally, in the light of faith, we can and should understand ourselves as being made in God's image and likeness, deliberately distinct and infinitely loved by God.

6.21 Some contemporary Catholics use the term "Theology of the Body." What is "Theology of the Body"?

"Theology of the Body" is a term describing John Paul II's explanation of how we can know more about God by learning about ourselves since we are made in God's image and likeness. It is a study of God, the purpose of our existence, and the call to love like God loves, as discovered and revealed through our bodies.

6.22 What is Catholic Anthropology?

"ology" means 'study of' and "anthropon" is Greek for 'humankind'. So, anthropology is the study of humankind. Secular anthropology looks at the characteristics of humans and culture without reference to God. Catholic anthropology is studying humankind in light of reason and God's love as revealed in Scripture and Tradition.¹²⁸

6.23 What is the difference between "Catholic" anthropology and "Christian" anthropology?

All Catholics are Christian, but not all Christians are Catholic. Catholics and Christians both view things from the perspective of God's love in the person of Jesus. Catholics, however, also have a sacramental worldview, which involves seeing the invisible in the visible and the grace of God working through ordinary people and objects. This sacramental view sees God present and active in His creation.

6.24 Why are "truth, beauty and goodness" frequently used in reference to God?

Truth, beauty and goodness are qualities of God. God is all truth, all beautiful and all good. Humans were made to love truth, beauty and goodness. When we recognize these qualities on earth, we are recognizing God's transcendent presence. This is similar to when John noted: "God is love and he who abides in love abides in God." 1 John 4:16

6.25 What does it mean that God qualities are transcendent?

God has no boundaries. God exists beyond time and space (which were themselves created for mankind). Some of God's qualities, such as truth beauty, goodness and oneness can be seen in many places, especially in God's creation. However, it is important to note that even though we can recognize God's goodness and presence in something like nature, this does not mean that nature IS God. God made a tree, is

¹²⁷ CCC 2333

¹²⁸ CCC 1943-48

present to and sustains the tree but the tree is not God. Similarly, we are made in God's image, but we are not God.

6.26 What does secular anthropology reveal to us about ourselves which then helps us better understand God?

In studying humankind throughout history, many secular anthropological conclusions help us understand God. When we study humanity, we can look at truths and then ask "how does this human characteristic tell us about God in whose image and likeness we are made?"

Secular Anthropology	Catholic Anthropology
<i>Humans are religious beings</i> ¹²⁹ (most cultures in history demonstrate desire to worship and sacrifice to deity).	God designed us with the ability to know by reason alone that He exists and with a desire to worship and give of self (sacrifice) to God. ¹³⁰ God made us for Himself. ¹³¹ God desires communion with us.
<i>Humans are social beings</i> (humans gather into societies where differences help each other).	God designed us to be in relationship with others ¹³² and ultimately with Him. ¹³³
<i>Humans have a sense of the natural law and the desire and ability to choose good and avoid evil.</i>	There is good and evil. ¹³⁴ God and creation are good. God designed us to seek and recognize good because God is all good. God desires communion with us.
<i>Every person desires happiness.</i>	As St. Augustine said, "You made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in You." ¹³⁵ Only in God will we find true happiness. God designed us to search for Him. God desires communion with us. ¹³⁶

¹²⁹ CCC 28

¹³⁰ CCC 44

¹³¹ CCC45

¹³² CCC 340,353

¹³³ CCC 45

¹³⁴ CCC 385, 1706,

¹³⁵ St. Augustine's Confessions (Lib 1,1-2,2.5,5: CSEL 33, 1-5)

¹³⁶ CCC 227

Secular Anthropology	Catholic Anthropology
<i>Human beings have an ability to grasp, search for, communicate and progress in truth, beauty and goodness¹³⁷ (eg. cave art, cultural customs, progress in society...).</i>	God, who is <i>Truth, Beauty and Goodness</i> designed us with a desire for truth, beauty and goodness to search for and find Him. ¹³⁸ God desires communion with us. ¹³⁹
<i>Humans have an ability to love which differs from the rest of creation.</i>	God created us with free will to make choices for another out of love. God who is love made us out of love to love. ¹⁴⁰ God desires communion with us.
<i>Humans are born into and educated in a family.</i>	Family (in the immediate and broad sense) is an important part of God's plan. ¹⁴¹ God made us to live in relationship. God desires communion with us.

6.27 Is it just anthropology that teaches us about the nature of God and ourselves?

Anything that is true, good or beautiful teaches us about God and thus humanity. The chart below barely touches the connection of each subject to the Catholic worldview.

Math	Teaches us there is a right answer (truth) and a wrong answer, that critical thinking and logic are important, ¹⁴² that different parts work together to bring an answer/truth, that there is an order to things, and that there may be different ways of finding the answer/truth.
Science	Gives us an understanding of principles in nature, a sense of wonder at beauty, complexity, the power yet intricate deliberateness of each creation and the interconnected relationship of so many parts, ¹⁴³ and sense of gratitude that God created this for humankind.
History	Gives us a broad vision of human nature and lessons from the consequences of choices. ¹⁴⁴ History helps us appreciate divine Providence as well as the importance and need of the Gospel message for society.

¹³⁷ CCC 33

¹³⁸ CCC 30-33

¹³⁹ CCC 33

¹⁴⁰ 1 John 4:16

¹⁴¹ CCC 2207

¹⁴² CCC 31

¹⁴³ CCC 2292-2294

¹⁴⁴ CCC 69, 312-314

Literature	Gives us a glimpse into the beauty of the imagination to illustrate life lessons and expand the horizons of our thinking. A person's life is a story of relationships, conflict and resolution, lessons learned, etc. Like Jesus' use of parables, literature helps expand our thinking on important lessons.
Grammar handwriting	Demonstrates the importance of communicating well. ¹⁴⁵ Efforts toward good grammar and handwriting are signs of respect of self and others.
Arts¹⁴⁶	Communicates truth, beauty and goodness and is a way of participating in God's creative nature. Arts help broaden our awareness of the true, good and beautiful.
PE	Reinforces our responsibility of caring for God's creation by maintaining a healthy body and soul. ¹⁴⁷
Lunch and recess	Enrich our body and soul. We must take care of ourselves and foster good relationships. ¹⁴⁸ Freedom in conversation and choices at lunch/recess enable us to choose what is good and are important for practicing virtue. ¹⁴⁹ God made us to live in relationship with others and ultimately Himself.



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¹⁴⁵ CCC 2472, 2489

¹⁴⁶ CCC 2500-03.

¹⁴⁷ CCC 2288-98

¹⁴⁸ CCC 2194

¹⁴⁹ CCC 1743-48