

The image features two thick black L-shaped brackets. One is on the left side, with its vertical bar extending downwards and its horizontal bar extending to the right. The other is on the right side, with its vertical bar extending upwards and its horizontal bar extending to the left. These brackets frame the central text.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

Core Learning

- I can recall from my previous learning how I am required to inform my conscience in order to make right choices.
- I have explored scriptural passages and the lives of the saints which reveal how an informed conscience has transformed lives.
- I have developed my knowledge and understanding of how to develop and inform my conscience.
- I have had the opportunity to examine my conscience and participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- I have participated in Christian witness activities, recognising the dignity of the human person, and putting into action my learning on making right choices
- I can identify the ways in which this Christian witness is my response to the Beatitudes.
- I can define virtues and identify ways in which virtues have impacted my own life.
- I can describe how service is integral to the Catholic faith.
- I have explored, and can discuss, the main messages contained in one Church document which explains the Church's Social Teaching

Give this some thought . . .

If you have to
sneak to do it,
lie to cover it up,
or delete it
to avoid it being seen,
then you probably
shouldn't be doing it.

How would you
summarise the
message?

Can you suggest
some examples of
everyday events
where this could be
applied?

The Struggle Within . .

ROMANS 7:15

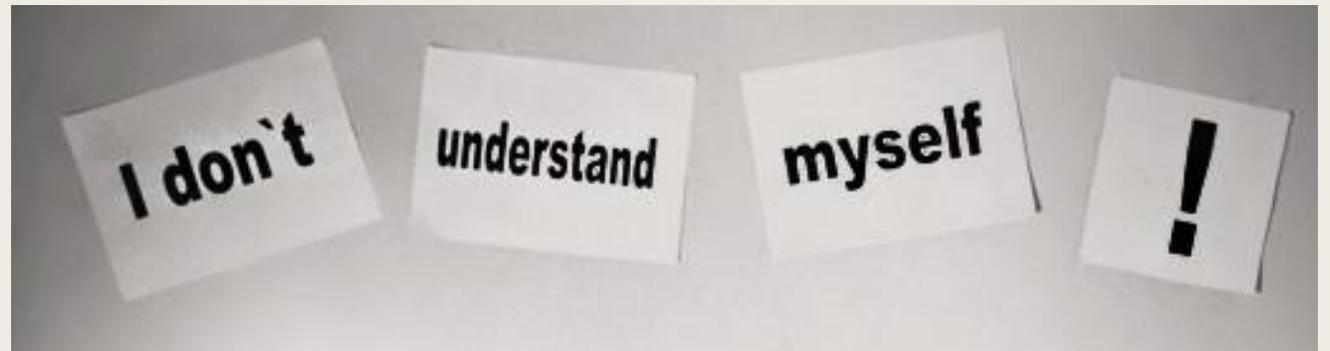
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT I DO.

FOR WHAT I WANT TO DO I DO NOT DO,

BUT WHAT I HATE I DO.

I do not understand my own behaviour; I do not act as I mean to, but I do things that I hate. While I am acting as I do not want to, I still acknowledge the Law as good, so it is not myself acting, but the sin which lives in me. And really, I know of nothing good living in me -- in my natural self, that is -- for though the will to do what is good is in me, the power to do it is not: the good thing I want to do, I never do; the evil thing which I do not want -- that is what I do. (Romans 7: 15-19)

- Do you understand what St Paul is saying here? How would you explain it in your own words?

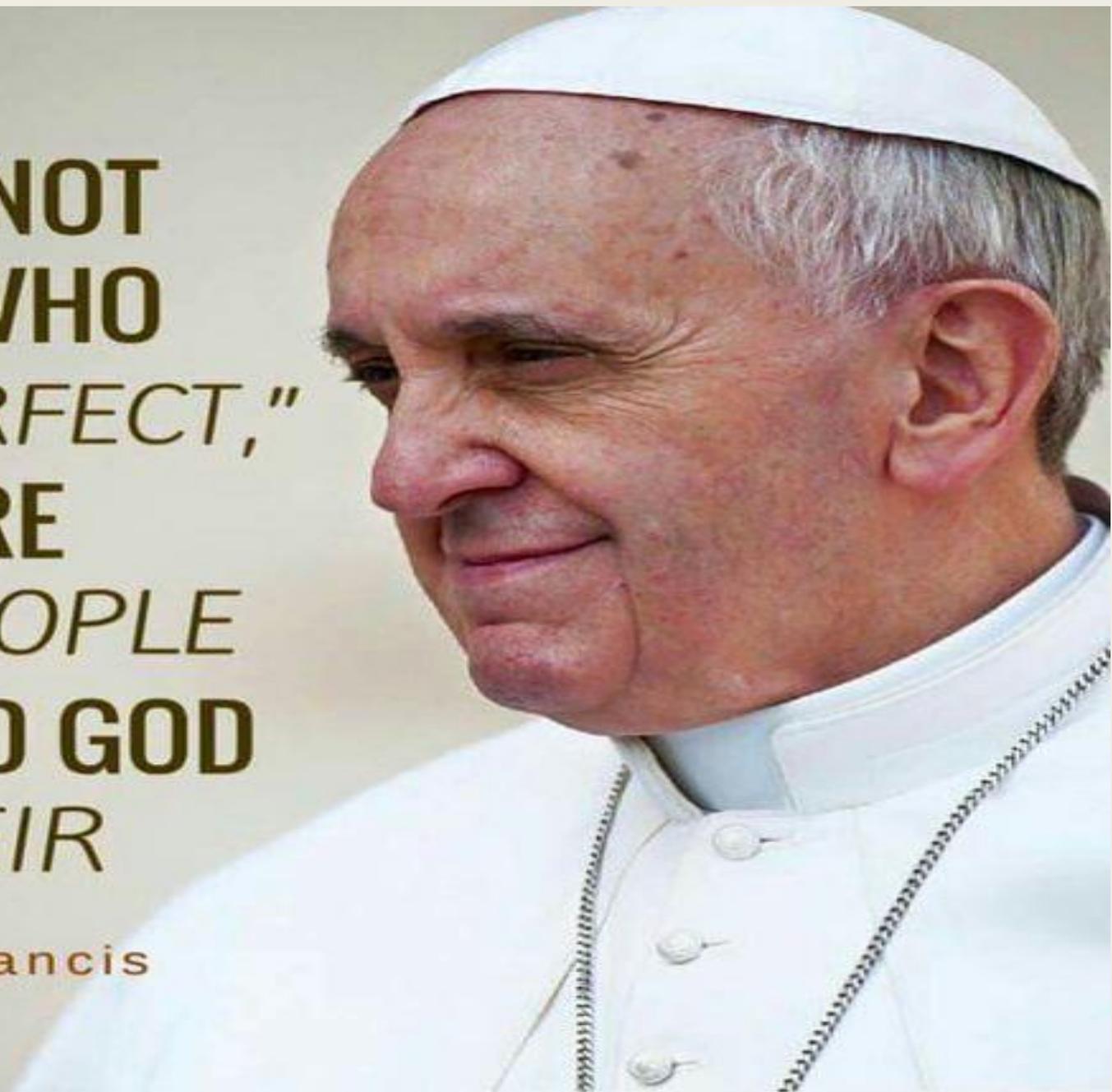




We also must learn to listen more to our conscience. Be careful, however: this does not mean we ought to follow our ego, do whatever interests us, whatever suits us, whatever pleases us. That is not conscience.

— *Pope Francis* —

Saints ARE NOT
"SUPERMEN" WHO
ARE "BORN PERFECT,"
BUT RATHER ARE
ORDINARY PEOPLE
WHO FOLLOWED GOD
"WITH ALL THEIR
HEART." pope francis



RESEARCH TASK

- Choose a Saint or someone who have made a difference in the world, for the better.

Examples could be

- Pope John Paul II
- Mother Teresa
- Magnus McFarlane Barrow
- Maximillian Kolbe

What did they do?

When did they live? Die?

How have their actions continued today

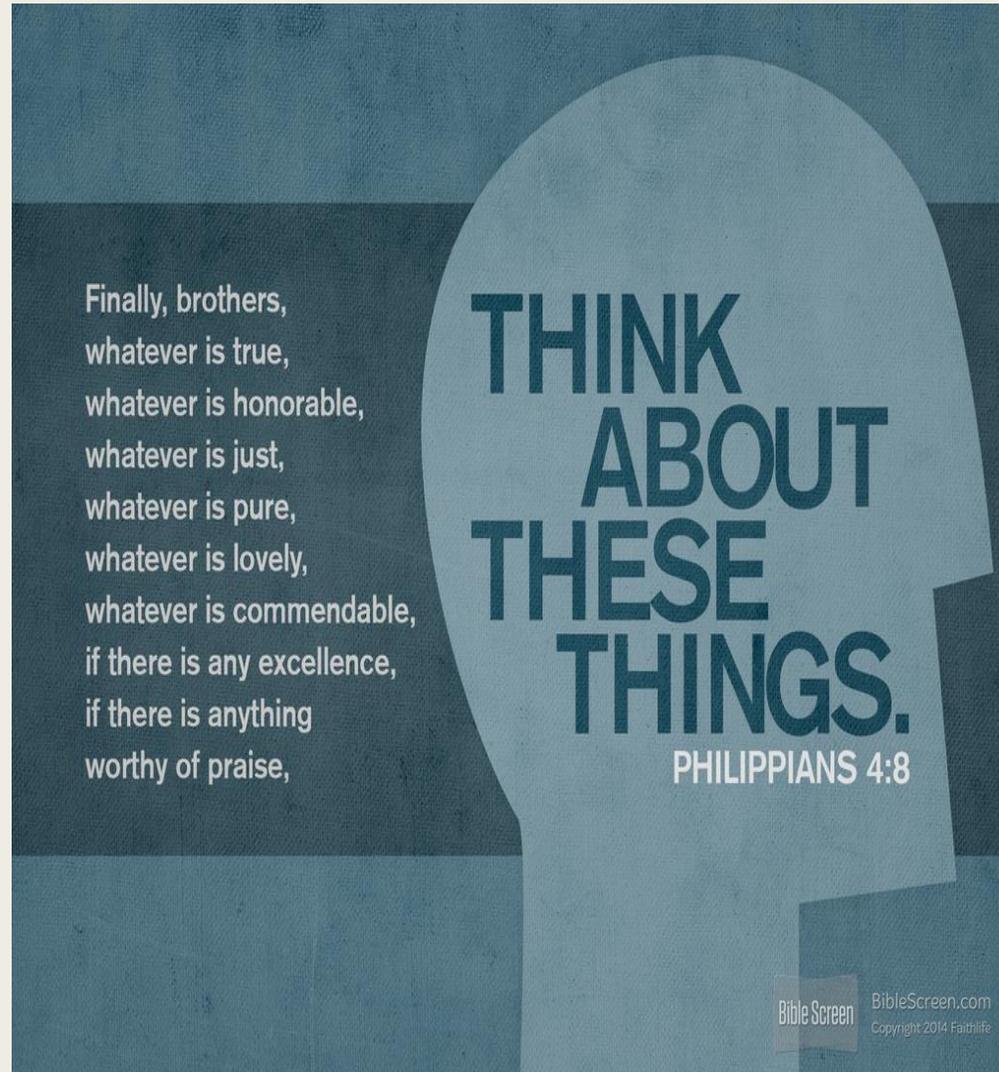
The Place of Virtues

Finally, brothers,
whatever is true,
whatever is honorable,
whatever is just,
whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely,
whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence,
if there is anything
worthy of praise,

**THINK
ABOUT
THESE
THINGS.**

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

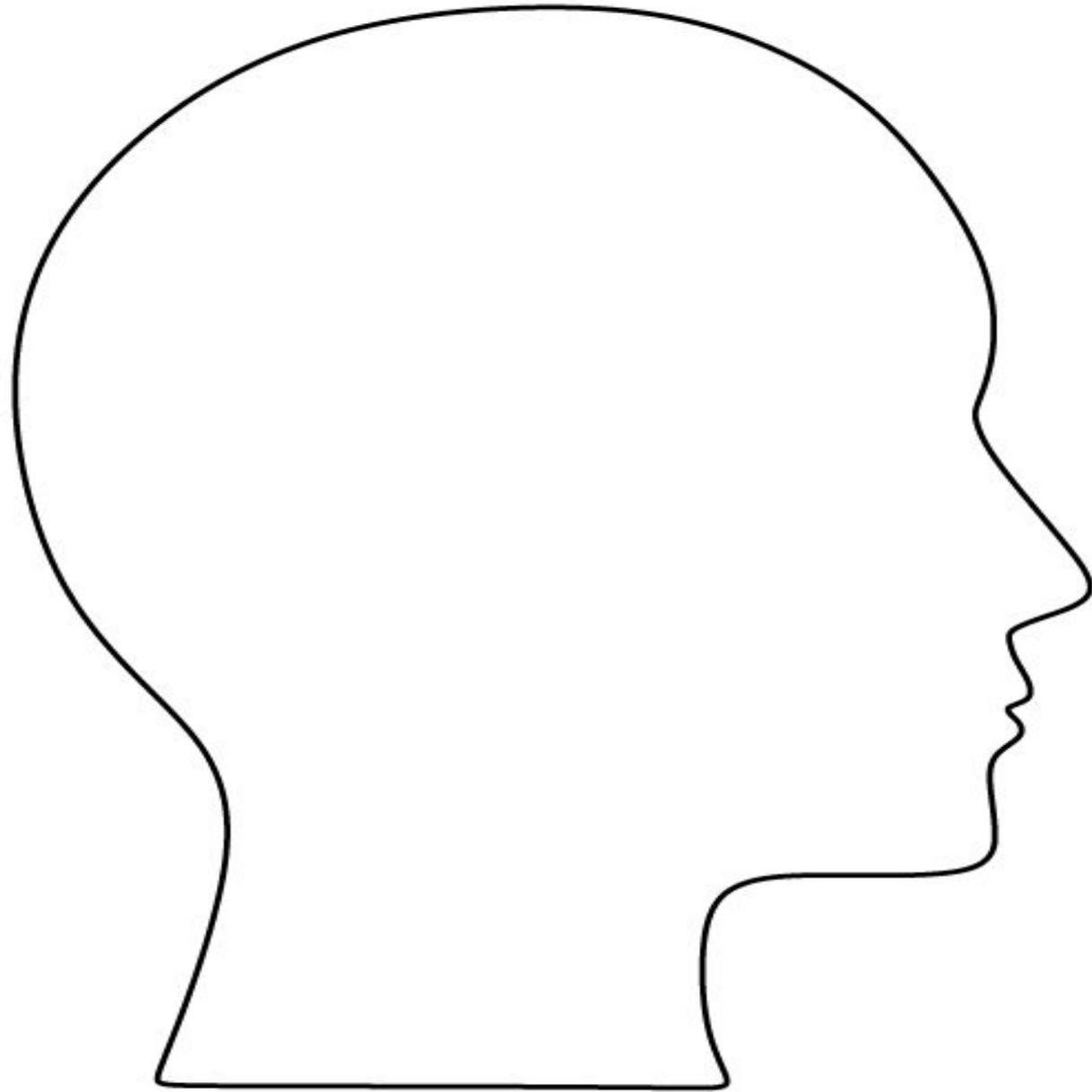
The Place of Virtues



“A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends towards the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions.”

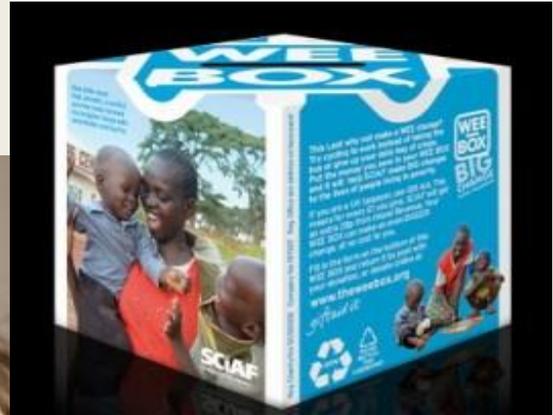
“A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends towards the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions.” CCC 1803

- Choose three words/phrases from this definition that you find helpful in understanding the idea of “a virtue”.
- Write these in your jotter, and explain why you have picked each.



What
qualities
would a
virtuous
person
have?

How would a virtuous person act?



Acting with virtue: what Jesus teaches us . . .



Acting with virtue: what the Church teaches us . . .

The Church helps us to live a life of virtue according to Jesus' teaching.

The Church teaches us that virtues are gifts from God that lead us to live in a close relationship with him.



Virtues are like habits. They need to be **practiced**; they can be lost if they are neglected. The three most important virtues are called **theological virtues** because they come from God and lead to God. The **cardinal virtues** are human virtues, acquired by education and good actions. “Cardinal” comes from *cardo*, the Latin word for hinge, meaning “that on which other things depend.”

Virtues task

- Use the work sheet on the on Teams. You will see that it has information for each of the three theological virtues, and each of the four cardinal virtues
- For each virtue it has a definition and a scripture quote.
- The final column asks you to think of reasons why people may find it difficult to put that virtue into action. You should try to answer these questions.
- For each of the theological virtues there is a symbolic image (cross, anchor, heart).
- Draw an image in the appropriate box to symbolise each of the cardinal virtues.

Virtue in the Service of Others

Service which is rendered without

joy

helps neither the servant nor the served
But all other pleasures pale into nothingness
before service which is rendered in the
spirit of

joy.

-Mohandas Gandhi

Does
serving
God
and
others
bring
joy?



Developing our conscience and acting virtuously brings us naturally into the service of God and of others . . .

Then the upright will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?
When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you?
When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?"

And the King will answer, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:37-40

-Tom Monaghan - Founder of Domino Pizza

Truly a self-made man, Monaghan and his brother Jim ended up in a Roman Catholic orphanage shortly after their father died and their mother couldn't handle raising the kids alone. It was a formative experience, and Monaghan is a devout Catholic to this day.

Monaghan founded Ave Maria University in 1998, located in Michigan. In 2007, he moved the university to southwest Florida, at an extremely inconvenient time for the real estate market (translation: it was costly). Monaghan told Bloomberg News: "There's so much you can do at a university that can change the whole world. ... I didn't want a diploma factory, I wanted a saint factory."

Sister Berarda and me in August 1983.
She was a great inspiration to me.



Growing in Virtue through Service

Having watched the clip about Tom Monaghan, you should now write a few paragraphs on your reaction to his story.

- Give a brief summary of the account he gives of his life.
- What impresses you most about him?
- If you had been in his situation, would you have acted in the same way?
- What do you think we can realistically learn from him?
- If you could meet him, what one question would you most want to ask him, and why?
- Having seen this video clip, how do you think he'd respond?

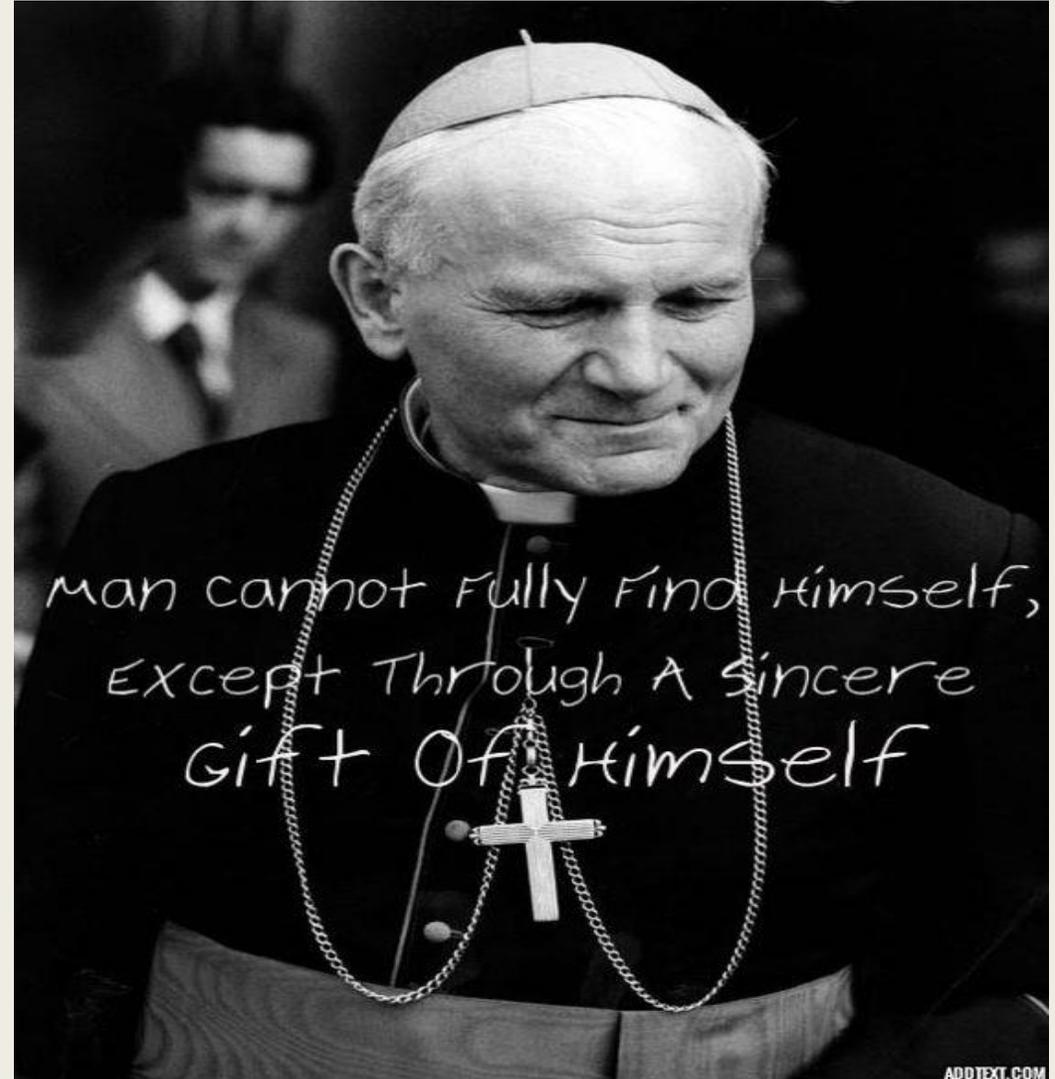
Growing in Virtue

Happiness is secured
through virtue; it is a good
attained by man's own will.

Thomas Aquinas

Gaudium et Spes – The Church in the Modern World

Conscience is man's most secret core, and his sanctuary. There, he is alone with God... GS16

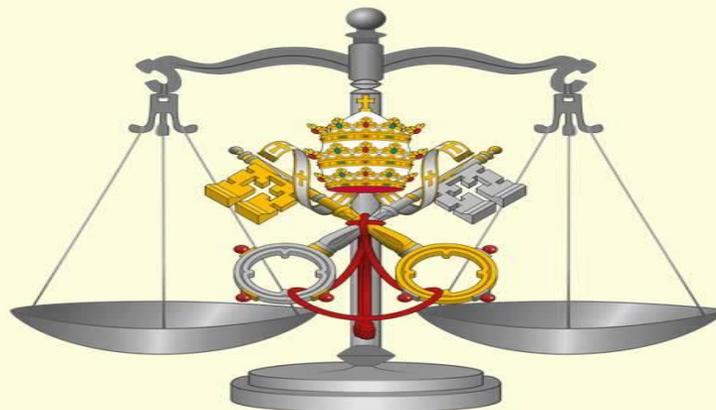


Man cannot fully find himself,
except through a sincere
gift of himself

We are the Church . . .

For each of us, in our times, a special obligation binds us to make ourselves the neighbour of every person without exception and of actively helping them when they comes across our path, whether it be an old person abandoned by all, a foreign labourer unjustly looked down upon, a refugee, or a hungry person who disturbs our conscience by reminding us of the voice of Jesus, “. . . *in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.* ” (Matt. 25:40).

Gaudium et spes



We are the Church . . .

“To discharge this function the Church has the duty in every age of examining the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the gospel.” GS4

“There is a need, then, to be aware of, and to understand, the world in which we live, together with its expectations, its desires and its frequently dramatic character.” GS4

What do you think is meant by the phrase “the signs of the times”?

How would you describe the times we are living in just now? Why?

What should the Church be doing in the face of these things?

Joy and Hope – Poster Task

This can be done on the Ipad on any programme

Look at signs of the Times – Research

Produce a poster in which you examine 2 good thing that you can see in the world just now, and 2 challenging thing. Even though COVID-19 is a challenging time there are still good things happening in our world

Possible good things – growth of things like “Go Fund Me” pages and use of social media to help people; “Refugees Welcome” campaigns; increased awareness of environmental issues; young people more engaged in politics; developments in science for health . . .

Possible challenging things – hunger; growth in terrorism; trolling; modern slavery; intolerance of people’s beliefs; prejudice & discrimination; irresponsible use of media . . .

Joy and Hope – Poster Task

- Divide your sheet of poster paper in half
- Title one half “**Joy**”. In this section, you will focus on the *good thing*. Give some information about it, and say why it is good for the modern world. Say what we could do to encourage this kind of behaviour/action
- Title the other half “**Hope**”. In this section, you will focus on the *challenging thing*. Again, give some information about it, and say why it is a challenge for the modern world. Say what we could do to challenge this kind of behaviour/action, and how we could work practically to help those who feel the effects of it. How can we restore hope, love and dignity here?