

Morality Ch. 1 Notes

I. Getting It Right

A. Decisions and Dreams

1. Some of our choices may affect us and our dreams for happiness of life.
2. Decisions, no matter how insignificant they may seem they will direct the path our life takes.

B. The Whole Picture

1. Faith helps us to make the best choices possible.
2. Faith helps us to make the right decisions.

C. True Goodness and Mercy

1. When we study morality, we learn about "beliefs, values, virtues, rules and principles" we need to know and to practice in order to do good in our actions and to be good in our lives.
2. Our faith gives us a special understanding of the purpose and meaning of morality.
3. Morality gives us direction and helps us to understand what true happiness is.

D. The Moral Life

1. Morality, especially our Catholic understanding of morality, is really a matter of learning how to be the human being that God created us to be.
2. By God's grace we have been raised to the dignity of being sons and daughters of God.
3. We must remember 3 things:
 - a. Goodness is beautiful and a great power.
 - b. Where there is goodness, there is life and real happiness.
 - c. There is something beautiful and good, graced and promising in each of us.

E. The Way of Happiness

1. From the very moment of creation, God has laced in us a share in His wisdom and goodness.
2. Natural Law
 - a. The natural sense of what is good and evil.
 - b. Present in every human being and is unchangeable.
 - c. It is the foundation for building the human community and all our lives.

F. Searching for Goodness

1. The aim of morality is to help us understand how to live a truly good life.
2. Because of sin, people can misunderstand and misinterpret the natural law.
3. The teaching of the Church is important in questions of morality.

G. Friendship with God

1. The greatest proof of God's benevolence is that He offers each of us a share in His own divine life.

2. There is no better way for us to know of the friendship of God than to remember that we live because He loves us.

H. The Greatest Sign

1. Grace is the gift of God's life and sign of His friendship.
2. God wants to share His life and happiness with every human being without exception.
3. It is only possible to live a moral life because of what Jesus did for us.
4. We are transformed because of His death and resurrection.
5. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we take part in the paschal mystery.
6. In the Eucharist Christ comes to us each day in friendship.