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October 19 Monday

CCC 2370 Periodic continence, that is, the methods of birth regulation based on self-observation and the use of infertile periods, is in conformity with the objective criteria of morality.¹ These methods respect the bodies of the spouses, encourage tenderness between them, and favor the education of an authentic freedom. In contrast, "every action which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible" is intrinsically evil.²

October 20 Tuesday

CCC 2378 A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift.... A child may not be considered a piece of property, an idea to which an alleged "right to a child" would lead. In this area, only the child possesses genuine rights: the right "to be the fruit of the specific act of the conjugal love of his parents," and "the right to be respected as a person from the moment of his conception."³

CCC 2401 You shall not steal.⁴ The seventh commandment forbids unjustly taking or keeping the goods of one's neighbor and wronging him in any way with respect to his goods. It commands justice and charity in the care of earthly goods and the fruits of men's labor. For the sake of the common good, it requires respect for the universal destination of goods and respect for the right to private property. Christian life strives to order this world's goods to God and to fraternal charity.

October 21 Wednesday

CCC 2415 The seventh commandment enjoins respect for the integrity of creation. Animals, like plants and inanimate beings, are by nature destined for the common good of past, present, and future humanity.⁵ ... Man's dominion over inanimate and other living beings granted by the Creator is not absolute; it is limited by concern for the quality of life of his neighbor, including generations to come; it requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation.⁶

CCC 2416 Animals are God's creatures. He surrounds them with his providential care. By their mere existence they bless him and give him glory.⁷ Thus men owe them kindness. We should recall the gentleness with which saints like St. Francis of Assisi or St. Philip Neri treated animals.

¹ HV 16.

² HV 14.

³ CDF, *Donum vitae* II, 8.

⁴ ⇒ EX 20:15; ⇒ Deut 5:19; ⇒ Mt 19:18.

⁵ Cf. Gen 128-31.

⁶ Cf. CA 37-38.

⁷ Cf. ⇒ Mt 6:26; ⇒ Dan 3:79-81.

October 22 Thursday

CCC 2444 "The Church's love for the poor . . . is a part of her constant tradition." This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor.⁸ Love for the poor is even one of the motives for the duty of working so as to "be able to give to those in need."⁹ It extends not only to material poverty but also to the many forms of cultural and religious poverty.¹⁰

October 23 Friday

CCC 2446 St. John Chrysostom vigorously recalls this: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs."¹¹ "The demands of justice must be satisfied first of all; that which is already due in justice is not to be offered as a gift of charity":¹² When we attend to the needs of those in want, we give them what is theirs, not ours. More than performing works of mercy, we are paying a debt of justice.¹³

CCC 2449 When her mother reproached her for caring for the poor and the sick at home, St. Rose of Lima said to her: "When we serve the poor and the sick, we serve Jesus. We must not fail to help our neighbors, because in them we serve Jesus."¹⁴

October 24 Saturday

CCC 2464 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.¹⁵ ...The eighth commandment forbids misrepresenting the truth in our relations with others. This moral prescription flows from the vocation of the holy people to bear witness to their God who is the truth and wills the truth. Offenses against the truth express by word or deed a refusal to commit oneself to moral uprightness: they are fundamental infidelities to God and, in this sense, they undermine the foundations of the covenant.

October 25 Sunday

CCC 2465 The Old Testament attests that God is the source of all truth. His Word is truth. His Law is truth. His "faithfulness endures to all generations."¹⁶ Since God is "true," the members of his people are called to live in the truth.¹⁷

CCC 2473 Martyrdom is the supreme witness given to the truth of the faith: it means bearing witness even unto death. The martyr bears witness to Christ who died and rose, to whom he is united by charity. He bears witness to the truth of the faith and of Christian doctrine.

⁸ CA 57; cf. ⇒ Lk 6:20-22, ⇒ Mt 8:20; ⇒ Mk 12:41-44.

⁹ ⇒ Eph 4:28.

¹⁰ Cf. CA 57.

¹¹ St. John Chrysostom, Hom. in Lazaro 2, 5: PG 48, 992."

¹² AA 8 # 5.

¹³ St. Gregory the Great, Regula Pastoralis. 3, 21: PL 77, 87.

¹⁴ P. Hansen, Vita mirabilis Louvain, 1668.

¹⁵ ⇒ EX 20:16; Cf. ⇒ Deut 5:20.

¹⁶ ⇒ PS 119:90; Cf. ⇒ Prov 8:7; ⇒ 2 Sam 7:28; ⇒ PS 119:142; ⇒ Lk 1:50.

¹⁷ ⇒ Rom 3:4; Cf. ⇒ PS 119:30