

St. Michael Church  
Newark, NY

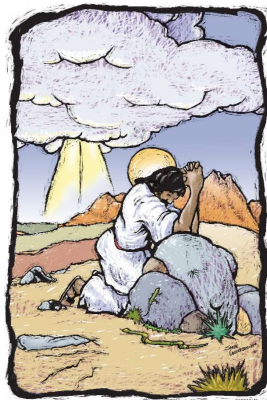



***Where Do We Go For Truth?***

Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunnichliff  
March 11, 2019



***Where Do We Go  
For Truth?***





## Where Do We Go For Truth?



Where do we go for everyday answers?




## Where Do We Go For Truth?

Where do we go for everyday answers?


- Friends
- Family
- Teachers
- Government
- Majority
  - If everyone jumped off a bridge, would you?






## Where Do We Go For Truth?

What we see as common is not necessarily “normal” or good.



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

What about God in our everyday decisions?



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

Where do we go for help with the tough questions?

## Where Do We Go For Truth?

The same answers apply:

- Friends
- Parents
- Teachers
- Government
- Majority

***Yet God is the one who knows what is right***

## Where Do We Go For Truth?

“If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth,  
***and the truth will set you free.***”

(John 8:32)

## Where Do We Go For Truth?

- Relativism
- Free will



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

Paul writes to Timothy, "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. ***For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths.*** But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry" (2 Timothy 4:1-5)



## Where Do We Go For Truth?



Where do we go for  
**T**ruth?





## Where Do We Go For Truth?

“I am the way  
and the truth  
and the life “


John 14:6



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, **to testify to the truth**. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “**What is truth?**” (John 18:37-38)






## Where Do We Go For Truth?

### Where Do We Go For Truth?

- The Bible
- Catechists (teachers, priests..)
- Catechism
- Social Compendium





## Where Do We Go For Truth?



### Define Truth



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

Eighth commandment  
 “You shall **not** bear false witness  
 against your neighbor.”

vs.

“truth” as I refer to it tonight

## Where Do We Go For Truth?

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1750*

“The morality of human acts depends on:

- the object chosen;
- the end in view or the intention;
- the circumstances of the action.”



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

### Role of Modern Psychology in

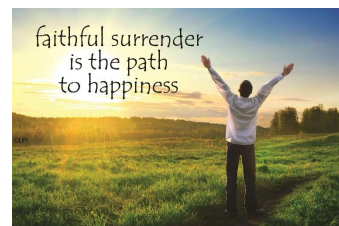
- ***understanding*** morality
- ***determining*** morals, what is right and wrong



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

### What makes moral theology different from ethics?

CCC 150 "Faith is first of all a personal adherence of man to God. At the same time, and inseparably, it is a *free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed.*"





## Where Do We Go For Truth?

### The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on “Conscience”

“Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment...For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God...His conscience is man’s most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths.” (1776, original quote from *Gaudium et Spes*)



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

### The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on “Conscience” cont’d

“Man has the right to act in conscience and in freedom so as personally to make moral decisions. “He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience, especially in religious matters (DH 3.2)” (1782).



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

### A “Well-formed Conscience”

- Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened.” (*Catechism*, 1783)
- “The education of the conscience is a lifelong task.” (*Catechism*, 1784)
- Our desire to have a well-formed conscience is part of our response to the gift of God's mercy and love

*Yet, LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you our **potter**: we are all the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:7)*



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

### Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Knowledge
- Understanding
- Wisdom
- Right counsel/good judgment





## Where Do We Go For Truth?

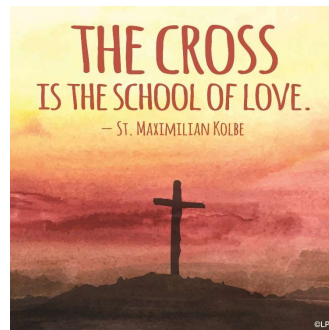
***With a well-formed*** conscience

"Citizens are obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order. "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29)." (*Catechism*, 2256)



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

Who Can We Trust?



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

What does it mean to “tolerate”?

## Where Do We Go For Truth?

### Spiritual Works of Mercy #3 Admonishing the Sinner

***“In this sense, then, it should be noted that correction should be made not as a judgment, but as a service of truth and love, since it addresses the sinner not as an enemy but as a brother (see 2 Thessalonians 3:15). It can thus result in leading a brother who was becoming lost back to life (Jas 5:19). This fraternal correction is to be exercised firmly (see Ti 1:13), but without harshness (Ps 6:2), without exacerbating or humiliating the one admonished (Eph 6:4).” (The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, 53).***




## Where Do We Go For Truth?

“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.”  
Matthew 5:6

## Where Do We Go For Truth?

Being Catholic means being part of something bigger than ourselves. We don't get to determine our OWN TRUTH.




## Where Do We Go For Truth?

I don't know about you but I don't want to decide my own truth. I am looking for something greater than myself for answers.

That “something” is God.

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”  
(Matthew 5:3).*

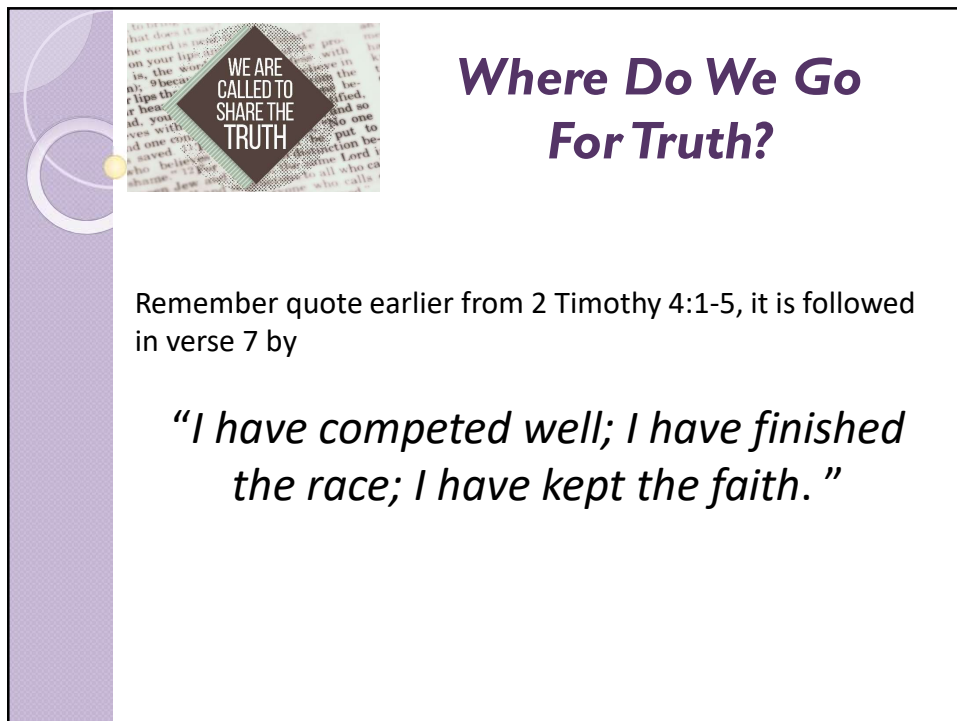


## Where Do We Go For Truth?

### Spiritual Works of Mercy #2 Instructing the Ignorant

quoting JP2 in *Fides et Ratio*

“He concludes that the most urgent task today is “to lead people to discover both their capacity to know the truth and their yearning for the ultimate and definitive meaning of life (102).” (*The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy*, 52).






## Where Do We Go For Truth?

Where can you learn about what God has to say?

- Online search – be careful of source reliability and bias
- usccb.org
- vatican.va
- Biblegateway.com
- Catechism
- Social Compendium




## Where Do We Go For Truth?

### Resources

*Catechism of the Catholic Church. Second Edition.* Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.

*Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church.* Libreria Editrice Vaticana. USCCB, 2006.

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.* Libreria Editrice Vaticana/United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: Washington, DC 2005.




## Where Do We Go For Truth?

### Resources (cont'd)

Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, *The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2015.

*St. Joseph Edition of The New American Bible Revised Edition*. New Jersey, Catholic Book Publishing Corp. 2010.

*USCCB, United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006.



## Where Do We Go For Truth?

### Resources (cont'd)

Tunncliff, Rev. Jeffrey S. Tunncliff, *The Journey to Jesus: Acts of Mercy* (video presentation), March 12, 2018, available online at <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/video---the-journey-to-jesus--acts-of-mercy.html>