

Nineteenth Sunday Ordinary Time 2017

The Third Commandment.

Exodus 20:1-17

Remember to keep the Sabbath Day.

Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God. No work may be done then either by you or your slave.

In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, but on the seventh day he rested.

That is why the Lord has blessed the Sabbath Day and made it holy.

Deuteronomy 5: 1-20

Take care to keep holy the Sabbath Day as the Lord, your God, commanded you.

Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God. No work may be done then. Your slave should rest as you do.

For remember that you too were once slaves in Egypt, and the Lord, your God, brought you from there with his strong hand and outstretched arm.

That is why the Lord, your God, has commanded you to observe the Sabbath Day.

We have learned a great deal about ourselves in studying this commandment. The words “keep holy” are rather vague. How do we keep holy the Sabbath Day? We rely upon the second part of the commandment and upon tradition. But even the second part of the commandment is not specific. We must rest and do no work. What is work and what is rest? Do we need to celebrate the Mass each Sunday? When Jesus begins his preaching career he is very critical about some of the traditions that have been established for the Sabbath Day. Nonetheless, we must define the ways to keep holy the Sabbath day. Clearly the Sabbath Day is the seventh day, the last day of the story of creation. The resurrection of Jesus is discovered on the first day of the week, early in the morning of the day immediately following the Sabbath Day. Christians call the first day of the week ‘The Lord’s Day’. Christians also celebrate or honor the day of rest on the same day as the Lord’s Day. What are we to conclude?