



Consecration in Truth®

Family Catechesis

Educates adults in the truths of the faith and empowers them to lead their families in learning and living the faith. Taught by Roman Curia Cardinal Francis Arinze.



Discussion Guide 28A

The Moral Life of Christians (Questions 269-270, 272-273)

The Apostolate's Family Catechism™

Opening Prayer (5 min.)

Gospel Reading (see Liturgical Calendar box). Pause to reflect. When you are ready, end with an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be. Announce the *Liturgical Season* and the *Significant Feast Days* for the week.

Recitation of Memory Verse (5 min.)

James 5:16 The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.

Discussion and Sharing on

The Apostolate's Family Catechism (40 min.)

- Announce the topic and questions to be covered.
- Watch Commentaries with Cardinal Arinze video **Q# 269-270, 272-273** (3½ min.). Discuss.
- Read **Q# 269-270, 272-273** aloud and discuss the answers. Point out the illustrations and diagrams and allow family members to explain them. Read the captions on the illustrations. Read the Scripture quotes.
- Discuss the "Doctrine, Moral, Worship Exercises" and the "Thought Provokers" related to **Q# 269-270, 272-273** at the end of **Chapter 76**.

Closing Prayer (10 min.)

Invite everyone who wishes, to express their petitions at this time.

End by praying the **Q# 273** Summary Prayer.



Liturgical Calendar

- Season: Ordinary Time
- Upcoming Sunday Readings:
First Reading Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel Reading Mark 1:14-20
- Significant Feast Days This Week:
Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church



Scripture Memory Verse

Look up in personal Bible, copy, and memorize

John 14:15

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.



Family Activity

Bible Lookup Race, Part 2

Set up the contest just as for Session 27A, but form teams. Draw from a container, the Bible verses provided on page 2. Record on the score sheet the time it takes for each contestant to find the verse.

When all verses have been looked up and read, add up team scores. The team with the lowest score is the winner.

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Verses on Doing the Will of God for Bible Lookup Race

Matthew 22:37-40

1 Thessalonians 4:7

John 14:24

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

Matthew 12:50

John 14:15

Matthew 5:48

1 John 3:2-3

Sirach 17:11

Deuteronomy 5:6-21

John 14:26

1 John 3:19-22

Sirach 17:8

Romans 2:14-15

Exodus 20:1-17

Matthew 7:21

The Moral Life of Christians - I

Q. 269. If we want to answer God's love with our love, what must we do?

If we want to answer God's love with our love, we must: (1) *observe everything that Jesus Christ has commanded (morals)*, and (2) *believe all that He has revealed (faith)*. (cf. V.S., Section 6, 9, 28)

1. *If we want to answer God's love with our love, we must observe everything that Jesus Christ has commanded.*

The teaching of the Church includes instructions on things which are to be done and to be avoided, that the followers of Jesus might live the Christian life according to His will. It is our duty as Christians to respond to God's love by faith and action. If we truly love God, we shall endeavor to do His holy will. (cf. V.S., Section 97)

Sacred Scripture

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. He that does not love Me does not keep My word. And the word which you have heard is not Mine; but the Father's Who sent Me."

John 14:15, 24

(cf. V.S., Section 119)

Christ directed His Apostles to teach us this when He said: "Teach them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you. And behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world" (Matthew 28:20). He told His Apostles to go forth and preach the Gospel of the New Covenant to every nation, for He intended His Kingdom, the Church, to encompass all people. The Apostles gathered those who believed into communities, uniting them to Christ and to one another through God's holy Word and the Mass.

2. *If we want to answer God's love with our love, we must believe all that He has revealed.* (cf. V.S., Section 28)



*See Papally Promulgated
Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Q. 269. See paragraphs: 1950-1986, 2032-2055

See encyclical Veritatis Splendor (Splendor of Truth)

Q. 269. See sections: 6, 9, 28, 40, 43, 71, 82, 84, 97, 101, 102, 112, 119

The Church continues to teach what Jesus revealed and studies the changing conditions of human life in the light of the Gospel in order to help people know how best to apply His unchangeable teaching on a daily basis.

Vatican Council II

“The highest norm of human life is the divine law itself — eternal, objective and universal — by which God orders, directs and governs the whole world and the ways of the human community according to a plan conceived in his wisdom and love.” *Liberty*, 3

(cf. V.S., Section 40, 43, 71, 82, 84, 97, 101, 102, 112)

Q. 270. What does Christian morality teach?

Christian morality teaches us a way of life that is worthy of human beings who are adopted sons of God. We must grow in the new life which God gave us through Jesus Christ. (cf. V.S., Section 118)

The Catholic Church expresses her moral teaching by stating moral precepts or commands, by making judgments about the morality of certain actions, and by making laws that concern the implementation of moral principles and precepts. The Church’s teaching expresses the will of God that we become both sharers in Christ’s risen life and children in His holy family. We are to live lives worthy of the members of a community of worshipers and believers who are destined for Heaven. (cf. V.S., Section 59, 112)

The moral laws which govern human conduct come from an unchanging God and apply to an unchanging human nature. Whatever might be said in favor of the theory of human evolution, once rational man, i.e., *homo sapiens*, appeared on the earth, his nature has not changed one iota. The first rational humans were essentially the same as those who live today. Therefore, the laws that govern their moral conduct remain the same. Thus, it will always be sinful to lie, to cheat, to gossip, to commit adultery, to contracept, to abuse others, to torture, etc.



See Papally Promulgated
Catechism of the Catholic Church
Q. 270. See paragraphs: 1949-1986
See encyclical **Veritatis Splendor** (Splendor of Truth)
Q. 270. See sections: 32, 47, 59, 73, 82, 101, 112, 118

Vatican Co

“The Council proclaims that primacy of the objective moral and is capable of harmonizing all excepting art, no matter how no moral order touches man in the rational creature, called to a sup al order is fully and faithfully c perfection and happiness.” *Social*

(cf. V.S., Section 32, 47, 73, 82, 101, 112)

“The good news of Christ cor culture of fallen man; it combat evil which flow from the ever-pr er ceases to purify and elevate t

(cf. V.S., Section 118)

Q. 271. How is Christian guided?

Christian morality is suppo and gifts of the Holy Spirit whi persuades us to hold each other common bond of friendship so t nity of love, united in Christ grace. (cf. V.S., Section 103)

Moreover, the Holy Spirit ca the power to do things which ar ther through His actual graces Jesus taught us in the Gospel: need to fight satan and to rema olic Church no matter what helps, it would be impossible to our own salvation or the salva 102, 103, 105, 112)

Vatican C

“The gifts of the Spirit are 1



See Papally Pro
Catechism of the Co
Q. 271. See paragraphs: 196
See encyclical **Verita**
Q. 271. See sections: 22, 35,

Vatican Council II

“The Council proclaims that all must accept the absolute primacy of the objective moral order. It alone is superior to and is capable of harmonizing all forms of human activity, not excepting art, no matter how noble in themselves. Only the moral order touches man in the totality of his being as God’s rational creature, called to a supernatural destiny. If the moral order is fully and faithfully observed, it leads man to full perfection and happiness.” *Social Communications*, 6

(cf. V.S., Section 32, 47, 73, 82, 101, 112)

“The good news of Christ continually renews the life and culture of fallen man; it combats and removes the error and evil which flow from the ever-present attraction of sin. It never ceases to purify and elevate the morality of peoples.”

Modern World, 58

(cf. V.S., Section 118)

Q. 271. How is Christian morality supported and guided?

Christian morality is supported and guided by the grace and gifts of the Holy Spirit which help us in many ways. He persuades us to hold each other in high esteem. He gives us a common bond of friendship so that we may become a community of love, united in Christ because we share His life of grace. (cf. V.S., Section 103)

Moreover, the Holy Spirit causes us to have the desire and the power to do things which are pleasing to our heavenly Father through His actual graces. The Spirit makes clear what Jesus taught us in the Gospel; and He gives us the help we need to fight Satan and to remain true to Jesus and the Catholic Church no matter what the situation. Without these helps, it would be impossible to do anything which might win our own salvation or the salvation of others. (cf. V.S., Section 22, 35, 102, 103, 105, 112)

Vatican Council II

“The gifts of the Spirit are manifold: some men are called



See Papally Promulgated
Catechism of the Catholic Church

Q. 271. See paragraphs: 1960, 1966, 1972, 1983

See encyclical ***Veritatis Splendor*** (*Splendor of Truth*)

Q. 271. See sections: 22, 35, 102, 103, 105, 112

The Moral Life of Christians - II

Q. 272. What is conscience?

Conscience is a personal, reasoned, practical judgment that something is right or wrong; that is, whether it is in accordance with the will and law of God that is written within one's soul.

Conscience makes us aware of what God wants us to do at a given time. Furthermore, it helps us to know when we have sinned. Conscience tells us whether an action is right or wrong and whether it is a mortal or a venial sin. Our conscience is our mind's ability to judge moral matters. It is important to note, however, that, for most people, reason alone is not a sufficient guide in moral matters. The conscience must be instructed and formed. We must learn from Christ as He speaks to us in the hidden recesses of our souls, and as He teaches us through His Catholic Church. (cf. V.S., Section 39, 40, 54, 56, 58, 59, 61, 70, 79, 112)

Sacred Scripture

"He set His eye upon their hearts to show the greatness of His works... Moreover, He gave them instructions and the law of life for an inheritance." *Ecclesiasticus 17:7, 9*

"For when the Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature those things that are of the law; these not having the law are a law unto themselves: who show the work of the law written on their hearts." *Romans 2:14-15*

(cf. V.S., Section 57)

Vatican Council II

"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



See Papally Promulgated
Catechism of the Catholic Church

Q. 272. See paragraphs: 1776-1782

See encyclical **Veritatis Splendor** (Splendor of Truth)

Q. 272. See sections: 12, 39, 40, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 70, 79, 90, 112

evil, tells him inwardly at that. For man has in his heart his dignity lies in observing this (cf. Rom. 2:15-16) His conscience is his sanctuary. There he is alone in his depths. By conscience, made known which is fulfilled neighbor (cf. Mt. 22:37-40; Gal. 5

(cf. V.S., Section 12, 39, 54, 55, 56, 58, 61)

Q. 273. Must each person

Each person must have a Catholic must form a right conscience by listening to the teaching authority, the Church. (cf. V.S., Section 4, 56, 60, 64)

Moreover, the moral life is a process of growth in grace and gifts of the Holy Spirit. We must have certainty whether our conscience is right or wrong over a period of time by listening to the Word of God, the teaching authority, and by being attentive to the Spirit within us. (cf. V.S., Section 12, 37, 40, 41, 42, 56)

Vaticana

"It is through his conscience that man discovers the demands of the divine law. He must obey his conscience faithfully in all his actions. He must not act contrary to his conscience. He must act according to his conscience." *Liberty, 3*

(cf. V.S., Section 12, 37, 40, 41, 42, 56)

"Through loyalty to conscience, men must help one another in the search for truth. Conscience is so many moral problems and from social relations and from social relations"



See Papally Promulgated
Catechism of the Catholic Church

Q. 273. See paragraphs: 1776-1782

See encyclical **Veritatis Splendor**

Q. 273. See sections: 12, 39, 40, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 70, 79, 90, 112

evil, tells him inwardly at the right moment: do this, shun that. For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God. His dignity lies in observing this law, and by it he will be judged. (cf. Rom. 2:15-16) His conscience is man's most secret core, and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths. By conscience, in a wonderful way, that law is made known which is fulfilled in the love of God and of one's neighbor (cf. Mt. 22:37-40; Gal. 5:14)." *Modern World*, 16

(cf. V.S., Section 12, 39, 54, 55, 56, 58, 60, 61, 90)

Q. 273. Must each person have a right conscience?

Each person must have a right conscience and follow it. A Catholic must form a right conscience by learning and obeying the teaching authority, or Magisterium, of the Catholic Church. (cf. V.S., Section 4, 56, 60, 64, 85, 112)

Moreover, the moral life of Christians is guided by the grace and gifts of the Holy Spirit. We do not always know with certainty whether our consciences are right, but we can train them over a period of time to be evermore aware of the Truth, by listening to the Word of God in Scripture, in the Church's teaching, and by being attentive to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit within us. (cf. V.S., Section 28, 37, 54, 56, 57, 108, 112)

Vatican Council II

"It is through his conscience that man sees and recognizes the demands of the divine law. He is bound to follow this conscience faithfully in all his activity so that he may come to God, who is his last end. Therefore 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." *Liberty*, 3

(cf. V.S., Section 12, 37, 40, 41, 42, 54, 56, 58, 60, 72, 84, 97, 102, 112)

"Through loyalty to conscience, Christians are joined to other men in the search for truth and for the right solution to so many moral problems which arise both in the life of individuals and from social relationships. Hence, the more a cor-



*See Papally Promulgated
Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Q. 273. See paragraphs: 1783-1785, 1790-1794

See encyclical ***Veritatis Splendor*** (*Splendor of Truth*)

Q. 273. See sections: 4, 12, 28, 34, 37, 40, 41, 42, 54, 56, 57, 58, 60, 62, 63, 64, 72, 73, 82, 84, 85, 90, 97, 102, 108, 112

rect conscience prevails, the more do persons and groups turn aside from blind choice and try to be guided by the objective standards of moral conduct. Yet it often happens that conscience goes astray through ignorance which it is unable to avoid, without thereby losing its dignity. This cannot be said of the man who takes little trouble to find out what is true and good, or when conscience is by degrees almost blinded through the habit of committing sin." *Modern World*, 16

(cf. V.S., Section 34, 56, 62, 63, 73, 82, 90)

Prayer: *Father, let Your Spirit come upon us with power and fill us with His gifts. May He make our hearts pleasing to You and ready to do Your will. Let our spiritual sacrifice at Mass, in union with Christ's, make us an everlasting gift to You. Renew us by the mysteries we share in Holy Communion. Help us to know You and Your will, and prepare us for the gifts of the Spirit, that we may live truly Christian lives that are pleasing to You through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Q. 274. How must a Catholic form a right conscience?

A Catholic must form a right conscience by studying and obeying the teaching authority of the Catholic Church.

It is the duty of the teaching authority of the Catholic Church, or Magisterium, to give guidance for applying the enduring norms and values of Christian morality to specific situations of everyday life. (cf. V.S., Section 4, 30, 39, 56, 58, 60, 62, 63, 64, 73, 85, 95, 109)

Christian freedom needs to be ruled and directed by the specific circumstances of human life. Accordingly, the consciences of the faithful, even when informed by the virtue of prudence, must be subject to the teaching authority of the Church. It is the Church's duty to explain the whole moral law authoritatively, in order that it may rightly and correctly make known the objective moral order. (cf. V.S., Section 49, 50, 52, 56, 58, 64, 67, 73, 77, 82, 85, 95, 112)



See Papally Promulgated
Catechism of the Catholic Church

Q. 274. See paragraphs: 1783-1794

See encyclical **Veritatis Splendor** (*Splendor of Truth*)

Q. 274. See sections: 3, 4, 30, 31, 34, 37, 39, 49, 50, 52, 55, 56, 58, 60, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67, 73, 77, 82, 84, 85, 95, 99, 109, 112, 114

The conscience
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(cf. V.S., Section 31, 39, 55, 99, 112)

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nature itself." *Liberty*, 14

(cf. V.S., Section 50, 55, 73, 84)

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Outline for