

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Ninth Commandment: You Shall Not Covet Your Neighbor's Wife

Catechist Preparation

Clarifying the Essentials

Purity of heart necessitates the cultivation of the virtue of modesty.

- ◆ Modesty protects the vulnerable, intimate part of the human person by offering guidance on how one looks at and behaves toward others in accord with chastity, decency, and respect (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2521).
- ◆ Modesty enshrines the mystery of self-giving by encouraging patience, discretion, and moderation in loving others (see CCC 2522).

While Baptism wipes away all sin, even the baptized must struggle against concupiscence (the tendency to sin) of the flesh.

- ◆ Chastity enables us to love with an upright, integrated heart; complementing this virtue and gift, we pray and we discipline our intentions and vision (see CCC 2520).
- ◆ Moral permissiveness rests on a mistaken understanding of human freedom as unconnected to moral law (see CCC 2526).

Why Is This Important?

Modesty is a great challenge in a society that promotes moral permissiveness. An environment awash in indecency makes it difficult for an individual to live up to the demands of life in Christ.

The Christian family can function as a significant support to its individual members as they navigate society at large. Parents, teachers, and catechists have a special duty to help children embrace the Good News of Jesus Christ, respect the truth, and act with dignity and graciousness toward others.

*“When the text says
'blessed are the pure in heart,'
it refers to those
who have been made clean within . . .”*

SAINT AUGUSTINE

Doctrinal Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Have chairs set in a circle. Place an open Bible and a unity candle in the prayer space. Provide name tags and refreshments.

Welcome

Greet people as they arrive. Take time for introductions.

Engage

1. Begin by discussing the Insight and For Reflection sections of the participant resource.
2. Use these, or similar, questions to initiate a discussion about commercial advertisements:

In what way do commercials use both women and men to sell their products?

What do you think about the ways people are portrayed for this purpose?

If there is an underlying message in most commercials, what might it be?

Teach

Invite the participants to silently read Church Teaching. Then discuss the following:

- ◆ Purity begins in the heart. It is a virtue that upholds the dignity of every person, young and old, male and female.
- ◆ Human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. They are body and spirit, not objects to be used and abused. Faith leads us to respect all people.
- ◆ Choices about behavior and dress are to be guided by the values of respect for oneself and others. These values challenge societal attitudes that promote moral permissiveness.

Apply

Ask the participants to share their understanding of the Ninth Commandment based on today's session. Invite them to share any unanswered questions, and help them find the answers.

Pray

Sing or play one of the suggested hymns for today's session.