

Catechetical Moments

The First Commandment

February 13, 2022

Last week, we heard that the Ten Commandments give us guidance in living up to our part of the Covenant with God established thirty-three hundred (3,300) years ago.

The first three commandments direct our relationship with God in this Covenant.

The **First Commandment** is both an announcement that there is a God and a call for us to put our faith, hope and love exclusively in Him.

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me.... I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God,....”

God whispers to us, trying to break through our deafness to him and our attentiveness to eye-turning gods – like money, power or pleasure - and their deafening distractions that bombard our every minute – like material stuff, abusive actions or pornography.

God whispers to us with the virtue of Faith when we more and more see His presence revealed in the people who love us and whom we love and in the beauty of creation.

God whispers to us with the virtue of Hope that fills us with confidence that God is with us on our journey through this life to eternal life, not despairing when the going gets tough.

God whispers to us with the virtue of Love, the very Love that He is and has for us. God only asks we respond back to Him with that Love and to all creatures and creation for and because of him.

As St. Augustine wrote, "Lord, our hearts are restless until they rest in You because we are made for You!" When we make God the center of our lives, we come into harmony with the divine life. When we share our center with anything else, we risk eternal life.

We had better ask ourselves how can we fall more deeply in love with God?

Next Week: The Second Commandment