

Catechetical Moments

The Tenth Commandment

May 22, 2022

Why does the grass always look greener on the other side of the fence?

It's because of our own, limited vantage point. Standing in and looking down at our own yard, we see all the bare and brown spots and likely some weeds. Looking at our neighbor's yard from our side of the fence, we just see the green blades from the side, unable to see over the top of them, unable to see our neighbor's own bare, brown and weedy spots.

Our God is not so sight-limited. God made each and every one of us. God is with us and stands in the middle of our life. God sees clearly each beautiful blade, each bare and brown spot, each weed - including those beautiful yellow dandelion flowers. God loves every inch of us.

Thus, the Lord God shared the wisdom of the Tenth Commandment,

“You shall not covet your neighbor's goods [stuff].”

Let us banish the feeling that we are entitled and adopt attitudes of thanksgiving and humility.

Let us banish the need to have and adopt the need to let go. More is not more; less is more.

Let us banish the inclination toward envy and adopt the virtue of generosity of heart. *“The gift you have received, give as a gift.”* (Matt 10:8)

Let us banish comparing and adopt nurturing.

Let us banish the role of consumer and adopt the role of steward, steward of our own journey, steward of family, steward of neighbor, steward of Creation, steward of the Body of Christ.

Let us empty ourselves of ourselves and be filled up with God.

In the 4th century, St. Gregory of Nyssa wrote of our horizon,

“The promise of seeing God surpasses all happiness....

In Scripture, to see is to possess....

Whoever sees God has obtained all the goods [all the stuff] of which can be conceived.”

This concludes our Catechetical Moments on the Ten Commandments. If you would like to revisit any one of them, they are on our website “sttherese.org,” under the “Ministries,” “Adult Faith Formation” headings.