

# The family, teacher of moral conscience.

## Introduction

Dear Parents:

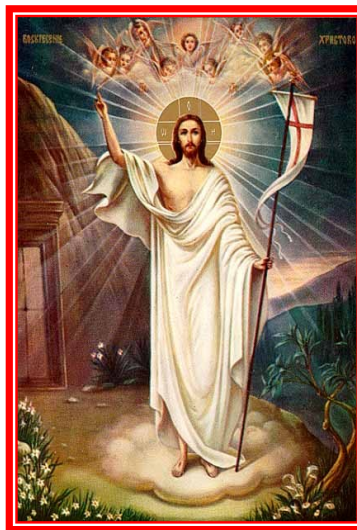


Never before had people been so concerned about freedom and never before had freedom been used so wrongly: on one hand a letter on human rights is written; yet on the other hand it suppresses these rights by permitting abortion, euthanasia, terrorism, the manipulation of public opinion and all sorts of violence. We claim to be mature and we measure our level of maturity according to the fickle norms of public opinion, the in slogans and the social and cultural fads. **Let us not be fooled. We all must notice, denounce and overcome such contradictions. Let us remember that only "the truth will set you free." (Jn 8,32).**

Now a day, the moral norm for many people is: everybody does it; therefore, it must be good; the media says it, so it is undisputable; so and so thinks this way so I accept it unconditionally. Freedom is also seen as the absence of rules and regulations.

Nevertheless the human being discovers in the deepest reassesses of his conscience the presence of a law that he does not dictate for himself but that he must obey. This law has been written by God in his/her heart, so that he/she can grow in perfection, and it is by this law that he/she will be judged.

Easter Season is a time to reflect on the fact that Christ lives and invites us to remember that the vocation and dignity of a human being requires that the person, guided by the light of his/her intelligence discovers the values inscribed within his/her being, develops and practices them in daily life so that Christ will be alive in his/her heart. Let us reflect in the value of a moral conscience and in the family as teachers of this value.



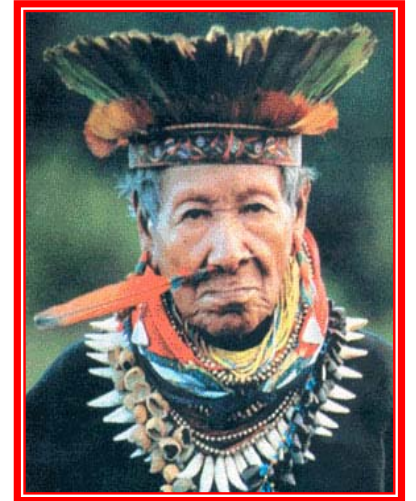
## Message

A missionary asked an elderly indigenous that did not know how to read or write the following questions: "Is it a sin to steal?" "Of course it is." The elderly man answered.  
\_ "Do you sin, if you kill?" "Yes of course." He replied.

The missionary went through all the Ten Commandments in the form of a question for the elderly. He finally said to him: -"You know the commandment of the Law of God. Who taught you these commandments?"

- \_ "God." answered the man.
- \_ But God has never spoken to you"
- \_ The elderly, while touching his bosom said to him.
- \_ "All this I know because God has put it very deep inside me.

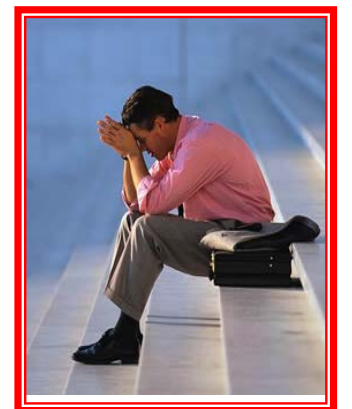
Each one of us has the law written in our heart. We can distinguish between good and evil, just and unjust what is permissible and what is prohibited by making use of our intelligence. **"Conscience is the most secret core and sanctuary of a man. There he is alone with God, Whose voice echoes in his depths"** (GS 16).



Moral conscience tells a person when something is good or bad. It is reason making a judgment by which the person recognizes as moral the action that will be done, is being done or has been done. In everything that is said and done, the person is obliged to faithfully follow that which he or she knows to be just and right. Through the dictates of conscience, the person perceives and recognizes that which is prescribed by Divine Law: **A prudent person can feel the voice of God speaking when he/she listens to moral conscience.** We must pay close attention in order to hear and follow our conscience. **The need for coming into ourselves is more urgent as life pushes us into neglecting reflection, and examination of conscience.**

A person's dignity implies and demands a straight moral conscience which comprises: the perception of moral principles, its application to concrete circumstances, and a well formed judgment over concrete actions that will or have taken place. **A person degrades him/herself if the decision is erroneous.**

Conscience allows us to assume responsibility for our actions. If we do evil, the verdict dictated by our conscience constitutes a guarantee of hope and mercy. When we realize that we have sinned we think of asking for forgiveness, the good deeds that must be done and the virtue that must be developed with the grace of God.



A person has the right to act as his conscience dictates and in freedom, in order to make a moral decision. A well developed conscience is straight and truthful, makes its judgments according to reason; to true goodness willed by the wisdom of the Creator.



The education of good conscience is vital for human beings that are under negative influences, are tempted by sin to prefer his/her judgment and refuse to follow good teachings. **It is an endeavor undertaken throughout life where each one must continue in the search for a more delicate conscience that leads us to what God is asking of us.**

From the first years of his/her life a child comes to the knowledge and practice of that internal law that is recognized by his/her moral conscience. **An education prudently given teaches virtue: preserves or heals from fear, selfishness, pride, from unhealthy feelings of guilt which spring from our human frailty. Educating our conscience guarantees freedom and generates peace in the heart.**

**A Christian family faces the great challenge of shaping the moral conscience of their children in truth and right judgment,** while respecting their dignity and freedom, so that they can help them to develop good judgment when faced with life.

**The primary objective is to help children to become persons who can think and act as true Christian so that they do not deviate from the path that takes them to encounter the Lord Jesus.**



**DIRECTIVES IN FORMING A MORAL CONSCIENCE:**

**Help the children to: know themselves,** by having them reflect through an examination of conscience so they will then be able to listen to the voice of God in their heart; **come to an objective knowledge of Christian doctrine and make it a part of their daily living.** To accomplish this it is necessary for parents to teach them the law of God just as the Church Magisterium teaches. **Use means that are efficacious such as:** assimilating the Word of God that is the Light for our path, prayer, frequent reception of the sacrament of Penance and doctrinal formation given by those who either through experience or ministerial grace can guide children by giving them proper advice

**Discuss**

➤ How important is conscience formation in our family?

- As we go through the day, do we point out for our children that which is right and what is wrong in order to shape their conscience?
- Do we go to the Sacrament of Penance and take our children with us?

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Cuéntame un ejemplo

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# Family Bulletin

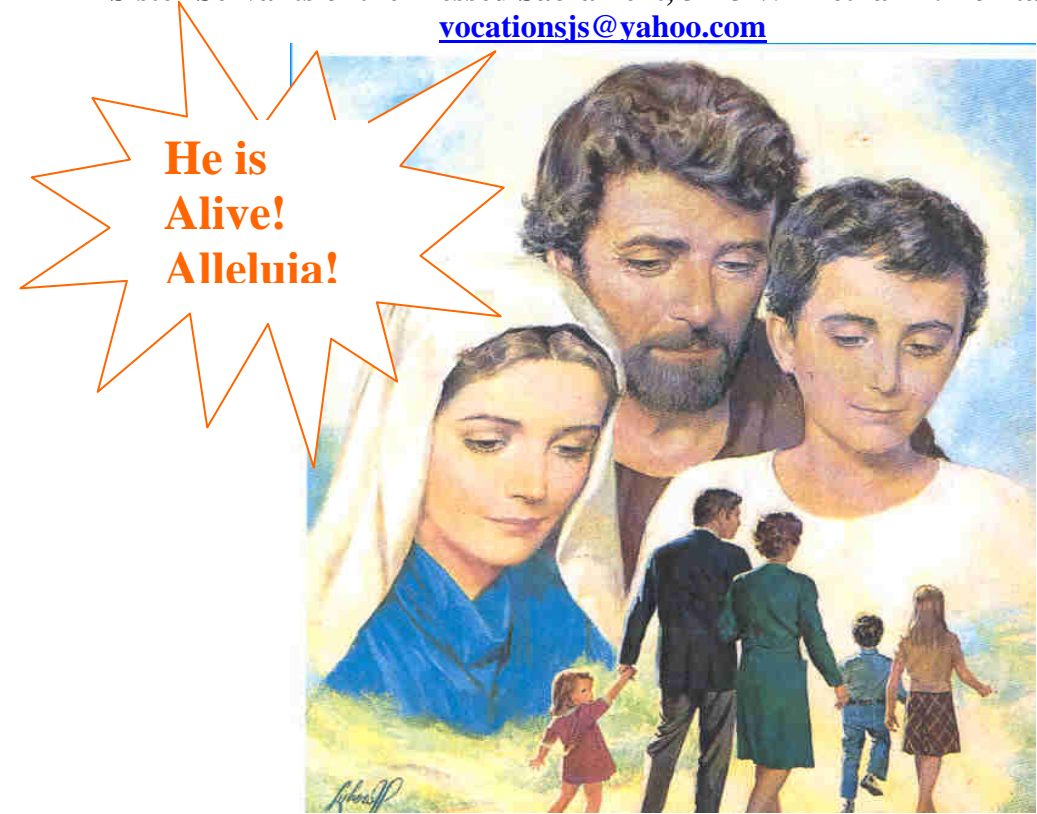
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