

Looking Ahead

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit invites you to ►



EXPLORE a model of generosity in Venerable Henriette Delille.



DISCOVER how the Commandments teach us to live generously.



DECIDE how daily prayer can help you keep a generous heart.

Love of Neighbor

? Who do you consider to be your neighbor? How do you show generosity to others?

Jesus points out for us a model to follow when it comes to practicing generosity. One day when Jesus was teaching in the Temple, he noticed a poor woman making an offering of two small coins.

He said, "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood."

LUKE 21:3-4

? According to Jesus, how is generosity measured? How difficult would it be for you to give like this poor widow in the Gospel?



Disciple Power

Generosity

This Fruit of the Holy Spirit comes from doing charitable works. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, the generosity we show to others is a reflection of loving others as God loves us.

THE CHURCH FOLLOWS JESUS

Venerable Henriette Delille

Generosity in imitation of Christ involves giving all for God in service to those in need. Venerable Henriette Delille, like the poor widow in Luke's Gospel, gave beyond measure.

In 1813, Henriette was born in New Orleans when slavery was still legal and interracial marriages were not legally recognized. Her father was a wealthy French man, and her mother was of African origin, thus Henriette was of mixed races. Despite the cultural and legal norms, Henriette chose at an early age to follow God's laws.

At the age of eleven, she met Sister Fontier who taught her how the Christian values of charity and generosity often sow the seeds of peace in the hearts of others. Embracing the peace of Christ, Henriette decided to help African slave families. By the time Henriette was fourteen, she was teaching religion to slaves in her local area.

By 1836, after her mother's death, Henriette sold all of her property to found a religious community, the Sisters of the Holy Family. They were devoted to serving the needs of the poor, especially the enslaved. Henriette's generosity was abundant, not only in giving up all her possessions to start a religious community, but also in devoting her own life to help those in most need. Through her acts of charity and service, she honored the dignity of every human being, including slaves who were not legally recognized as persons with rights.

Her most notable prayer points to the source of her generosity and the reason why she did what she did: "I want to live and die for God." Today, the Church recognizes her life of heroic virtue with the honor of venerable.



Venerable Henriette directed her efforts to those least protected by society. What group in society most needs to experience the love of the Christian community?

Truth and Justice for All

The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

EXODUS 20:15

The Seventh Commandment teaches that we live the virtues of justice and charity in our relationships with other people. We are to use the goods of the Earth responsibly with generous hearts. How we treat the environment and use natural resources has an impact not only on our own but future generations. God consistently calls us to be good stewards of his creation. We are to use our resources without waste yet out of generosity for those most in need.

This Commandment forbids stealing, cheating, human trafficking (slavery), misusing or damaging another's property, and paying unjust wages. If we break this Commandment, we have the obligation to repair whatever damage we have caused and to restore what we have unjustly done. This is called **reparation**.

The Seventh Commandment also teaches us about the importance of work. Our virtuous work is a participation in the work of God the Creator. Because we are joined to Christ in Baptism, our work is to be joined to his. One important work of the Christian life is **almsgiving**. In this way, the work we do is an act of generosity and charity—loving our neighbor as God loves all of us. All of our daily activity is to give honor and glory to God.

FAITH FOCUS

What do the Seventh, Eighth, and Tenth Commandments teach us about living the Law of Love?

FAITH VOCABULARY

almsgiving

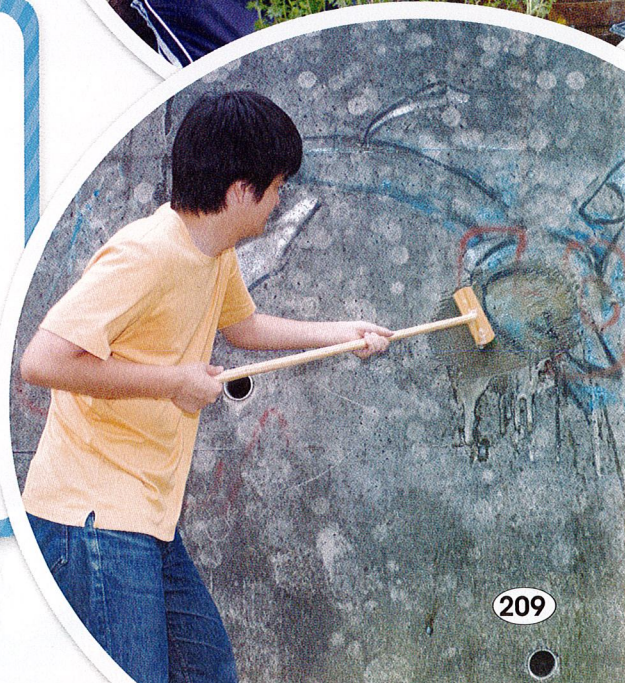
Money, food, or material things given to the poor as an act of penance or charity

reparation

The process of righting a wrong; making amends

stewardship

The actions of responsibly caring for what God has given



Activity The Church asks us to give of our time, talent, and treasure for the good of the community. In what ways might you have wasted all three at times, and what will you be willing to give?

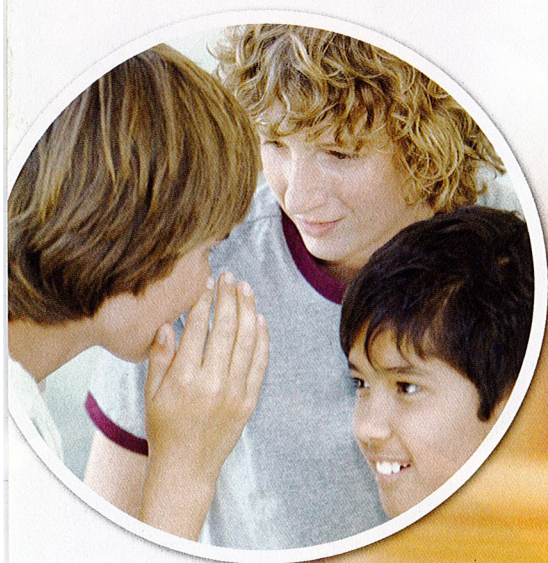
	Waste	Give
Time		
Talent		
Treasure		



Faith-Filled People

Saint Paul of Tarsus

After experiencing the Risen Lord on the road to Damascus, Paul devoted the rest of his life to spreading the truth of the Gospel. Repeatedly, in his many letters, he discouraged lying and promoted speaking the truth in love. He wrote in his letter to the Church in Ephesus, "Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, for we are members one of another (Ephesians 4:25).



The Eighth Commandment

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
EXODUS 20:16

Our daily activity should also be about seeking and upholding the truth. The Eighth Commandment is about truth. It commands that we live honest and truthful lives. We are to respect the good name of others. Jesus taught us in the Sermon on the Mount,

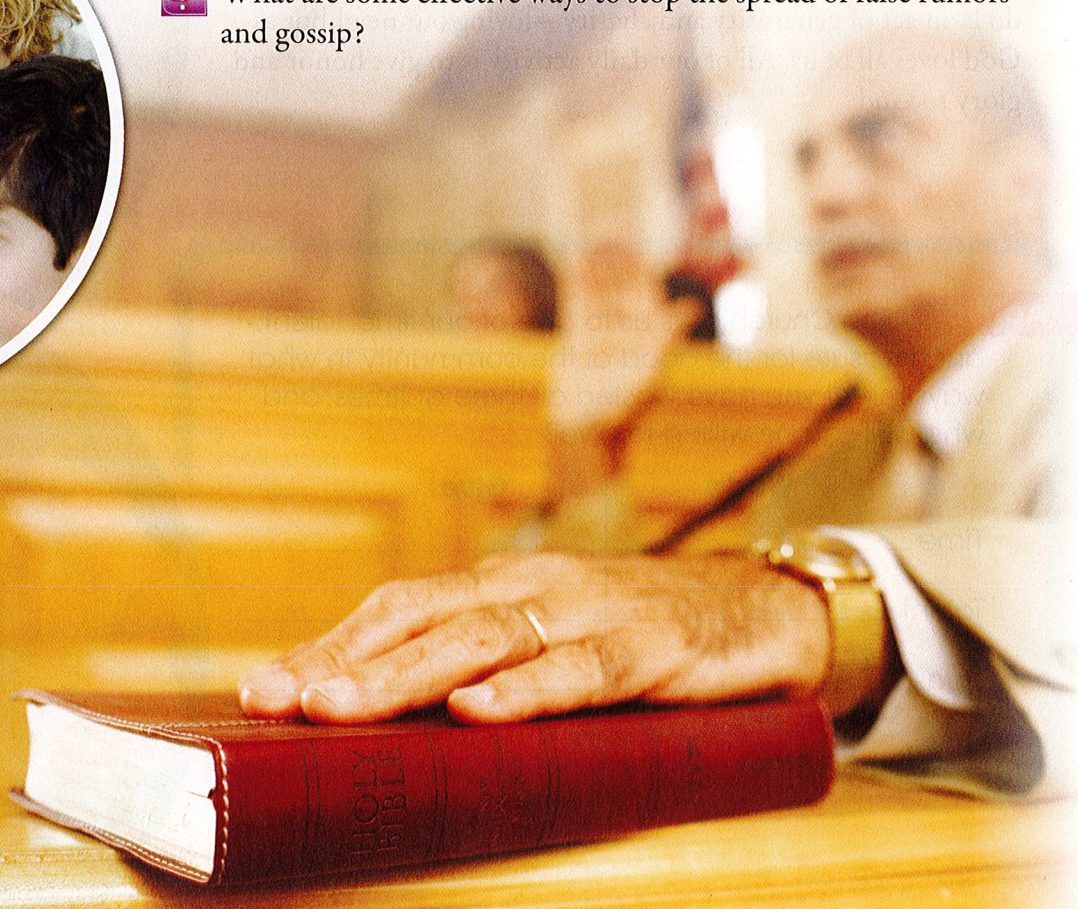
*Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes' and your 'No' mean 'No.'
Anything more is from the evil one.*
MATTHEW 5:37

This means that we are not to be hypocrites but should be truthful in all that we do and say—avoiding all occasions to sin against truth.

Breaking this Commandment weakens our trust and respect for others. If we break it, we have the obligation to repair the damage that our misuse of the truth has caused. A person's good name is one of his or her most valued possessions. If we tell lies, spread false rumors, or promote damaging gossip, we bear false witness against a person and are required to make amends.

When we lie, we can receive forgiveness for this sin by participating in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. We are always obligated to tell the truth to those who have the right to know it.

? What are some effective ways to stop the spread of false rumors and gossip?



The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's goods. EXODUS 20:17

We are to share the blessings that God has given to us with others. We are to avoid greed and envy, which are Capital Sins. The Tenth Commandment teaches us to treat others fairly and justly. We know that we are tempted to violate the Tenth Commandment when we desire too much or are jealous of what others have. This kind of coveting can lead us to placing material possessions before personal relationships. For example, if you feel resentful of a possession that your friend has, that may be a sign of greed and envy.

The Tenth Commandment also calls us to be thankful for what God has given us and to be generous with the gifts we have received. All blessings and gifts are from God. Many of the gifts given to us by God are to be used for the benefit and good of others. When we take care of what God has provided us, we exercise **stewardship**. And in our generosity, we live according to the Cardinal Virtue of justice.

Catholics Believe



Poverty of Heart

Jesus celebrated the joy of the poor because their hearts were not set on earthly possessions. The Kingdom of God belongs to those who are "poor in spirit" because their hearts long for the treasures that await them in Heaven (see Matthew 5:3; 6:19-21). So the more we desire the things in this earthly life, the less we are able to focus on the source of true happiness: God.

Activity In certain Native American traditions, a person chooses on his or her birthday to give gifts to others rather than receiving them. Think of a friend and a possession of yours he or she would appreciate. Discuss with a partner what you chose and how difficult it would be to give it away.



I FOLLOW JESUS

The Church teaches us that the Holy Spirit guides and strengthens us in our ability to love our neighbor as God loves us. Works of charity come from a generous heart, and your generosity can sow the seeds of peace. The Holy Spirit invites you to pray often throughout the day, seeking a generous heart.

PRAYER AND ACTION

Take the time to fill out this daily planner. Set aside several different times during the day for praying. Choose reasonable time slots in which you can pray for something. In another slot, write something you will do that demonstrates a generous spirit. Write down what you plan to pray for in that slot.

Morning

Afternoon

Evening

MY FAITH CHOICE

This week, I will spend more time with God, the source of all love and generosity, in prayer. I will act with generosity. I will



Pray, "Holy Spirit, guide my heart to love others as you love me. Amen."

Chapter Review

For each scenario, identify which Commandment is being violated. Then tell how the person could make reparation for his or her wrongdoing.

1. Jason's parents bought him his own tablet for his birthday. His older sister, Jane, became jealous because his tablet was newer than hers. Jane complained. Since she is older, she thinks she should have the new one and Jason should have hers.

2. Sam and Sophie were proud of their new tablets. So they went to school the next day and showed them off to everyone. Then they noticed that George had an even better tablet than theirs. They took George's and left it where it would be damaged by water.

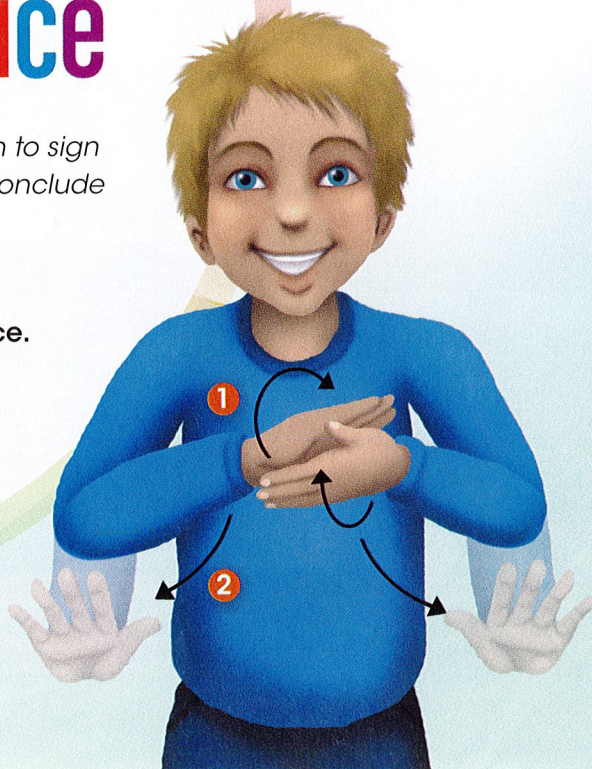
TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. The Seventh and Tenth Commandments teach us to treat others justly.
2. The Eighth Commandment is about speaking and living the truth.
3. We are to make amends with penance and reparation if we violate any of God's Commandments.

Prayer For Peace

Peace is one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Learn to sign the word "peace" by viewing the image here. Conclude this prayer by signing "Peace."

Lord, make me
an instrument of your peace.
Peace.



With My Family

This Week ...

In Chapter 23, "Love of Neighbor," your child learned:

- ▶ The Seventh and Tenth Commandments teach us that we are to be just and generous. We are to use and care for all of God's creation wisely.
- ▶ The Eighth Commandment teaches us to live honest and truthful lives.
- ▶ If we violate any of God's Commandments, we are to make amends with penance and reparation, correcting the wrong we have done.
- ▶ Through almsgiving and stewardship, we can show our generosity and thanksgiving for all we have been given by God.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2401–2513, 2534–2557, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 417–438, 447–457.

Sharing God's Word

Read together John 14:15–21. Emphasize that faithfully living the Ten Commandments is a sign of a faithful disciple of Jesus. Find strength in knowing that Christ has given us the Holy Spirit as our Advocate to guide us in truth and justice.

We Live as Disciples

The Christian home and family is a school of discipleship. Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own:


- ▶ Talk about how your family lives as good stewards of God's creation. Focus on various "green initiatives" like gardening, conservation, and recycling.

▶ During the holiday seasons, make an extra effort to help those in need before purchasing extra gifts for the family.

▶ Give as a sacrifice—not from your excess but from what you value. Be intentional about using the family's talents and treasures for the good of others.

Our Spiritual Journey

Almsgiving is as much a spiritual activity as it is a material one. Giving of our money and material as an act of penance may be a foreign concept. Reflect on ways to take charity to the next level by making the act of giving an act of sacrifice or penance.



For more ideas on ways that your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit

www.BeMyDisciples.com