

The Law of Caring:

Starting this month, we move in a new direction with our study of the 10 Commandments. The first 3 we studied- the Law of Reflection, the Law of Respect, the Law of Remembrance- are meant to guide our relationship with God. As we move into the final 7 commandments, we will focus on how God's law should govern our relationships with the rest of humanity.

The 4th Commandment is the Law of Caring. To Honor your Father & Mother. It bridges the law concerning respect for God & respect for humanity. Our parents are our 1st & greatest models in the faith & moral development, the 1st models we have of "godliness." They are the living connection with everything that came before them.

Why the command to honor our parents? To honor our parents is to honor our Creator. Our parents had the greatest hand in making us who we are. To disrespect them is to disrespect God, the author of all Creation. But the law also extends beyond our parents. As Sr. Joan Chittister writes, "Each of us, whether we have children or not, gives birth to the next generation." So teachers, coaches, & ministers in the church need our honor. The elderly, especially, need our honor, because they are the living repository of decades of wisdom & experience.

As I reflect on faith formation at St Mary, I think of our motto in the GOF process, "Generations Learning Together." I am hard pressed to find a more fitting way to live the Law of Caring, than by sharing a meal with family & friends, & together learning the teachings of God & God's Church! I hope you successfully took up our Sabbath Challenge. Come to Generations in Jan. as we continue our study of the 10 Commandments.

Blessings in the New Year,

Eric Stromberg