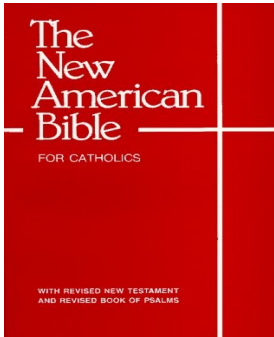
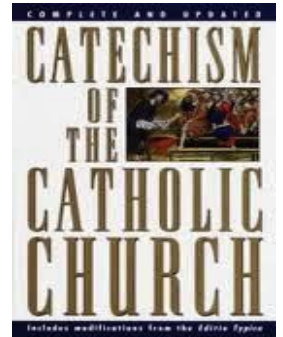


# CATHOLIC FINANCES & THE HOLY SCRIPTURES: WHAT THE GOOD NEWS TELLS US

How can we become financially blessed? How do we know if what we're doing financially is acceptable to our LORD? What does Holy Scripture say about Tithing, Debt, Wealth and Possessions? Scriptural guidance to these and many other questions may be answered in this document. Categories include:



- |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <p><b>Contentment</b></p> <p><b>Co-Signing/Surety</b></p> <p><b>Debt</b></p> <p><b>Giving</b></p> <p><b>Lending</b></p> <p><b>Love of Money</b></p> <p><b>Obedience to the LORD</b></p> | <p><b>Provisions/Inheritance</b></p> <p><b>Receiving</b></p> <p><b>Stewardship</b></p> <p><b>Taxes</b></p> <p><b>Tithing</b></p> <p><b>Waste</b></p> <p><b>Wealth &amp; Possessions</b></p> |
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Catechism of the Catholic Church references are the end of the document.

## 2 CHRONICLES 7:12-22 *(God's Promise to Solomon)*

The LORD appeared to Solomon during the night and said to him: I have heard your prayer, and I have chosen this place for my house of sacrifice. If I close heaven so that there is no rain, if I command the locust to devour the land, if I send pestilence among my people, if then my people, upon whom my name has been pronounced, humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and heal their land.

Now, therefore, my eyes shall be open and my ears attentive to the prayer of this place; now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever; my eyes and my heart shall be there always. As for you, if you walk before me as David your father did, doing all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and ordinances, I will establish the throne of your kingship as I covenanted with David your father when I said, There shall never be wanting someone from your line as ruler in Israel.

But if ever you turn away and forsake my commandments and statutes which I set before you, and proceed to serve other gods, and bow down to them, I will uproot the people from the land I gave and repudiate the house I have consecrated for my name. I will make it a proverb and a byword among all nations. And this house which is so exalted—every passerby shall be horrified and ask: “Why has the LORD done such things to this land and to this house?” And the answer will come: “Because they abandoned the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and they embraced other gods, bowing down to them and serving them. That is why he has brought upon them all this evil.”

**SACRED SCRIPTURES USED IN THIS DOCUMENT (listed in Canonical Order)**

<b>OLD TESTAMENT</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>NEW TESTAMENT</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>
GENESIS 26:12-13	Stewardship	MATTHEW 5:42	Giving
EXODUS 22:24	Lending	MATTHEW 6:3-4	Giving
EXODUS 34:26	Tithing	MATTHEW 6:19-21	Stewardship
LEVITICUS 19:13	Obedience	MATTHEW 6:24	Stewardship
LEVITICUS 25:35-37	Lending	MATTHEW 6:31-33	Obedience
LEVITICUS 26:9-10	Contentment	MATTHEW 16:24-27	Wealth & Possessions
LEVITICUS 27:30	Tithing	MATTHEW 19:16-21	Wealth & Possessions
DEUTERONOMY 2:7	Contentment	MATTHEW 19:21-26	Wealth & Possessions
DEUTERONOMY 8:18	Obedience	MATTHEW 22:15-22	Taxes
DEUTERONOMY 11:14-15	Contentment	MATTHEW 25:14-30	Stewardship
DEUTERONOMY 15:1-11	Debt	MARK 4:19-20	Wealth & Possessions
DEUTERONOMY 15:6-11	Lending	MARK 8:36	Waste
DEUTERONOMY 23:20	Lending	MARK 10:17-31	Wealth & Possessions
DEUTERONOMY 28:1-6	Obedience	MARK 12:13-17	Taxes
DEUTERONOMY 28:7-14	Obedience	MARK 12:41-44	Tithing
JOSHUA 1:8	Obedience	LUKE 3:11-14	Contentment
2 KINGS 4:1-7	Wealth & Possessions	LUKE 6:24	Waste
1 CHRONICLES 4:10	Provision/Inheritance	LUKE 6:34-36	Giving
1 CHRONICLES 29:9	Obedience	LUKE 6:38	Receiving
2 CHRONICLES 7:12-22	Obedience	LUKE 9:23-27	Wealth & Possessions
PSALMS 23:1	Contentment	LUKE 12:13-15	Love of Money
PSALMS 112:5-6, 9	Lending	LUKE 12:16-21	Love of Money
PROVERBS 3:9-10	Obedience	LUKE 12:33-34	Obedience
PROVERBS 3:27-28	Debt	LUKE 14:27-30	Stewardship
PROVERBS 6:1-5	Co-Signing/Surety	LUKE 15:11-13	Waste
PROVERBS 6:6-11	Stewardship	LUKE 16:1-8	Stewardship
PROVERBS 10:4-5	Obedience	LUKE 16:10-13	Stewardship
PROVERBS 11:15	Co-Signing/Surety	LUKE 16:14-15	Love of Money
PROVERBS 11:24-25	Giving	LUKE 16:19-31	Love of Money
PROVERBS 12:24	Obedience	LUKE 18:18-30	Wealth & Possessions
PROVERBS 13:4	Obedience	LUKE 21:1-4	Tithing
PROVERBS 13:11	Stewardship	JOHN 3:26-27	Receiving
PROVERBS 16:8	Stewardship	JOHN 6:12	Waste
PROVERBS 17:18	Co-Signing/Surety	ACTS 20:35	Giving & Receiving
PROVERBS 21:5	Stewardship	ROMANS 13:1-7	Taxes
PROVERBS 22:8-9	Stewardship	ROMANS 13:8	Debt
PROVERBS 22:16	Stewardship	ROMANS 15:25-29	Giving
PROVERBS 22:26-27	Co-Signing/Surety	1 CORINTHIANS 9:9-12	Receiving
PROVERBS 24:3-4	Obedience	1 CORINTHIANS 16:2	Tithing
PROVERBS 27:12	Stewardship	2 CORINTHIANS 8:9-15	Giving
PROVERBS 27:23-27	Stewardship	2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15	Giving
PROVERBS 28:20	Love of money	GALATIANS 2:10	Giving
ECCLESIASTES 5:7-19	Love of money	GALATIANS 6:7-8	Obedience
ECCLESIASTES 11:1-2	Stewardship	PHILIPPIANS 4:15-16, 19	Giving
JEREMIAH 22:16	Obedience	1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12	Obedience
AMOS 4:4-5	Tithing	1 TIMOTHY 5:17-18	Obedience & Receiving
MALACHI 3:5	Obedience	1 TIMOTHY 6:3-10	Love of Money
MALACHI 3:10	Tithing	HEBREWS 13:5	Contentment
		JAMES 2:15-17	Lending
		JAMES 4:3	Waste
		JAMES 5:1-6	Love of Money
		1 PETER 1:3-5	Provision/Inheritance
		REVELATION 3:15-22	Provision/Inheritance

## **CONTENTMENT**

### **LEVITICUS 26:9-10** (*Reward of Obedience- Leviticus 26:1-13*)

I will look with favor upon you, and make you fruitful and numerous, as I carry out my covenant with you. You shall eat the oldest stored harvest, and have to discard it to make room for the new.

### **DEUTERONOMY 2:7** (*read Northward Along Edom- Deuteronomy 2:1-8*)

Surely, the LORD, your God, has blessed you in all your undertakings; he has been concerned about your journey through this vast wilderness. It is now forty years that the LORD, your God, has been with you, and you have lacked nothing.

### **DEUTERONOMY 11:14-15** (*read The Gift of Rain- Deuteronomy 11:8-17*)

I will give the seasonal rain to your land, the early rain and the late rain, that you may have your grain, wine and oil to gather in; and I will bring forth grass in your fields for your animals. Thus you may eat and be satisfied.

### **PSALMS 23:1**

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.

### **LUKE 3:11-14** (*read The Preaching of John the Baptist- Luke 3:1-20*)

He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him (John the Baptist), "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

### **HEBREWS 13:5**

Let your life be free from love of money but be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never forsake you or abandon you."

## **CO-SIGNING/SURETY**

### **PROVERBS 6:1-5** (*Against Going Surety for One's Neighbor*)

My son, if you have become surety to your neighbor, given your hand in pledge to another, you have been snared by the utterance of your lips, caught by the words of your mouth; So do this, my son, to free yourself, since you have fallen into your neighbor's power: Go, hurry, rouse your neighbor! Give no sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids; free yourself like a gazelle from the hunter, or like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

### **PROVERBS 11:15**

Harm will come to anyone going surety for another, but whoever hates giving pledges is secure.

### **PROVERBS 17:18**

Those without sense give their hands in pledge, becoming surety for their neighbors.

### **PROVERBS 22:26-27**

Do not be one of those who give their hand in pledge, those who become surety for debts; for if you are unable to pay, your bed will be taken from under you.

## **DEBT (see also Co-Signing/Surety)**

### **DEUTERONOMY 15:1-11** (*Debts and the Poor*)

At the end of every seven-year period you shall have a remission of debts, and this is the manner of the remission. Creditors shall remit all claims on loans made to a neighbor, not pressing the neighbor, one who is kin, because the LORD's remission has been proclaimed. You may press a foreigner, but you shall remit the claim on what your kin owes to you. However, since the LORD, your God, will bless you abundantly in the land the LORD, your God, will give you to possess as a heritage, there shall be no one of you in need if you but listen to the voice of the LORD, your God, and carefully observe this entire commandment which I enjoin on you today.

### **PROVERBS 3:27-28** (*read Justice Toward One's Neighbor Brings Blessing- Proverbs 3:21-35*)

Do not withhold any goods from the owner when it is in your power to act. Say not to your neighbor, "Go, come back tomorrow, and I will give it to you," when all the while you have it.

### **ROMANS 13:8** (*read Love Fulfills the Law- Romans 13:8-10*)

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

## **GIVING**

### **PROVERBS 11:24-25**

One person is lavish yet grows still richer; another is too sparing, yet is the poorer. Whoever confers benefits will be amply enriched, and whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

### **MATTHEW 5:42** (*read Teaching about Retaliation- Matthew 5:38-42*)

Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

### **MATTHEW 6:3-4** (*read Teaching about Almsgiving- Matthew 6:1-4*)

But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

### **LUKE 6:34-36** (*read Love of Enemies- Luke 6:27-36*)

If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit [is] that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful.

### **ACTS 20:35** (*read Paul's Farewell Speech at Miletus- Acts 20:17-38*)

In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

### **ROMANS 15:25-29** (*read Paul's Plans- Romans 15:22-33*)

Now, however, I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the holy ones. For Macedonia and Achaia have decided to make some contribution for the poor among the holy ones in Jerusalem; they decided to do it, and in fact they are indebted to them, for if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to serve them in material blessings. So when I have completed this and safely handed over this contribution to them, I shall set out by way of you to Spain; and I know that in coming to you I shall come in the fullness of Christ's blessing.

**2 CORINTHIANS 8:9-15** (*read Generosity in Giving- 2 Corinthians 8:1-15*)

For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And I am giving counsel in this matter, for it is appropriate for you who began not only to act but to act willingly last year: complete it now, so that your eager willingness may be matched by your completion of it out of what you have. For if the eagerness is there, it is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have; not that others should have relief while you are burdened, but that, as a matter of equality, your surplus at the present time should supply their needs, so that their surplus may also supply your needs, that there may be equality. As it is written:

“Whoever had much did not have more, and whoever had little did not have less.”

**2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15**

Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written:

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God, for the administration of this public service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God. Through the evidence of this service, you are glorifying God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all others, while in prayer on your behalf they long for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**PHILIPPIANS 4:15-16, 19** (*read Joy and Peace- Philippians 4:4-23*)

You Philippians indeed know that at the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, not a single church shared with me in an account of giving and receiving, except you alone. For even when I was at Thessalonica you sent me something for my needs, not only once but more than once. My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

**GALATIANS 2:10** (*read The Council of Jerusalem- Galatians 2:1-10*)

Only, we were to be mindful of the poor, which is the very thing I was eager to do.

**LENDING**

**EXODUS 22:24**

If you lend money to my people, the poor among you, you must not be like a money lender; you must not demand interest from them.

**LEVITICUS 25:35-37** (*read Redemption of Property- Leviticus 25:23-55*)

When one of your kindred is reduced to poverty and becomes indebted to you, you shall support that person like a resident alien; let your kindred live with you. Do not exact interest in advance or accrued interest, but out of fear of God let your kindred live with you. Do not give your money at interest or your food at a profit.

**DEUTERONOMY 15:6-11** (*read Debts and the Poor- Deuteronomy 15:1-11*)

Since the LORD, your God, will bless you as he promised, you will lend to many nations, and borrow from none; you will rule over many nations, and none will rule over you. If one of your kindred is in need in any community in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor close your hand against your kin who is in need. Instead, you shall freely open your hand and generously lend what suffices to meet that need. Be careful not to entertain the mean thought, "The seventh year, the year of remission, is near," so that you would begrudge your kin who is in need and give nothing, and your kin would cry to the LORD against you and you would be held guilty. When you give, give generously and not with a stingy heart; for that, the LORD, your God, will bless you in all your works and undertakings.

The land will never lack for needy persons; that is why I command you: "Open your hand freely to your poor and to your needy kin in your land."

**DEUTERONOMY 23:20** (*read Various Precepts- Deuteronomy 23:16-26*)

You shall not demand interest from your kindred on a loan of money or of food or of anything else which is loaned.

**PSALMS 112:5-6, 9**

It is good for the man gracious in lending, who conducts his affairs with justice. For he shall never be shaken; the righteous shall be remembered forever. Lavishly he gives to the poor; his righteousness shall endure forever; his horn shall be exalted in honor.

**JAMES 2:15-17** (*read Faith and Works- James 2:14-26*)

If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

## **LOVE OF MONEY**

**PROVERBS 28:20**

The trustworthy will be richly blessed; but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

**ECCLESIASTES 5:7-19** (*Gain and Loss of Goods*)

If you see oppression of the poor, and violation of rights and justice in the realm, do not be astonished by the fact, for the high official has another higher than he watching him and above these are others higher still. But profitable for a land in such circumstances is a king concerned about cultivation. The covetous are never satisfied with money, nor lovers of wealth with their gain; so this too is vanity. Where there are great riches, there are also many to devour them. Of what use are they to the owner except as a feast for the eyes alone? Sleep is sweet to the laborer, whether there is little or much to eat; but the abundance of the rich allows them no sleep.

This is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: riches hoarded by their owners to their own hurt. Should the riches be lost through some misfortune, they may have offspring when they have no means. As they came forth from their mother's womb, so again shall they return, naked as they came, having nothing from their toil to bring with them. This too is a grievous evil, that they go just as they came. What then does it profit them to toil for the wind? All their days they eat in gloom with great vexation, sickness and resentment.

Here is what I see as good: It is appropriate to eat and drink and prosper from all the toil one toils at under the sun during the limited days of life God gives us; for this is our lot.

<http://stmarymysticalrose.org/stewardship>



Those to whom God gives riches and property, and grants power to partake of them, so that they receive their lot and find joy in the fruits of their toil: This is a gift from God. For they will hardly dwell on the shortness of life, because God lets them busy themselves with the joy of their heart.

**LUKE 12:13-15** (*Saying against Greed*)

Someone in the crowd said to him (Jesus), "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." He replied to him, "Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?" Then he said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

**LUKE 12:16-21** (*Parable of the Rich Fool*)

Then he (Jesus) told them a parable. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?' And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, "Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!"' But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God."

**LUKE 16:14-15** (*A Saying against the Pharisees*) - read Luke 16:10-13 in *Stewardship*

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all these things and sneered at him. And he said to them, "You justify yourselves in the sight of others, but God knows your hearts; for what is of human esteem is an abomination in the sight of God."

**LUKE 16:19-31** (*The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus*)

"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.' Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.' But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"

**JAMES 5:1-6** (*Warning to the Rich*)

Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire. You have stored up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous one; he offers you no resistance.

**1 TIMOTHY 6:3-10** (*Teach and Urge These Things*)

Whoever teaches something different and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the religious teaching is conceited, understanding nothing, and has a morbid disposition for arguments and verbal disputes. From these come envy, rivalry, insults, evil suspicions, and mutual friction among people with corrupted minds, who are deprived of the truth, supposing religion to be a means of gain. Indeed, religion with contentment is a great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, just as we shall not be able to take anything out of it. If we have food and clothing, we shall be content with that. Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and into a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils, and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains.

**OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD**

**LEVITICUS 19:13** (*read Various Rules of Conduct- Leviticus 19:1-37*)

You shall not exploit your neighbor. You shall not commit robbery. You shall not withhold overnight the wages of your laborer.

**DEUTERONOMY 8:18** (*read Cautions About Prosperity- Deuteronomy 8:7-20*)

Remember then the LORD, your God, for he is the one who gives you the power to get wealth, by fulfilling, as he has now done, the covenant he swore to your ancestors.

**DEUTERONOMY 28:1-6** (*Blessings for Obedience*)

Now, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD, your God, carefully observing all his commandments which I give you today, the LORD, your God, will set you high above all the nations of the earth. All these blessings will come upon you and overwhelm you when you obey the voice of the LORD, your God:

"May you be blessed in the city, and blessed in the country! Blessed be the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock, the issue of your herds and the young of your flocks! Blessed be your grain basket and your kneading bowl! May you be blessed in your coming in, and blessed in your going out!"

**DEUTERONOMY 28:7-14** (*Victory and Prosperity*)

The LORD will beat down before you the enemies that rise up against you; they will come out against you from one direction, and flee before you in seven. The LORD will affirm the blessing upon you, on your barns and on all your undertakings; he will bless you in the land that the LORD, your God, is giving you. The LORD will establish you as a holy people, as he swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD, your God, and walk in his ways. All the peoples of the earth will see that the name of the LORD is proclaimed over you, and they will be afraid of you. The LORD will generously increase the fruit of your womb, the offspring of your livestock, and the produce of your soil, upon the land which the LORD swore to your ancestors he would give you. The LORD will open up for you his rich storehouse, the heavens, to give your land rain in due season and to bless all the works of your hands. You will lend to many nations but borrow from none. The LORD will make you the head not the tail, the top not the bottom, if you obey the commandments of the LORD, your God, which I am giving you today, observing them carefully, not turning aside, either to the right or to the left, from any of the words which I am giving you today, following other gods and serving them.



**JOSHUA 1:8** (*read Divine Promise of Assistance- Joshua 1:1-11*)

Do not let this book of the law depart from your lips. Recite it by day and by night, that you may carefully observe all that is written in it; then you will attain your goal; then you will succeed.

**1 CHRONICLES 29:9** (*read Offerings for the Temple- 1 Chronicles 29:1-9*)

The people rejoiced over these free-will offerings, for they had been contributed to the LORD wholeheartedly. King David also rejoiced greatly.

**PROVERBS 3:9-10**

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with first fruits of all your produce; then will your barns be filled with plenty, with new wine your vats will overflow.

**PROVERBS 10:4-5**

The slack hand impoverishes, but the busy hand brings riches. A son who gathers in summer is a credit; a son who slumbers during harvest, a disgrace.

**PROVERBS 12:24**

The diligent hand will govern, but sloth makes for forced labor.

**PROVERBS 13:4**

The appetite of the sluggard craves but has nothing, but the appetite of the diligent is amply satisfied.

**PROVERBS 24:3-4**

By wisdom a house is built, by understanding it is established; and by knowledge its rooms are filled with every precious and pleasing possession.

**JEREMIAH 22:16**

Because he dispensed justice to the weak and the poor, he prospered. Is this not to know me?—oracle of the LORD.

**MALACHI 3:5** (*read Messenger of the Covenant- Malachi 3:1-5*)

I will draw near to you for judgment, and I will be swift to bear witness against sorcerers, adulterers, and perjurers, those who deprive a laborer of wages, oppress a widow or an orphan, or turn aside a resident alien, without fearing me, says the LORD of hosts.

**MATTHEW 6:31-33** (*read Dependence on God- Matthew 6:25-34*)

So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.

**LUKE 12:33-34** (*read Dependence on God- Luke 12:22-34*)

Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

**GALATIANS 6:7-8** (*read Life in the Community of Christ- Galatians 6:1-10*)

Make no mistake: God is not mocked, for a person will reap only what he sows, because the one who sows for his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows for the spirit will reap eternal life from the spirit.

### **1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12** (*Mutual Charity*)

On the subject of mutual charity you have no need for anyone to write you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another. Indeed, you do this for all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Nevertheless we urge you, brothers, to progress even more, and to aspire to live a tranquil life, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your [own] hands, as we instructed you, that you may conduct yourselves properly toward outsiders and not depend on anyone.

### **1 TIMOTHY 5:17-18** (*read Rules for Presbyters- 1 Timothy 5:17-25*)

Presbyters who preside well deserve double honor, especially those who toil in preaching and teaching. For the scripture says,

“You shall not muzzle an ox when it is threshing,” and, “A worker deserves his pay.”

## **PROVISION/INHERITANCE**

### **1 CHRONICLES 4:10**

Jabez prayed to the God of Israel: “Oh, that you may truly bless me and extend my boundaries! May your hand be with me and make me free of misfortune, without pain!” And God granted his prayer.

### **1 PETER 1:3-5** (*Blessing*)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.

### **REVELATION 3:15-22**

“I know your works; I know that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, ‘I am rich and affluent and have no need of anything,’ and yet do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich, and white garments to put on so that your shameful nakedness may not be exposed, and buy ointment to smear on your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and chastise. Be earnest, therefore, and repent.

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me. I will give the victor the right to sit with me on my throne, as I myself first won the victory and sit with my Father on his throne.

“Whoever has ears ought to hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

## **RECEIVING**

### **LUKE 6:38**

Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will- in return- be measured out to you.

**JOHN 3:26-27** (*read Final Witness of the Baptist- John 3:22-30*)

So they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing and everyone is coming to him." John answered and said, "No one can receive anything except what has been given him from heaven."

**ACTS 20:35-** also under GIVING (*read Paul's Farewell Speech at Miletus- Acts 20:17-38*)

In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

**1 CORINTHIANS 9:9-12** (*read Paul's Rights as an Apostle- 1 Corinthians 1-18*)

It is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is God concerned about oxen, or is he not really speaking for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope, and the thresher in hope of receiving a share. If we have sown spiritual seed for you, is it a great thing that we reap a material harvest from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we still more?

**1 TIMOTHY 5:18** (*read Rules for Presbyters- 1 Timothy 5:17-25*)

For the scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is threshing," and, "A worker deserves his pay."

## **STEWARDSHIP**

**GENESIS 26:12-13**

Isaac sowed a crop in that region and reaped a hundredfold the same year. Since the LORD blessed him, he became richer and richer all the time, until he was very wealthy.

**PROVERBS 6:6-11** (*The Ant and the Sluggard at Harvest*)

Go to the ant, O sluggard, study her ways and learn wisdom; for though she has no chief, no commander or ruler, she procures her food in the summer, stores up her provisions in the harvest. How long, O sluggard, will you lie there? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the arms to rest- then poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like a brigand.

**PROVERBS 13:11**

Wealth won quickly dwindles away, but gathered little by little, it grows.

**PROVERBS 16:8**

Better a little with justice, than a large income with injustice.

**PROVERBS 21:5**

The plans of the diligent end in profit, but those of the hasty end in loss.

**PROVERBS 22:8-9**

Those who sow iniquity reap calamity, and the rod used in anger will fail.

**PROVERBS 22:16**

Oppressing the poor for enrichment, giving to the rich: both are sheer loss.

**PROVERBS 27:12**

The astute see an evil and hide; the naive continue on and pay the penalty.

**PROVERBS 27:23-27**

Take good care of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for wealth does not last forever, nor even a crown from age to age. When the grass comes up and the new growth appears, and the mountain greens are gathered in, the lambs will provide you with clothing, and the goats, the price of a field, and there will be ample goat's milk for your food, food for your house, sustenance for your maidens.

**ECCLESIASTES 11:1-2**

Send forth your bread upon the face of the waters; after a long time you may find it again. Make seven, or even eight portions; you know not what misfortune may come upon the earth.

**MATTHEW 6:19-21** (*Treasure in Heaven*)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

**MATTHEW 6:24** (*God and Money*)

“No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

**MATTHEW 25:14-30** (*Parable of the Talents*)

“It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.’ [Then] the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.’ Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.’ His master said to him in reply, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’

**LUKE 14:27-30** (*read Sayings on Discipleship- Luke 14:25-33*)

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?

Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, ‘This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.’

**LUKE 16:1-8** (*Parable of the Dishonest Steward*)

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Then he also said to his disciples, "A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.' The steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.' He called in his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.' Then to another he said, 'And you, how much do you owe?' He replied, 'One hundred kors of wheat.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.' And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently.

**LUKE 16:10-13** (*read Application of the Parable of the Dishonest Steward- Luke 16:9-13*)

The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant can serve two masters.\* He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

## TAXES

**MATTHEW 22:15-22** (*Paying Taxes to the Emperor*)

Then the Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap him in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." When they heard this they were amazed, and leaving him they went away.

**MARK 12:13-17** (*Paying Taxes to the Emperor*)

They sent some Pharisees and Herodians to him to ensnare him in his speech. They came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you are not concerned with anyone's opinion. You do not regard a person's status but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay or should we not pay?" Knowing their hypocrisy he said to them, "Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius to look at." They brought one to him and he said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They replied to him, "Caesar's." So Jesus said to them, "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." They were utterly amazed at him.

**ROMANS 13:1-7** (*Obedience in Authority*)

Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been established by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority opposes what God has appointed, and those who oppose it will bring judgment upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear to good conduct, but to evil. Do you wish to have no fear of authority? Then do what is good and you will receive approval from it, for it is a servant of God for your good. But if you do evil, be

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afraid, for it does not bear the sword without purpose; it is the servant of God to inflict wrath on the evildoer. Therefore, it is necessary to be subject not only because of the wrath but also because of conscience. This is why you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Pay to all their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, toll to whom toll is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

## **TITHING**

**EXODUS 34:26** (*read Religious Laws- Exodus 34:10-26*)

The choicest first fruits of your soil you shall bring to the house of the LORD, your God.

**LEVITICUS 27:30** (*read Irredeemable Offerings- Leviticus 27:26-34*)

All tithes of the land, whether in grain from the fields or in fruit from the trees, belong to the LORD; they are sacred to the LORD.

**AMOS 4:4-5**

Come to Bethel and sin, to Gilgal and sin all the more! Each morning bring your sacrifices, every third day your tithes; Burn leavened bread as a thanksgiving sacrifice, proclaim publicly your voluntary offerings, for so you love to do, Israelites—oracle of the Lord GOD.

**MALACHI 3:10**

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, and see if I do not open the floodgates of heaven for you, and pour down upon you blessing without measure!

**MARK 12:41-44** (*The Poor Widow's Contribution*)

He (Jesus) sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

**LUKE 21:1-4** (*The Poor Widow's Contribution*)

When he looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and he noticed a poor widow putting in 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."

**1 CORINTHIANS 16:2** (*read The Collection- 1 Corinthians 16:1-4*)

On the first day of the week each of you should set aside and save whatever one can afford, so that collections will not be going on when I come.

## **WASTE**

**MARK 8:36** (*read The Conditions of Discipleship- Mark 8:34-38*)

What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?

**LUKE 6:24** (*read Sermon on the Plain- Luke 6:20-26*)

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But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

**LUKE 15:11-13** (*read The Parable of The Lost Son- Luke 15:11-32*)

Then he said, "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.

**JOHN 6:12** (*read Multiplication of the Loaves- John 6:1-15*)

When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted."

**JAMES 4:3** (*read Causes of Division- James 4:1-12*)

You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

## **WEALTH AND POSSESSIONS**

**2 KINGS 4:1-7** (*The Widow's Oil*)

A certain woman, the widow of one of the guild prophets, cried out to Elisha: "My husband, your servant, is dead. You know that he revered the LORD, yet now his creditor has come to take my two children into servitude." Elisha answered her, "What am I to do for you? Tell me what you have in the house." She replied, "This servant of yours has nothing in the house but a jug of oil." He said, "Go out, borrow vessels from all your neighbors—as many empty vessels as you can. Then come back and close the door on yourself and your children; pour the oil into all the vessels, and as each is filled, set it aside." So she went out. She closed the door on herself and her children and, as they handed her the vessels, she would pour in oil. When all the vessels were filled, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." He answered, "There is none left." And then the oil stopped. She went and told the man of God, who said, "Go sell the oil to pay off your creditor; with what remains, you and your children can live."

**MATTHEW 16:24-27** (*The Conditions of Discipleship*)

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct. Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

**MATTHEW 19:16-21** (*The Rich Young Man*)

Now someone approached him and said, "Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?" He answered him, "Why do you ask me about the good? There is only One who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." He asked him, "Which ones?"

And Jesus replied, "'You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother'; and 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The young man said to him, "All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

**MATTHEW 19:21-26** (read *The Rich Young Man- Matthew 19:16-30*)

Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this statement, he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

**MARK 4:19-20**

...but worldly anxiety, the lure of riches, and the craving for other things intrude and choke the WORD, and it bears no fruit. But those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the WORD and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.

**MARK 10:17-31** (*The Rich Man*)

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.'" He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through [the] eye of [a] needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God." Peter began to say to him, "We have given up everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come. But many that are first will be last, and [the] last will be first."

**LUKE 9:23-27** (*The Conditions of Discipleship*)

Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself? Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. Truly I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

**LUKE 18:18-23** (*The Rich Official*) & **LUKE 24-30** (*On Riches and Renunciation*)

An official asked him this question, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother.'" And he replied, "All of these I have observed from my youth." When Jesus heard this he said to him, "There is still one thing left for you: sell all that you have and dis-

tribute it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." But when he heard this he became quite sad, for he was very rich.

Jesus looked at him [now sad] and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard this said, "Then who can be saved?" And he said, "What is impossible for human beings is possible for God." Then Peter said, "We have given up our possessions and followed you." He said to them, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God who will not receive [back] an overabundant return in this present age and eternal life in the age to come."

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

### MONEY

"He who loves money never has enough money," **2536**

idolatry and the divinizing of, **2113, 2172, 2424**

prohibition of loans at interest, **2449**

simony, **2121**

**2536:** The tenth commandment forbids greed and the desire to amass earthly goods without limit. It forbids avarice arising from a passion for riches and their attendant power. It also forbids the desire to commit injustice by harming our neighbor in his temporal goods:

When the Law says, "You shall not covet," these words mean that we should banish our desires for whatever does not belong to us. Our thirst for another's goods is immense, infinite, never quenched. Thus it is written: "He who loves money never has money enough." 321

**2113:** Idolatry not only refers to false pagan worship. It remains a constant temptation to faith. Idolatry consists in divinizing what is not God. Man commits idolatry whenever he honors and reveres a creature in place of God, whether this be gods or demons (for example, satanism), power, pleasure, race, ancestors, the state, money, etc. Jesus says, "You cannot serve God and mammon."<sup>44</sup> Many martyrs died for not adoring "the Beast"<sup>45</sup> refusing even to simulate such worship. Idolatry rejects the unique Lordship of God; it is therefore incompatible with communion with God.<sup>46</sup>

**2172:** God's action is the model for human action. If God "rested and was refreshed" on the seventh day, man too ought to "rest" and should let others, especially the poor, "be refreshed."<sup>96</sup> The sabbath brings everyday work to a halt and provides a respite. It is a day of protest against the servitude of work and the worship of money.<sup>97</sup>

**2424:** A theory that makes profit the exclusive norm and ultimate end of economic activity is morally unacceptable. The disordered desire for money cannot but produce perverse effects. It is one of the causes of the many conflicts which disturb the social order.<sup>204</sup>

A system that "subordinates the basic rights of individuals and of groups to the collective organization of production" is contrary to human dignity. <sup>205</sup> Every practice that reduces persons to nothing more than a means of profit enslaves man, leads to idolizing money, and contributes to the spread of atheism. "You cannot serve God and mammon."<sup>206</sup>

**2449:** Beginning with the Old Testament, all kinds of juridical measures (the jubilee year of forgiveness of debts, prohibition of loans at interest and the keeping of collateral, the obligation to tithe, the daily payment of the day-laborer, the right to glean vines and fields) answer the exhortation of Deuteronomy: "For the poor will never cease out of the land; therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor in the land.'"<sup>249</sup> Jesus makes these words his own: "The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."<sup>250</sup> In so doing he does not soften the vehemence of former oracles against "buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals . . .," but invites us to recognize his own presence in the poor who are his brethren: <sup>251</sup> When her mother reproached her for caring for the poor and the sick at home, St. Rose of Lima said to her: "When we serve the poor and the sick, we serve Jesus. We must not fail to help our neighbors, because in them we serve Jesus. <sup>252</sup>

**2121** Simony is defined as the buying or selling of spiritual things.<sup>53</sup> To Simon the magician, who wanted to buy the spiritual power he saw at work in the apostles, St. Peter responded: "Your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money!"<sup>54</sup> Peter thus held to the words of Jesus: "You received without pay, give without pay."<sup>55</sup> It is impossible to appropriate to oneself spiritual goods and behave toward them as their owner or master, for they have their source in God. One can receive them only from him, without payment.

#### References:

- 321 Roman Catechism, III,37; cf. Sir 5:8.
- 44 Mt 6:24.
- 45 Cf. Rev 13-14.
- 46 Cf. Gal 5:20; Eph 5:5.
- 96 Ex 31:17; cf. 23:12.
- 97 Cf. Neh 13:15-22; 2 Chr 36:21.
- 204 Cf. GS 63 § 3; LE 7; 20; CA 35.
- 205 GS 65 § 2.
- 206 Mt 6:24; Lk 16:13.
- 249 Deut 15:11.
- 250 Jn 12:8.
- 251 Am 8:6; cf. Mt 25:40.
- 252 P. Hansen, *Vita mirabilis* (Louvain, 1668).
- 53 Cf. Acts 8:9-24.
- 54 Acts 8:20.
- 55 Mt 10:8; cf. already Isa 55:1.