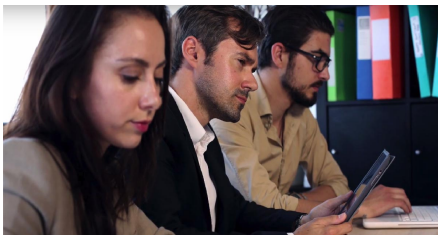


St. Mark RCIA Study Guide

The Theological Virtues Study Guide

1. If you remember from last week, what are the three elements of the moral act? What do the elements of the moral act have to do with the theological virtues of faith, hope and love?

2. How do the theological virtues of faith, hope and love direct our conscience towards God?



3. “Holiness is Wholeness” Describe someone you personally know who you think is a whole person? What role did the theological virtues play in their choices, if any?

4. What is your understanding of grace and sin? What role do the theological virtues play in the opposition of grace to sin?

Points to Ponder

Grace and Virtue:

In addition, God’s grace is offered to us to purify and strengthen our human virtues, for our growth in virtue can be hampered by the reality of sin. Especially through prayer and the Sacraments, we open ourselves to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and God’s grace as another way in which we grow in virtue.

5. The “ceaseless suck of self” or turning in on yourself is what we think of as sin. Sin is an offense against God. How do the theological virtues help us to respond to grace and resist sin?

6. Is it possible to be sinless by working really hard?

7. Do you think the essence of religion is being good or is it the life of grace? Is there a difference? We can trust in God’s grace but, do you think it is possible to presume and to take God’s grace for granted?

Points to Ponder

Theological Virtues:

The Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity (love) are those virtues that relate directly to God. These are not acquired through human effort but, beginning with Baptism, they are infused within us as gifts from God. They dispose us to live in relationship with the Holy Trinity. Faith, hope, and charity influence human virtues by increasing their stability and strength for our lives. Each of the Ten Commandments forbids certain sins, but each also points to virtues that will help us avoid such sins. Virtues such as generosity, poverty of spirit, gentleness, purity of heart, temperance, and fortitude assist us in overcoming and avoiding what are called the seven deadly or Capital Sins.