

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish  
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## **Lesson nr. 6 – Tuesday, November 10, 2020.**

### **Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students of St. Thomas The Apostle Church in Norwalk, CT: Handout #1**

- After a second month of our classes already, I hope that you see how much you have already covered (learned); not only now, but through your entire Religious Education Program, beginning with Grade 1 and then Sacramental Grade 2 with 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and First Communion.
- Now, in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade we are trying to RE – CAPITUALTE all you have learned all these years and we try to see all that material in a **NEW PERSPECTIVE**.
- That takes some adjustments in our UNDERSTANDING of **4 MAJOR ELEMENTS** of our CATHOLIC IDENTITY, that is:
  - A) **SACRED SCRIPTURE** (The BIBLE, or the REVELATION) that is a SOURCE of our FAITH and along with a:
  - B) **TRADITION and MAGISTERIUM** (see handout nr.1 class nr. 4 and 5) forms the complete RESOURCE to fully (or better) understand and attain to God’s REVELATION to humanity. This is best described on the pages of CCC (Catechism of Catholic Church).
  - C) **PRAYER LIFE and the MORALITY/ETHICS** teachings of the Catholic Church are also a very important component, implicating the STRENGHT, VIABILITY and FAITHFUL FOLLOWING in the GOSPEL TEACHINGS of JESUS CHRIST to hopefully to the 4<sup>th</sup> and very visible component (dimension) of our Catholic Church which is it’s **MISSIONARY ACTIVITY** lined out in:

- D) **CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING**, that over the centuries of experience have crafted for us **GOSPEL BASED** directions and directives how to **BEST CARE** for our most **DISADVANTAGED** and **OPRESSED** brothers and sisters.
- In addition to building a **BASE VOCABULARY** and a **LIBRARY** of resources to better **NAVIGATE** through the **BIBLE**, to better understand **WHAT BIBLE IS** and what the **BIBLE** is **NOT**, to put into perspective all of the mentioned above, we have also asked some very **IMPORTANT** and quite frankly **DIFFICULT QUESTIONS** so far; for example:
    - 1) **How do we UNDERSTAND the BIBLE?** Do we really see it as a **LIBRARY** (ta bible ta hagia – a collection of Holy Books) **RELIGIOUS BOOKS?**
    - 2) **Difficulty with INTERPRETING the Book of Genesis** (especially so called: **CREATION NARRATIVES**) – remember the **HW**: Did Adam and Eve have belly buttons or not?
    - 3) Adjustment to **FAITH – BASED, RELIGION** oriented, **VOCABULARY**; make the **REVELATION** relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
    - 4) What is the **CATHOLIC** position concerning **belief – or unbelief – in evolution?** The questions related to the **TOPIC** are most coherently answered with the following: Existence of Immortal souls? The mystery and the **RELATIVITY** of **TIME, MONO – GENIM** or **POLY – GENISM?**

Now, tonight, I would like to **REVIEW** with you the idea of how **RELATIVISM** (especially in morality, ethics and philosophy) is **DIFFERENT** from **RELATIVITY THEORIES** and its implications in real life.