

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish
Religious Education Office
203 East Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06855
Tel: (203) 866 1189
<http://stthomasnorwalk.com>

Lesson nr. 7 and 8 – Tuesday, November 17, 2020. – 8th Grade HANDOUT number # 1

You might remember (after all it has not been that long ago; only last Tuesday) I hope the idea that we, as Catholic Christians should understand, **read and promote the BIBLE in a very specific CODE** (recall;? Like in a specific KEY – like music, could be read, played and composed in various keys)

- Such exercise would help us to build up a practice and a discipline to study the Sacred Scripture and maybe even to LIVE by the Bible, more specifically, by the New Testament or Gospels about Jesus' standards.
- To draw a BLUEPRINT, or as you practice in your LOCAL SCHOOLS – a MAPPING (to set specific goals to be achieved by very specific methods, or ways of pursuit, approaching, learning, studying) takes some very specific steps: like an architect, who is planning to build a house for example, right?; he or she needs to plan it, - maybe first in their head, mind, before they even start with the drawings, then going deeper, they sketch a BLUEPRINT of not only the frame, physical structure of the house, but add electrical paneling, plumbing, heating and air conditioning maybe?
- And, my Friends in Christ, to approach the story of Jesus, the BIBLE in general, it could benefit you very much to take a similar approach. Namely, to plan some steps of ACTION, and setting up your GOAL, plan and execute the STEPS (methods) to pursue and achieve it.
- The Biblical Account of the **EXODUS** (remember what the word EXODUS stands for, right?) is one of those examples of how you could start reading your own BIBLE (not from the First to the Last book, or from A to Z,) but simply to start READING, studying, exploring something (or someone: **like Moses**) and then ZOOM back and forth, or ZOOM in and out on Moses, his family, events and

people surrounding Him, like, for instance, His relationship with the Pharaoh of that time, why Moses was asked – and then eventually even convinced Pharaoh that he and his people need to EXODUS – exit – Egypt, what happens during their journey toward the Promised Land, etc., etc. During our last class, we tried to remind ourselves as much as we possibly could, about the Book of Exodus; and you have already learned so much from this Book of the Bible; (the name of God, 10 Commandments, meaning of food called MANNA in the desert, etc.).

- Tonight I would like to challenge you to see all that you have learned since your 2nd Grade in Religious Education Program in a completely new perspective. That is, for instance, you all have studied and still remember the 10 Commandments, right?
- Yet the challenge would be to see **HOW, and possibly WHY** all that **DEKA LOGOI** (from Greek: Ten Words, therefore you have the word; Decalogue – 10 Commandments), why the **10 COMMANDMENTS are as relevant today** as they were almost 3500 years ago and every decade in between – first by the Jewish people of faith in One God, and now by followers of Jesus as well?
- Maybe we could even see and try to explain why that is, so in many places, among many groups of people, sadly even the people of faiths sometimes, the 10 COMMANDMENTS are becoming merely 10 SUGGESTIONS?
- Why is that for instance, that what is **GOOD, TRUE and NOBLE** or **EVIL, FALSE** and quite frankly **DANGEROUS**, is not so for many others? What makes something good? What constitutes something or someone truthful? What makes something or someone evil?
- These, and many others, are **REASONS ENOUGH** for me to introduce you to (or introduce to you) the **Theory of Relativity** and how it **DIFFERS** from an overwhelming **RELATIVISM – especially MORAL RELATIVISM** that one experiences today.