

Natural Law. Summary of Fr. Michael's Homily from the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

God teaches us about various laws through His Church. Today the focus will be on the Natural Law.

What is law? Law is a (1) rule of conduct (2) enacted by a competent authority (3) for the purpose of governing human activity (4) for the sake of the common good.

Eternal Law – God is our Creator, and He has a plan for the world. St. Augustine stated: Eternal Law is “the reason or the will of God, Who commands us to respect the natural order and forbids us to disturb it.” In the song, “Let All Things Now Living, we see a glimpse of the Eternal Law. See some of the lyrics: *His law He enforces, the stars in their courses, The sun in his orbit obediently shine, The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, The depths of the ocean proclaim Him divine.*

Natural Law – rule of reason, promulgated by God in our human nature, whereby we can discern how we should act. The first thing in our hearts: good is to be done and pursued, and evil is to be avoided. St. Augustine said, “The Natural Law is nothing other than the light of understanding placed in us by God; through it we know what we must do and what we must avoid.” Someone who has never heard of Jesus has the Natural Law “written” in her/his heart to some degree. Here are a few things written in our hearts:

1. To seek the good, including the highest good, which is eternal happiness with God. (Commandments 1-3)
2. To preserve ourselves. (Commandment 5)
3. To preserve the human race. (Properly married, open to having babies).
4. To live in community. (Commandments 4-10).
5. To use our intellect and will—to know the truth and make good decisions.

Think about this: A car manufacturer gives you instructions on how to take care of your car so that it will work well. Get regular checkups, put gas in it, change the oil, etc. Well, God is our Manufacturer (He created us) and He wants us to operate at peak performance. If we follow His rules written in our hearts using our reason, and take time to learn His Divine Law in order to get details, we do well (“spiritual physics”). We have a duty to teach others

these laws. When we don't follow God and His truth, we do badly. The consequences are devastating.

Divine Law – Revelation from God, which includes the Old Testament and the New Testament. It was necessary for God to speak to us—to give us Divine Law—because:

1. God wanted to show us that our goal is to be with Him in heaven, so He gave us instructions.
2. Our human judgment is uncertain, so God wanted to give us rules to follow, especially to make decisions on even small matters.
3. We are incompetent to judge interior thoughts and exterior actions. Human law cannot guide us always. For example, regarding the sixth commandment, Jesus gave us interior rules. He basically told us that if we look at another person lustfully, we have already committed adultery.
4. Human law cannot punish or forbid all evil deeds, so God had to give us His laws.

Here are some simple examples of Divine Law from the readings from October 6.

1. **Ps 95:** “Come, let us joyfully sing to the Lord; let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation... Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the Lord who made us.” God is giving us more detail to the Natural Law that is already written in our hearts. See number 1 under Natural Law.
2. **2 Tim 1:6-7:** “Stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.” We have a duty to improve ourselves; see number 5 under Natural Law.
3. [Not from October 6] **1 Cor 6:9-11:** “Do not be deceived; neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor boy prostitutes nor sodomites [homosexual activity] nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor robbers will inherit the Kingdom of God. That is what some of you used to be; but now you have had yourselves washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” So God directs us to avoid these evils and to accept His grace to overcome our sinful inclinations.

St. Irenaeus gives us a quick summary of the Natural Law and Divine Law: “From the beginning, God had implanted in the heart of man the precepts of the Natural Law. Then He was content to remind him of them. This was the Decalogue [10 Commandments].”

Human Law – “an ordinance of reason for the common good, made by him who has care of the community, and promulgated.” This is a leader of a region making good laws using right reason (prudence) for all of us, and making these laws known to everyone. Simple examples include speed limits, paying our taxes on time, respecting property, etc.

Natural Law has been around forever, and it’s not just a Catholic thing. Here are two quick examples:

-Marcus Cicero (106-43 B.C.). Law is “the highest reason, implanted in Nature, which commands us what ought to be done and forbids the opposite.”

-Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804). “No tribunal, no codes, no systems can repeal or impair this law of God, for by His eternal laws, it is inherent in the nature of things.”

Human laws must be made based on Eternal Law, Divine Law, and Natural Law. St. Thomas Aquinas said that human laws that are not based on Natural Law are unjust and perverse. Unfortunately, physician-assisted suicide is “legal” in Colorado. This is a human law that goes against all of God’s laws. The consequences are devastating. Here are a few: The person killed jeopardized greatly his/her chance of getting into heaven. The person neglected to offer up the sufferings as a prayer. Those who knew the person and the doctors and nurses involved are affected emotionally and psychologically. Obviously, abortion is an evil human law and it is legal. It does not match up with Divine and Natural Law. The side effects of an abortion are enormous. Depression, anger, guilt, and shame are just a few. Ask our parishioner Pat Pulliam. She will give you details.

How did we get to a place where there are evil human laws in our country? When did it begin? The Pre-Enlightenment and Enlightenment period killed us! This timeframe rejected the teachings of God through the Catholic Church. The attitude was: “We no longer believe these traditions; we can make up our own minds.” This led to relativism – “I decide what the truth is. You have yours, I have mine.” “There is no objective truth.” This led to nihilism – the philosophy of nothingness. Life is no more than an occasion for selfish sensuality and experiences (that really are not important, and many are plain sinful)! This is why the suicide rate continues to rise. If there is no connection to God and life is meaningless, when the pleasure and “good experiences” run out, someone is tempted to end his or her life.

St. Thomas said mankind is social by nature. The Enlightenment philosophers say that a person is an autonomous individual that is capable of being social. Rugged individualism developed: “No one is going to tell me what to do. I will choose when I need someone.” Some of the “evil philosophers”:
(1) Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679): Law should be a social contract theory between the state and the individual—achieve security. (2) John Locke (1632-1704): protection of rights. (3) Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778): implement the general will.

In the social contract between the state and the people, rights come from the state and not from God! If the State is foolish, the people become foolish.

We know that the Nazis wrote their own laws to suit them. The Nazis said that Jews were not persons and could be killed or experimented upon. So the USA wrote their own laws to suit itself. Unborn persons are not persons, so they can be killed or experimented upon. Throw out God and His Laws, and then things don’t go well for persons and, consequently, society.

After the war when the Nazi soldiers went to trial, for a defense many just said they were following the law. And what did the Jewish court bring out? Natural Law. The Nazis had violated a fundamental law written in our hearts: preserve life. The killing of innocent life is against the Natural Law!

When we have justices interviewed for the Supreme Court, the “bad guys” immediately try to find out if the candidate is a proponent of the Natural Law (and/or Divine Law). If he or she is, they vote against him or her.

Vladimir Lenin is sometimes credited with the term “useful idiot.” The term refers to someone who is uneducated and goes along with an evil cause that he or she does not fully understand. If we follow God, we are His faithful servants. If we go along with people and laws that are against God, we become “useful idiots” of the devil and his minions. [Thanks for reading about these Church moral issues!]

Let us pray: **Almighty God, I want to be Your faithful servant. Give me the courage to learn Your laws and teach them to others for their own good. Also, give me the courage to call out people who are lying or teaching falsehoods. For You are the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.**

World Apostolate of Fatima October 13 Celebration

Sunday at Our Lady of the Snow we will celebrate the 102nd anniversary of the day the sun danced in Fatima, Portugal. Over 70,000 people saw this miracle that showed that the message that Our Lady gave to the three shepherd children was true. Mary told us to pray the Rosary every day!

The Musicians of St. Clare will provide the music at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. After Mass there will be a Rosary procession and a potluck meal. Also, you can be enrolled in the brown scapular. There will be a number of people driving up from Denver for this event.

Family Star-gazing Party, October 18, at 6:30 p.m.

Friday evening, October 18 at Our Lady of the Snow. Telescopes, dark skies, and God's grandeur. We'll have a simple meal, s'mores around a fire, and a chance to wonder at God's creation. Please call Fr. Peter if you are coming so that he knows how much food to prepare, and if you are interested in helping.

St. Anne Harvest Party

Sorry. This has been canceled.

St. Faustina Movie in Denver, October 28 (Monday)

Annette Charnecki will be driving to the movie (*Love and Mercy*) at the Regal Colorado Mills 16 Theater in Lakewood. If anyone is interested in joining her, you can reach her at 970-281-2011.

Outstanding Summary of the Faith in Pictures

See: <https://manifestooffaith.com/> This video is only 22 minutes in length.

Mass Schedule for All Saints: Holy Day of Obligation

-Thursday, October 31

St. Ignatius, 5:30 p.m.

-Friday, November 1

St. Bernard, 8:30 a.m.

St. Anne, 5 p.m.

Our Lady, 6:45 p.m.

St. Peter, 6:30 p.m.

Religious Education (RE) at Our Lady of the Snow on Thursday, October 31, is Cancelled

All Souls Envelopes; All Souls Day is November 2

If you receive collection envelopes, you have an All Souls envelope in your box. Please think about your beloved deceased and put your envelope with a donation in the collection no later than October 27 so we can place envelopes on the altar and pray for your beloved by name—seven Masses in November.

If you don't receive envelopes, you can create your own and be sure to place names and a donation inside.

All money received goes to pay for *Totus Tuus* Vacation Bible School.

Wisdom of *The Dialogue* of St. Catherine

Summary of Chapter 34. Another sin is to desire power. God the Father says some "are so bloated with power in their hands that the standard they carry is injustice." "They are unjust to themselves by not being virtuous as they owe it to themselves to be. They do not give Me the honor that is My due, nor praise My name as is their duty, but like thieves they steal what is mine and put it to the service of their own sensuality."

They fail to recognize Jesus because they lose the light of reason. They are "unjust to themselves and to Me and to their neighbors as well" and they are stuck in the flesh.

Calendar of Events

-Oct 13 (Sun). Our Lady of Fatima Celebration at OLS. Mass at 9:30 a.m., Rosary procession, and a potluck meal.

-12-13 Oct. Second Collection for Retired/Infirm Priests.

-Nov 1 (Fri). All Saints Day: Holy Day of Obligation.

-Nov 2 (Sat). All Souls Mass, OLS, 9:30 a.m.

Mass Collections, October 5 – 6

St. Anne	\$ 1497
St. Bernard	924
Our Lady of the Snow	2500
St. Peter	956
St. Ignatius	1266
Total	\$ 7143

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

Sat—Men in our boundaries called to the priesthood

Sun—Women in our boundaries called to consecrated life

Mon—Men applying for formation for priesthood

Tue—Women applying for formation for sisterhood

Wed—St. John Vianney Seminary staff

Thu—*Redemptoris Mater* Seminary staff

Fri—Men and women applying for formation

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Oct 12, StA, 5 p.m., Honor Ulveling

-Sun, Oct 13, StB, 7 a.m., People in our region/visitors

-Sun, Oct 13, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Thanksgiving to Bl. Mary

Weekday Masses

-Mon, Oct 14, StA, 8:30 a.m., Gilbert/Lorraine Maloney

-Tue, Oct 15, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Joseph/Annette Burbach

-Wed, Oct 16, StB, 8:30 a.m., Keith/Debbie Morrison

-Thu, Oct 17, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Dave and Kateri Kullman

-Fri, Oct 18, OLS, 8:30 a.m., +Bill Klotz

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

-Sun, Oct 13, StP, 10 a.m., People in our region/visitors

-Sun, Oct 13, StI, 1 p.m., Mark and Debbie Goulette