

## **THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT – HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER**

### **IN BRIEF**

**2247** "Honor your father and your mother" (*Deut 5:16; Mk 7:10*).

**2248** According to the fourth commandment, God has willed that, after him, we should honor our parents and those whom he has vested with authority for our good.

**2249** The conjugal community is established upon the covenant and consent of the spouses. Marriage and family are ordered to the good of the spouses, to the procreation and the education of children.

**2250** "The well-being of the individual person and of both human and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of conjugal and family life" (*GS 47 § 1*).

**2251** Children owe their parents respect, gratitude, just obedience, and assistance. Filial respect fosters harmony in all of family life.

**2252** Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith, prayer, and all the virtues. They have the duty to provide as far as possible for the physical and spiritual needs of their children.

**2253** Parents should respect and encourage their children's vocations. They should remember and teach that the first calling of the Christian is to follow Jesus.

**2254** Public authority is obliged to respect the fundamental rights of the human person and the conditions for the exercise of his freedom.

**2255** It is the duty of citizens to work with civil authority for building up society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom.

**2256** Citizens are obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order. "We must obey God rather than men" (*Acts 5:29*).

**2257** Every society's judgments and conduct reflect a vision of man and his destiny. Without the light the Gospel sheds on God and man, societies easily become totalitarian.

## **THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT – YOU SHALL NOT KILL.**

### **IN BRIEF**

**2318** "In [God's] hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind" (*Job* 12:10).

**2319** Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of the living and holy God.

**2320** The murder of a human being is gravely contrary to the dignity of the person and the holiness of the Creator.

**2321** The prohibition of murder does not abrogate the right to render an unjust aggressor unable to inflict harm. Legitimate defense is a grave duty for whoever is responsible for the lives of others or the common good.

**2322** From its conception, the child has the right to life. Direct abortion, that is, abortion willed as an end or as a means, is a "criminal" practice (*GS* 27 § 3), gravely contrary to the moral law. The Church imposes the canonical penalty of excommunication for this crime against human life.

**2323** Because it should be treated as a person from conception, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed like every other human being.

**2324** Intentional euthanasia, whatever its forms or motives, is murder. It is gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect due to the living God, his Creator.

**2325** Suicide is seriously contrary to justice, hope, and charity. It is forbidden by the fifth commandment.

**2326** Scandal is a grave offense when by deed or omission it deliberately leads others to sin gravely.

**2327** Because of the evils and injustices that all war brings with it, we must do everything reasonably possible to avoid it. The Church prays: "From famine, pestilence, and war, O Lord, deliver us."

**2328** The Church and human reason assert the permanent validity of the moral law during armed conflicts. Practices deliberately contrary to the law of nations and to its universal principles are crimes.

**2329** "The arms race is one of the greatest curses on the human race and the harm it inflicts on the poor is more than can be endured" (*GS* 81 § 3).

**2330** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (*Mt* 5:9).

