

FORMING OUR CONSCIENCE VI

What is the true desire of our heart?

In short as the catechism says, “Faced with a moral choice, conscience can make either a right judgment in accordance with reason and the divine law or, on the contrary, an erroneous judgment that departs from them.” [CCC 1786] Often our choices are not black and white, but as we engage what we know is right and good in order to discern God’s will, we can be assured of being on the right path. Some simple guidelines can help us reassure our hearts: 1. You cannot do evil and then expect good to result from it. 2. The Golden rule, “Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.” [Matt 7:12] 3. It is always right not to do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble. In the final analysis our conscience is called to conformity with the central prayer of our faith tradition: “Thy will be done.” This was Jesus’ prayer in the garden as he faced impending arrest and death on the cross. It is enshrined for us in the “Our Father” and it is the ultimate test of our faith. We must be certain that on the day of necessity someone will say “thy will be done” -- either you and I say it to God, and thus pass into the life of heaven, or God will say it to you: “let your will be done” and that will be entrance into eternal separation from God and self banishment from the communion of Saints. Finally as we make choices, they “add up.” From the vantage point of eternity we will discover the sum total of our choices and they will reveal to us the true desire of our heart, as well as our choice for our eternal destination. Forming our conscience is that important.

IHM Pray for us.

Fr. Jerry