

# U. S. Hierarchy Warns That God's Law Is Measure of Man's Conduct

(COURIER-JOURNAL Service) — The U. S. hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church has issued a warning that the ultimate measure of man's conduct is the law of God, which is the standard by which his actions should be judged. The warning, issued in a memorandum dated November 14, 1951, and signed by the Rev. James E. Nease, director of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, states that the moral order of society is based on the law of God, and that any deviation from this law leads to moral decay and social disorder. It calls for a re-examination of the moral principles that govern human behavior and urges the faithful to adhere to these principles as a way of achieving true happiness and social harmony.

Morally, therefore, viewed in its entirety, has three dimensions: height, depth, and breadth. In its height, it looks up to God, the Supreme Being, from Whom it takes the definitive measure of what is true and good. In its depth, it penetrates the heart of man, laying hold of his entire personality so that even his innermost thoughts and motives are subject to its rule. In its breadth, it embraces man in every station and condition of life and establishes mutual rights and duties.

**GOD'S WILL: MAN'S MEASURE IN THE MORAL ORDER**

By nature, man is a creature, subject to his Creator and responsible to Him for all his actions. By selfish inclination, at times, he chooses to do something else, assuming the prerogatives of a Creator, establishing his own standards of conduct, and making himself the measure of all things. This proud folly on his part brings discord into his own life, and profoundly affects the whole moral order. Frustration rather than fulfillment becomes his characteristic mark because he does not possess wholly within himself the way to fulfillment. That he can discover only in God's plan.

**MORALITY: NEED TODAY**

Mastery over self is the primary concern of morality. The right ordering of our lives in relation to all other beings so that we may attain our true destiny is the proper function of morality. The fundamental problem which faces us, then, is a moral one.

**MORALITY AND HUMAN REASON**

How does he come to such knowledge? How can man know what is his place in the divine plan, and what is God's will in the moral decisions he is called upon to make? God has endowed man with intelligence. When rightly used and directed, the human intellect can discover certain fundamental spiritual truths and moral principles which will give order and harmony to man's intellectual and moral life.

**KALBFLEISCH TRAVEL AGENCY**

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF MOST REVEREND JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D., BISHOP OF ROCHESTER AND THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF REV. DR. JAMES E. WANEY, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE

From man's position as God's creature, free and responsible, destined for eternal life, springing the unique dignity of the human individual and his essential equality with his fellow men.

Out of the inherent demands of human nature arises the family as the fundamental unit of human society, based on a permanent and exclusive union of man and woman in marriage. From the essential character of marriage come not only the right of parents to beget children, but also their primary right and duty to rear and educate them properly.

**MORALITY AND EDUCATION**

Morality concerned with bringing human activities into conformity with God's will has therefore a bearing on everything that touches human rights and duties. It has a definite place in the educational life of a nation. The formation of character is the primary aim of education, and it is the duty of the educator to lead the child to a knowledge of the moral law, which is the foundation of all human progress.

**MORALITY AND POLITICS**

In politics, as in every other sphere of human activity, the moral law is the guiding principle. The politician who forgets this law is guilty of a grave error, for his actions will eventually lead to the ruin of the society he is supposed to serve.

**MORALITY AND ECONOMICS**

The moral law is also the foundation of sound economic principles. The pursuit of profit is not inherently wrong, but it must be governed by the principles of justice and fairness. The economic system that ignores these principles leads to social inequality and unrest.

**MORALITY AND RELIGION**

Religion and morality are inseparable. The moral law is the basis of the religious life, and the religious life is the path to the fulfillment of the moral law. The faithful who live by the law of God are blessed in all their doings.

**MORALITY AND SOCIETY**

The moral order is the foundation of a just and harmonious society. The laws of the State should be based on the moral law, and the citizens should be educated to understand and respect these laws. Only in a society where the moral law is upheld can true freedom and justice be realized.

**MORALITY AND CULTURE**

Culture is not an end in itself, but a means to the fulfillment of the human person. The arts and sciences should be directed towards the betterment of the human condition and the glorification of God. Culture that is divorced from morality is empty and meaningless.

**MORALITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

The moral law is also a guide in the management of the environment. The human race has a duty to care for the earth and its resources, recognizing that they are gifts from God. Pollution and wastefulness are sins against God and the community.

**MORALITY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

The moral law is the basis of international law and diplomacy. Nations should treat each other with respect and justice, recognizing that they are all part of one human family. War and conflict are only the result of a failure to uphold the moral law.

**MORALITY AND THE FUTURE**

The moral law is the eternal and unchanging standard by which all human actions should be judged. It is the light that guides us through the darkness of a world filled with temptations and challenges. Let us strive to live by the law of God, for in doing so we will find true peace and happiness.

**MORALITY AND THE INDIVIDUAL**

The moral law is not only a guide for society and the nation, but also a personal guide for each individual. It tells us what is right and wrong, and provides us with the strength to resist temptation and do good. The individual who lives by the moral law is a person of integrity and honor.

**MORALITY AND THE CHURCH**

The Church is the guardian of the moral law and the source of the grace needed to live by it. The clergy and the laity have a duty to promote the moral law in all their actions and to provide the faithful with the sacraments and the teachings of Christ. The Church is the light of the world, and it is our duty to follow its lead.

**MORALITY AND THE FAMILY**

The family is the basic unit of society, and it is the place where the moral law is first learned. Parents have a duty to raise their children in the fear and love of the Lord, teaching them the principles of the moral law and the values of honesty, respect, and love. The family that lives by the moral law is a source of strength and joy for all.

**MORALITY AND THE COMMUNITY**

The moral law is the foundation of the common good of the community. It calls for a sense of responsibility and service to others, recognizing that our actions affect the lives of those around us. The community that lives by the moral law is a place of peace, cooperation, and shared happiness.

**MORALITY AND THE WORLD**

The moral law is the light that shines in the darkness of a world that is often filled with evil and injustice. It calls for a commitment to justice and the promotion of the common good, recognizing that the moral law is the foundation of a just and peaceful world. Let us strive to live by the moral law, for in doing so we will bring glory to God and peace to our world.

**MORALITY AND THE INDIVIDUAL (continued)**

The moral law is not a burden, but a gift. It gives us the strength to overcome our weaknesses and to live a life of purpose and meaning. The individual who lives by the moral law is a person of integrity and honor, and his actions will bring glory to God and benefit to the world.

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## GOD LOVE YOU!

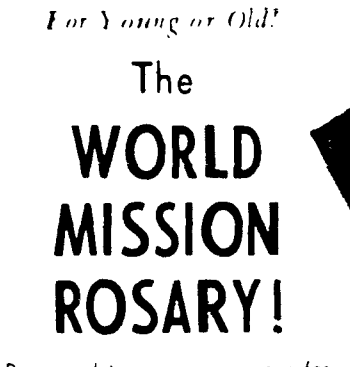
By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

A WOMAN recently came to a prison in China where two monks were imprisoned, showing abuse and hatred of religion. The Communists were so pleased they admitted her to the prison. In the midst of an apparent trade she slipped into the hands of one of the nuns a capsule it contained the Blessed Sacrament. The first was only an act... GOD LOVE YOU! to W.F. O.B. who received \$40 in health insurance and sent it to the Holy Father's Missions in gratitude for recovery. Does any healthy person want to send a gift in gratitude for not having been sick? ... Did you make an act of self-denial today going without the extra coke, or cigarette or cocktail? ... A dollar sacrifice from a million Catholics could do more to save souls in Africa to relieve the persecuted in China, and the starving in India than one million dollars from one giver... GOD LOVE YOU! to M.B. who opened a checking account and drew a first check of \$10 in favor of the Holy Father's Missions. ... Also she wants to exchange her signature on a check for ours in a letter of thanks.

God is never outdone in giving: If you give Him time, He will do half your work for you. If you give Him love, He will flood your life with His love, which is your joy... GOD LOVE YOU! To N. and B. H. who sent \$5 to the Holy Father's Missions on their wedding anniversary for the intention of a long and happy marriage... Women in the U. S. spend more than \$30 of every monthly budget for the Holy Father's Missions—well, you figure it out. There are 15 million Catholics women; assume each one of them has a budget like your own. How many new priests could be trained, at \$150 a seminarian year, if you and all the rest made this 5% sacrifice each month? ... A survey—based on the testimony of 14,000 people and printed in "Annuario Pontificio"—states that in Soviet Russia there are 130 concentration camps and 35 punishment zones, with 14 million inmates. The life expectancy of these prisoners is only eight years.

REGARDLESS of what the State Department does every American Catholic can send to the Holy Father an Ambassador of Love by a gift to his own missions. To be represented through love at the Vatican, bear out this column, plus your contribution to it and mail it to the Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 109 East 38th St., New York 18, New York or your Diocesan Director, Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, New York.

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