**YOU SHALL NOT STEAL**

**Catechism of Catholic Church**

2536.  The tenth commandment forbids greed and the desire to amass earthly goods without limit. It forbids avarice arising from a passion for riches and their attendant power.

**11**I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. **12**I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13**I can do all this through him who gives me strength. **Phil 4,11-13**

The root of many evils in human history is the thirst for possession.

Avarice is worse than other sins to which we perhaps give too much importance. Jesus says, "You cannot love God and money." He does not say that about other realities. St. Paul says, "Avarice is the root of all evil" (1 Tim. 6:10).

In families many fights are over money: over electricity, telephone, and so much more. People rob for money. Prostitution takes place for money. People deal drugs for money. People have abortions because they do not believe in Providence. The market for organs of murdered or aborted children has money as its driving force. So does pornography, usury, gambling, fraud in trade, grudges between brothers of who are not reconciled even before a coffin.

Goods, which in God's plan are instruments of love, become the object of our yearning for possession, and possession, as the above-mentioned Catechism text says, once obtained, becomes unsatisfying and frustrating as man perverts the meaning of things.

We turn, in fact, what is given to us as an opportunity for relationship into a means of self-realization.

If your stingy inclination begins to become visible to you, ask yourself, in light of the Word with which you are living a time of prayer today: what is the source of your anxiety about having? **What is the driving force behind your greed? And how do you fight this temptation?**

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