**12. You shall not steal**

* **Catechesis 7th Commandment**:
* Sign of the Cross. Spiritual intro.
* Hymn of the Trinity and the psalm 51
* **You shall not steal (Thou shall not steal)**
* Ask group opinions about different ways how one can steal. (Ex: unjust wages, not doing well job you are paid for, corruption, tax evasion…)
* Intro & Reference Catechism of the Catholic Church on this commandment.
* **Right to private property**: some description on what the Church says. **Universal destination of goods:** God gave all the land for use by all humanity. So U.d.o.g. comes before right to private property.
* Then: Quote: … Sect. 2408 page 514/515 *usurping another’s property against the* ***reasonable will*** *of the owner.* Explain with example. If you don’t provide someone who asks for something from you that he needs just to survive….& you say no then **you** are the thief.
* “*Not to share our own wealth with the poor is theft from the poor and deprivation of their means of life; we do not possess our own wealth, but theirs”*. ([St John Chrysostom](https://www.azquotes.com/author/21940-Saint_John_Chrysostom))
* The Church always had **a preferential love for the poor, the vulnerable**. Jesus told us whatever you do to the least you do it to me. Lord when did we see you, hungry, naked etc
* Points: **Earth produces 5 times what is needed.** Yet, 2021 OXFAM statistics: 11 people die of hunger every 1 minute. Earth not over-populated, only **unjust distribution of goods**. Food products thrown away to keep prices down (financial networks) African & some Asian countries kept backward & poor: exploited for minerals & with debt they cannot pay back. John Paul II in 2000 asked for debt to be forgiven.
* Pope Benedict was criticised for saying condoms not solution for Aids. The developed countries have advanced medicines to control Aids so you don’t die from it. But to poor countries they told them control populations and use condoms. No advanced medicine for them! **Injustice!**
* Goods are not just yours; we have a duty towards others with our goods. You must use goods to love and be a **gift** to each other. Otherwise you are stealing. St Chrysostom said that when you **give to the poor it is really justice not charity because you are giving them what should be theirs!** We are in relation to each other sharing our specific gifts. A composer creates beautiful music for society, a just businessman creates jobs etc.
* We reach our personal **potentiality** with **our network of love**, using what we have to love others. ( contrast Parable of Lazarus)

**PART THREE  
LIFE IN CHRIST**

**SECTION TWO  
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

**CHAPTER TWO  
"YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF"**

**ARTICLE 7  
THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT**

You shall not steal.186

**[2401](javascript:openWindow('cr/2401.htm');)** The seventh commandment forbids unjustly taking or keeping the goods of one's neighbor and wronging him in any way with respect to his goods. It commands justice and charity in the care of earthly goods and the fruits of men's labor. For the sake of the common good, it requires respect for the universal destination of goods and respect for the right to private property. Christian life strives to order this world's goods to God and to fraternal charity.

**Respect for the goods of others**

**2408** The seventh commandment forbids *theft*, that is, usurping another's property against the reasonable will of the owner. There is no theft if consent can be presumed or if refusal is contrary to reason and the universal destination of goods. This is the case in obvious and urgent necessity when the only way to provide for immediate, essential needs (food, shelter, clothing . . .) is to put at one's disposal and use the property of others.191