



## St. John Fisher Whole Community Project

*Liturgical Preparation Ministry continue with this community project. We posed our second question (in March 2012) to see what you have to say.*

*On the third Sunday of Lent, the scriptures were about the commandments. The first three speak about our relationship with God and the last seven speak about our relationship with one another.*

***In your experience, environment or daily life, what contemporary commandments do you think our society / community needs to hear?***

*We are grateful for those who contributed their time and thoughtful reflection in answering this question and allowing it to be shared with the community.  
Thank You!*

## Commandments:

### Age group: 50+

✿ I loved the second reading talking about how even God's foolishness is "better," more important than human intellect.

Sometimes ... especially in an election year it is important to tune out to human "wisdom." Listen to God, take a deep breath and let go ... LET GOD!

✿ Take time from the "busyness" of your life to hear God's voice.

### Age group: 36 - 50

✿ I think that the commandments about coveting are very pertinent in our society today. Our society seems to think that they can take/use whatever they want, yet they are very possessive of what they have, and do not want others to take/use what is theirs. Just open the paper on any given week and see the articles about car theft, home theft, people taking things out to unlocked cars ...

✿ Living in Rochester Hills, I struggle with the problem of "keeping up with the Jones." This makes me think of the commandment "thou shall not covet." I need to focus on what is important and help my kids focus on that too! Having things that matter like good relationships and purpose in life. As well as being thankful for what we do have: health, happiness and so many freedoms.

✿ A contemporary commandment would be "take time to be in the moment." Our lives are far too rushed and chaotic. Living in an instantaneous age, this needs to be the focus not only for us but for our children.

✿ Setting aside the sabbath in today's culture is an almost inconceivable goal, however, setting aside time in our daily lives to fully realize and keep holy all of God's teachings would be life changing to the body of Christ.

✿ Honor your father and mother. What would your life be without parents who care about you and want what is best for you? They are not a cross to bear but a resource to treasure and thank God for.

### Age group: 18 - 35

✿ As a society, I would say sorrowful repentance and to turn back to God. Our world cannot keep going the way it is without sure destruction. Much of the leadership in power have been lead astray, even those who say that they are such good Christians, whether they be in government, business, and sadly sometimes the church. I've ran into people in the church, whether it be a portion of the membership or sometimes the pastor, and being able to tell they didn't believe in the message being preached.

*continued on back*

## Age group: 18 - 35 continued

✿ I think the first 3 of the ten commandments would be a biggy, but especially number 3: Keep Holy the Sabbath. We don't rest when we need it. I think of businesses especially since they're open 7 days a week. That just causes life to be so fast paced, go-go-go. No wonder we have a hard time hearing God!

✿ Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother – I think that our society has misinterpreted the true meaning of family and how important they really are to life. I feel that this could be talked about and reminded that your family will always be there for you through everything, when friends let you down, when significant others let you down, and when your letting yourself down. It's important to respect your family and love them unconditionally. I realized how much family means to me and it has changed my outlook on everything. It's so important to remind your family how much they mean to you on a daily basis since you never know when your last day to share the feelings could be.

✿ I think a commandment that many of us struggle with in present day is that we shall have no other gods.

To me, this means God first and everything else is second to Him and His word. Other gods in our society are things we place greater importance such as school or relationships.

✿ I think the biggest commandments that people need reminders of are the top two:

1. Do not take the Lord's name in vain *and*
2. You shall have no other God's besides Me.

In today's world (sadly sometimes mine as well) we take God's name in vain with and without foul language as if it is normal conversation. We often say many words but have little to no thought behind them, and those words in turn carelessly hurt others. They also do not mean as much or become devalued. God spoke creation into existence. I think that it took tremendous concentration, thought, and consideration before saying anything into being!!! Our words will never have the power and authority unless we pray and think before speaking.

The second one is against idol worship. Society and even our parish communities often place other things as more important than God. Examples are: money, nice objects (clothes, car, TV's, computers, phones, etc.), sports, WATCHING TELEVISION ... I know many people who will make time in their day to watch certain movies and television shows but are unwilling to take 5 minutes to pray or even 20-30 minutes to say a rosary or read a religious/spiritual book that will bring you closer to God. I know I have suffered from this greatly as I gave up watching anything on the television while I am by myself for Lent. I am only allowed to watch television if it is a sharing/bonding

activity with 1 or more friends/family members. Believe me ... it is tough.

We live in a world surrounded by noise, busyness, and distractions and we wonder why we can't hear God's voice. We wander through life wondering what our purpose is, do we have one ... all the time God is trying to reach us. The problem is that we choose this busy life. We get sucked into the lies that say that if you aren't doing something every second of the day you aren't productive, you will be bored, you are not living your life to the fullest, you are missing out ... and we accept this as truth when it is a lie, and we become trapped, enslaved. We knowingly walk into the trap and cannot hear God shouting at us not to fall for the lies.

This is not exactly a contemporary version of the commandments, but I think it is true none the less; we as a Catholic community and Christians need to hear it.

✿ People need to be more willing to break down barriers in their life and take time to share with others in their community. We have so many barriers protecting what we value, but don't place any value on the good of people around us.

- ✿ • Society needs to hear that right and wrong are not up to us.
- Listen more and wait before answering back.

*continued*

## Age group: 18 - 35 continued

- ✿ • One should always keep an open heart.
- Practice what you preach!!!
- One should always make time for God in their lives.
- One should always make time to sit and “be” without “do”-ing.

✿ Everyone from our contemporary society today comes from a much more globalized background. Do not discriminate against someone who has different religious views other than your own. Instead just listen and observe perhaps there can be some common ground found. No matter how small it is.

✿ “Slow down!” Slow down and listen. Spend time every day in silence, listening to God. Turn off the phones, the computers, the T.V.'s, the ipods, everything. How can you possibly hear and discern God's voice among the chaos if you don't care to show Him you care enough to block out the other voices?

- ✿ • Stay humble - there are always greater and lesser persons than yourself.
- Consider carefully before compromising your principles for personal gain.

- ✿ • Never assume you know where someone is coming from - like their background or situation, race, economic situation. One cannot judge a book by its cover.
- Keep an open mind, don't make snap judgements.
- Not everyone has the same sense of humor, be careful what you say.

### Note:

As we begin to form and refine this Whole Community Project, we have been asking select groups to contribute. We will continue to seek and encourage more of the community to share their thoughts as we progress.

Eventually responses will be posted to the community using various print and electronic media as well as an ongoing series of artwork collages inspired by your responses. These will be out by next September.

Thank You!