

THURSDAY

Simplicity

Commandments:

- 7. You shall not steal.**
- 8. You shall not bear false witness.**



Simplicity, St. Vincent de Paul would often say, is “the virtue I love the most”. Because it most perfectly reflects the nature of God and His word, His Son, Jesus Christ. In simplicity we are invited to clear away the clutter in our lives to make room for God...and the things that truly matter. How can we live and speak simply for the Glory of God if we can't find Him? Or hear Him?

In today's materialistic society, it is easy to fall into greed and "keeping up with the Jones'." By prioritizing faith and spiritual growth over material things, we deepen our relationship with God and put our trust in Him that He will provide. In the same manner, gossip erodes trust, creates divide, and harms reputations. Instead, being mindful of our words and actions toward others can help us build good communication with others and draw us closer to God by building people up instead of tearing them down.

**"LET YOUR 'YES' MEAN 'YES' AND YOUR 'NO' MEAN 'NO.' ANYTHING MORE IS FROM THE EVIL ONE."
(Matthew 5:37)**

The seventh and eighth commandments call us to respect others' goods and reputations, practicing justice and honesty. A simple heart does not manipulate, lie, or grasp for more than is needed. Instead, it is content, transparent, and truthful. Simplicity invites us to strip away the clutter of materialism and dishonesty, leaving room for genuine relationships and trust in God's provision.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Do I lie to myself and others - pretending to be somebody that I am not?
- Have I taken or misused anything that doesn't belong to me?
- Am I truthful in my speech or comments, avoiding gossip or deceit?
- Have I indulged in online shopping, acquiring things I don't need that only clutter my life?

