

## PRINCIPLE AND FOUNDATION

### *Literal translation:*

Man is created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by this means to save his soul.

And the other things on the face of the earth are created for man and that they may help him in prosecuting the end for which he is created. From this it follows that man is to use them as much as they help him on to his end, and ought to rid himself of them so far as they hinder him as to it. For this it is necessary to make ourselves indifferent to all created things in all that is allowed to the choice of our free will and is not prohibited to it; so that, on our part, we want not health rather than sickness, riches rather than poverty, honor rather than dishonor, long rather than short life, and so in all the rest; desiring and choosing only what is most conducive for us to the end for which we are created.

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### *Paraphrase by David Fleming, SJ:*

God who loves us creates us and wants to share life with us forever. Our love response takes shape in our praise and honor and service of the God of our life.

All the things in this world are also created because of God's love and they become a context of gifts, presented to us so that we can know God more easily and make a return of love more readily.

As a result, we show reverence for all the gifts of creation and collaborate with God in using them so that by being good stewards we develop as loving persons in our care of God's world and its development. But if we abuse any of these gifts of creation or, on the contrary, take them as the center of our lives, we break our relationship with God and hinder our growth as loving persons.

In everyday life, then, we must hold ourselves in balance before all created gifts insofar as we have a choice and are not bound by some responsibility. We should not fix our desires on health or sickness, wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or a short one. For everything has the potential of calling forth in us a more loving response to our life forever with God.

Our only desire and our one choice should be this: I want and I choose what better leads to God's deepening life in me.

## THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (BCP, pp. 304-305)

- Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?  
People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
People I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
- Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?  
People I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
People I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
People I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
People I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
People I will, with God's help.