

Formation of Conscience

Conscience: a judgment of reason by which the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act.

“Conscience represents both the more general ability we have as human beings to know what is good and right and the concrete judgments we make in particular situation concerning what we should do or about what we have already done...Conscience is that inner sanctuary in which we listen to the voice of God...”USCCA, p. 316

Certain conscience: we believe that our conscience is in conformity with what is objectively true.

“Since we have the obligation to obey our conscience, we also have the great responsibility to see that it is formed in a way that reflects the true moral good.” USCCA, p. 314

“A good conscience requires lifelong formation. It makes judgments that conform to reason and the good that is willed by the wisdom of God.” USCCA, p. 320

*“Conscience is the most secret core and sanctuary of a person. There he/she is alone with god, whose voice echoes in his/her depths. In a wonderful manner conscience reveals that law which is fulfilled by love of God and neighbor.”
Gaudium et Spes 16)*

Doubtful Conscience: when we are not so certain about a decision to be made...we then need to do further reflection or trust the wisdom of others we respect.

Catholic Vocabulary and Quotes from the US Catholic Catechism for Adults

Formation of Conscience:

The Word of God is a principal tool in the formation of conscience when it is assimilated by study, prayer, and practice. The prudent advice and good example of others support and enlightens our conscience. The authoritative teachings of the Church is an essential element in our conscience formation.

“In the depths of one’s conscience, one detects a law which one does not impose upon oneself, but which holds one to obedience...For one has in one’s heart a law written by God. To obey it is the very dignity of oneself; according to it he will be judged.” Gaudium et Spes 16