

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Reflecting on the Seven Deadly Sins

1. PRIDE

Have I refused to admit my own weaknesses?
Have I dwelt on the failings of others?
Have I judged others, in my thoughts or words?
Have I ranked myself better than others?
Have I borne hatred or disdain for another?
Have I refused to learn from others?
Have I been irritable with others?
Have I been critical of others?
Have I been slow to listen to others and quick to speak over them?
Have I been stubborn refusing to admit I was wrong?
Have I refused to accept that another person had a better idea?
Have I been arrogant?
Have I held others in contempt?
Have I reacted negatively when questioned?

1A. Pusillanimity or Timidity or Cowardice – *the opposite of pride:*

Have I neglected to use the talents that God has given me?
Have I shied away from my duties or doing or saying what is right because of fear of how others will respond?
Have I failed to give witness to my faith in Christ in public?

1B. Vanity (an expression of pride) – *Vanity is excessive concern about what others think of me –not just what they think of my appearance.*

Have I been overly concerned about what others think of me? Have I allowed this to motivate my actions?

Have I failed to follow God's will because of a fear of what others might think of me?

Have I lied or exaggerated to make myself look good?

Have I wasted undue time and money on clothes and appearance?

Have I been content with my lowly position, or have I resented the role that Christ asks of me?

Do I constantly take selfies or spend time primping and correcting my hair, clothing or other aspects of my appearance?

2. LUST

Lust is disordered desire for sexual pleasure, isolated from its procreative and unitive purpose.

Have I maintained custody of my eyes or have I allowed them to wander?

Have I viewed other people as mere sexual objects rather than as persons to be loved and served?

Have I viewed pornography or related sexual or sexualized material on internet? or TV? or Social Media?

Have I engaged in romantic fiction leading to sexual fantasy?

Have I entertained impure thoughts?

Have I engaged in masturbation, alone, or with another?

3. ANGER/WRATH

Have I harbored resentment, grudges, and hatred in my thoughts?

Have I nurtured imaginary angry conversations?

Have I been slow to forgive?

Have I lost my temper and caused harm to people - physical or emotional?

3A. Impatience:

How have I carried my cross without complaint or self-pity?

Have I been impatient with people, family, events, sufferings, sicknesses?

4. COVETOUSNESS/AVARICE

Avarice is the excessive love of possessing things.

Have I been overly concerned about my own comfort and well-being?

Have I been resentful of my lack of money?

Have I been generous in giving? Have I given with a cheerful heart?

Have I avoided sacrificial giving? Do I only give what is easy to give?

Have I cheated, stolen, or failed to pay my bills on time?

Have I used people for my own advantage?

Have I wasted money on things I don't need?

5. ENVY/JEALOUSY

Envy –is sadness at the happiness of another.

Have I envied or been jealous of the abilities, talents, ideas, good-looks, intelligence, clothes, possessions, money, friends, family, of others?

5A. Gossip:

Have I judged others in my thoughts?

Do I despise others of different race, class or culture?

Have I damaged the reputation of another person by my words or attitude?

Have I repeated accusations that might not be true?

Have I exaggerated?

Have I failed to defend the reputation of others?
Have I failed to keep secrets?

5B Lies:

Have I lied, exaggerated, or distorted the truth?

6. SLOTH/APATHY

Laziness, especially in the things of God. Sloth makes you want to do nothing and/or it drives you to neglect spiritual goods.

Have I sought God above all else, or have I put other priorities ahead of him? (e.g. friendships, ambition, comfort and ease)

Have I got so caught up in the things of this world that I've forgotten God?

Have I risked losing my faith/piety by bad company, bad reading, cowardice, or pride?

Have I trusted God, especially in difficult times?

Have I attended Mass each and every Sunday?

Have I neglected to say my daily prayers?

Have I entertained distractions in prayer, or failed to give God due concentration in prayer or in the Mass? (Note: Not giving God the effort He deserves in prayer is a sin, and is not the same as involuntary weakness in mental distractions.)

Have I made a prayerful preparation before Mass and a good thanksgiving after Mass?

Have I received Holy Communion while in a state of serious sin?

Have I neglected to seek Confession before Holy Communion?

Have I taken the Lord's name in vain? Or used other foul language?

6A. Neighbor:

Have I been lazy in helping others?

Have I been attentive to the needs of my neighbor, the needs of my extended or immediate family?

Has my conversation been focussed on my own pleasure, or on others?

Has my humor been insensitive to others?

6B. My Family:

Have I been more focused on myself than on the needs of others?

Have I spent time with my family? How have I manifested my concern for them? Have I been forgiving and tolerant of them? Have I scandalized them by a bad or lazy example?

6C. Punctuality and Self-Discipline:

Have I wasted other people's time?

Have I sinned against God and the congregation by being late for Mass?

Have I gone to sleep on time?

Have I made good use of my time, or have I wasted time needlessly? e.g. cell phone, TV, gaming, or internet?

Have I planned good use of relaxation and recreation, knowing that I need to rest well in order to serve well?

7. GLUTTONY

Gluttony is the inordinate or excessive desire for, focus on, attachment to, or use of food or other material goods.

Have I consumed more than I need to – more than my body needs to maintain a healthy weight?

Have I consumed food or drink that is damaging to my body to satisfy my tastes or appetites?

Have I spent time engaging with food (or other material things) or fantasizing about food (or other things) that should be spent elsewhere?

Have I spent excessive money on food?

Have I consumed alcohol excessively?

Have I driven after drinking?

Have I eaten greedily with little consideration for those at table with me?

Have I failed to give money to help the hungry?

Have I failed to practice fasting and self-denial, especially on Fridays?

Have I failed to abstain from meat on Fridays?

Have I always fasted an hour before receiving Holy Communion at Mass?

Do I spend excessive energy and expense seeking to ensure my food or environment is perfectly to my desires (temperature, texture, atmosphere)?

Do I spend a lot energy or expense seeking comfort?

The Ten Commandments:

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honour your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness.
9. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.