

Deacon George's Homily 3/15/2026

Discernment is that process where we use all of our faculties to judge things properly.

Catholic Moral discernment proposes approaching a problem by using Scripture, Catholic Tradition (including Spiritual writings, the writings of the Saints and writings of the Magisterium), using Reason and our Human Experience in approaching a problem.

The Church teaches us to think before we act. A fully formed conscience can help us choose and to see things as God sees. The formation of a conscience is a lifelong experience where we learn from our mistakes and the mistakes of others. It involves praying for guidance, reading and listening to scripture, and learning the teachings of the Church. Finally, we need to consider the effects of our actions on others.

Along with that we need to be open, honest, prudent and prayerful.

These are the steps that the Church asks us to take when we make a moral decision.

The morality of any action can be divided into:

1. what am I choosing to do?
2. why am I choosing to do something?
3. and what are the circumstances of an action because even a good action done under the wrong circumstances can be wrong.

To break this down a little differently, the Church asks us to:

- 1) Pray for guidance
- 2) Describe your problem
- 3) Define what values are at stake
- 4) Define what are your options
- 5) Determine what consequences may follow

6) Ask what God wants you to do as you listen to the words and actions of Jesus, the Bible, Church teaching and the saints

7) Finally, pray, choose, act, then evaluate.

We need to see beyond our petty prejudices and assumptions and discern the truth because, as Jesus says in the Gospels: “the truth will set you free”.

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