

Lesson 10: CHARITY AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Doctrine of Charity, chapter 10

Introductory Ideas for the Tenth Lesson

This short chapter details some of the civic obligations that we must do from duty, and tells us how we can go about doing them spiritually. Here are a few ideas to start students thinking on the topic:

1. What difference does our attitude make if we obey the civil laws of our country? (*e.g.* If we only obey the speed limit because we know the police are monitoring a road, vs. obeying the speed limit because it is a law that is designed for the good of all.)
2. How does our attitude towards the laws of our country change our lives?

Some Key Points in Chapter 10:

Charity 187 details specific civic obligations. Not only does it mention that we are to do them, but it says we are to do them sincerely and good-naturedly.

Charity 188 describes the burdens felt by those who do not perform their civic duties in this way. A key idea is given here: if they think that they can elude the laws (*e.g.* speed without being caught) they do it. They may also use a pretext or excuse that justifies their behavior (*e.g.* I am late and my Mom needs the car.)