The Fourth Commandment

• Write it:

• Essential value:

• Sins against:

• Less obvious ways we violate:

• Good habits to cultivate:

4th Commandment

• "_____" commandment, from 1-3 - dealing with our relationship with God - to 6-10, telling us how *not* to treat each other

O _____

even though addressed to children instead of parents, *implies* ______that
go ______

4 attitudes children owe their parents How do we show each of these attitudes?

Parents' Responsibilities Toward Children

- serve as our first educators (teach us about God & the moral life)
- make rules for our safety
- provide for physical, emotional, spiritual needs of children
- encourage and support us in whatever vocation we feel called to follow

Two General Duties



- 1. Christians should respect legitimate authority and follow the legitimate requests by authority figures.
- 2. Christians should exercise legitimate authority modeling for others Jesus' characteristics.

(Legitimate request by an authority figure – a request that doesn't conflict with Gospel values.)

The Church and Civil Law

- "The Church is not, and does not want to be, the same as the political community; she wants to be a free voice that speaks for the dignity of the human person. And the Church encourages us to stand up for that dignity by being involved in our own political communities" (CFH, 304).
- "History shows us that when people in a society forget God and moral principles, immoral forms of government can easily take over. Governments become totalitarian, seeking total control over people's lives, making material wealth and political power a higher priority than the dignity of the human person" (CFH, 304).

Questions (4th Commandment)

- What is *the only* exception to the obedience we owe our parents (and by extension other figures in authority over us)?
- When do you find yourself in a position of authority over another person/group of people? Why is it important to understand the responsibilities from *both sides* of the commandment?