

Saints and sinners: The ninth and tenth commandments

The Ninth Commandment: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house. (Exodus 20:17 and Deuteronomy 5:21)

What does this mean?
 "We shall fear and love God that we may not craftily seek to get our neighbor's inheritance or house ... but help and be of service to him in keeping it." (Numberings and definition are from Martin Luther's Small Catechism.)

The Tenth Commandment: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

What does this mean?
 "We should fear and love God that we may not estrange, force or entice away from our neighbor his wife, servants or cattle, but urge them to stay and do their duty." (Numberings and definition are from Martin Luther's Small

Catechism.)

The first eight commandments in their bare-bones form get us to examine our actions. The Ninth and Tenth Commandments get us to examine our heart and our motives. What these commandments say is that illicit desire is just as much a sin as an illicit act. It isn't only that coveting often leads to overt acts of stealing, killing and adultery — even if it doesn't, it can warp our thinking and twist our characters.

According to the Proverbs: "As he thinketh in his heart, so is he." What this means is that there is nothing wrong with the act of coveting if what we covet is to achieve the highest and the best of ourselves. It is when we desire inordinately to better our circumstances and not ourselves, or envy what somebody else has, that desire can get us into trouble.

This kind of desire implies dissatisfaction



george plagenz

• saints & sinners

with our situation in life. It is a sin against God who has given us everything we need for our happiness so that we need desire nothing. As it also says in the Proverbs: "Thou satisfiest the desire of every living thing."

But like the women who went to the sepulcher to find Jesus on Easter morning, we may be looking in the wrong place for the satisfaction of our desires. The women were looking in the graveyard — among the dead. That is where we often look for the fulfillment of our desires — among things

that lead to a dead end in terms of happiness.

As the story in the Bible goes, an angel met the women in the tomb, told them that Jesus was not there (he had risen), and instructed them to go quickly to Galilee to see him. And as they ran, the Master met them. From this we can learn that it is in running and reaching for the highest and the best that we find our heart's desire fulfilled. There is no longer a need to covet anything.

We get a second clue from another part of the Easter story. The disciples are walking to Emmaus after the resurrection. The risen Christ has joined them on the way but they don't recognize him. That is often our trouble: The highest and the best is in our midst but we don't recognize it.

Rev. Dr. Leslie Weatherhead, popular Christian agnostic and author of "The Will of God" (Abingdon Press, 1999), tells the story of a young wife whose husband had just died. She

was sitting on the hearth rug in front of a flickering fire in the small cottage where friends and family had gathered in mourning. The arm of an old, white-haired woman was around her shoulder. The younger woman was very resentful as she said to the minister who was there: "You talk about the love of Christ. I don't believe it. You talk about the everlasting arms of God. I don't believe it. My husband and I were so in love with one another and now he has been taken away."

And the minister said to her, "My dear girl, the love of Christ is within a foot of you — in your mother. And the everlasting arms you don't believe in — why, they are around you at this moment. Whose do you think is the arm across your shoulder now?"

In a world like that, surrounded by love and supported by "everlasting arms," what need is there to covet anything?

Formerly homeless, young Catholic creates program for homeless youth

By Liz Sidoti

Associated Press Writer
 COLUMBUS, Ohio — As a child, Angela Lariviere bounced among temporary housing, rundown hotels and other people's couches 39 times in a search for stability — the only constant in life being religious faith.

With a single mother battling mental and physical illnesses, Lariviere and her four siblings at times did not know where their next meals or next beds would be.

"I never thought anyone else lived like I did," said Lariviere, who was dubbed "the gypsy" by schoolmates.

But after getting a job through AmeriCorps with the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, Lariviere realized that she had been homeless as a child and that little had changed in her home state since then.

That discovery prompted her to form the coalition's Youth Empowerment Program in 2000. Throughout it, Ohio's homeless children advocate for changes in state laws, school policies and shelter rules affecting them.

Because of her work, the 30-year-old Lariviere was the 2002 recipient of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award, given to a young Catholic who has fought poverty and injustice.

Lariviere attended various churches as a child and converted to Catholicism so she and her husband could raise their children in one faith. She is a bright spot in a difficult time for the church as the clergy sex abuse scandal drags on.

"I focus on the parts of the church that I agree with — the faith, the religion, the commitment to the community,"

Lariviere said, explaining that the church's troubles have not shaken her belief in God or her mission to serve.

Both remain central to her life at work and at home.

If she is not leading community service projects with the empowerment program's homeless youth, she is working on similar efforts in her parish, St. Ladislav in Columbus, with her husband, Charles, and their two children.

"It's just what I do," Lariviere explained matter-of-factly, shrugging off any notion that her life is extraordinary.

Lariviere credits the success of the empowerment program to the 700 young people whose input determined the issues the group would address and how the organization would be structured.

"They wanted to be involved in something. They wanted respect," Lariviere

said. "They wanted to see changes happen — and they have."

Funded mostly by grants, the program is for homeless children and young adults ages 10 to 24 who serve on seven youth-run councils across Ohio that represent the interests of the state's 35,000 homeless children.

Last year, the councils successfully lobbied for a state law that protects the rights of homeless children to get an education. They also persuaded shelters to drop rules that barred boys aged 13 and older from staying with their families.

Kevin Blackledge, an AmeriCorps-VISTA worker who works with the program, said that while the effort is driven by young people, it would not have been possible without Lariviere's vision.

"The kids trust her. For a lot of them, she's their mother. She supports them,

and gives them a chance to do something about their situation, to help change it," Blackledge said.

The teenagers — most of whom are not orphans or street kids but rather in community shelters and transitional housing with their families — call Lariviere a leader, a friend, a sister, and, most of all, an equal.

"She's been in the same situations," said 14-year-old Nick Molina. "So many people don't understand us. She does because she's one of us."

Thirteen-year-old Sasha Bowers said Lariviere treats young people in the program as adults.

"She knows we're old enough to understand what's gone on in our lives, and she knows that we have more responsibilities than other kids our age because she did, too," Bowers said.

The youth tell stories about how

Lariviere drives them to meetings or projects no matter where they are staying, whether it's minutes or hours away. She lets them do laundry and hang out at her home; she feeds them and gives them money if they need it. Most of all, they say, they can count on her to take them in if they would otherwise have to sleep on the streets.

"That's more than her job," said Burhan Dahir, 19, a Somalian immigrant in the program since its inception. "That's just who she is."

Mark Huddy, vicar for Catholic Charities and Social Concerns in the Diocese of Columbus, calls Lariviere a sign of hope.

"It's her faith commitment and her own experience that have given her both the power and the passion to do this kind of work," Huddy said. "That's a quality that not everybody has."



Calvary Gospel Church

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Don Crutcher

Fifth & Broadway
 899-7368

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
 Worship Service: 10 am
 Evening Service: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains

Fourth & College • 899-3605

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Service: 10:30 am

Evening Service: 6:00 pm

Wednesday: Adult Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.

Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.

Helping you focus upward in worship, inward in commitment and outward in evangelism

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell

899-6185

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:45 am

Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Matthew Delp

Third & Caldwell

899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:50 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Bud Chester

Fifth & Center • 899-3450

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am

Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

Pastor: Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888

Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 11 am

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Loren Strait

Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233

Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,

Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,

Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship

Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing

Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler

Nurseries Available

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman

899-3631

Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398

Minister: Tony Kafka

Youth Minister: Doug Bean

Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Wednesday:

Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm

Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 899-6161

Pastor: Scott Grimshaw

Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am

Worship Service: 10 am

Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado

United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox

399-2468

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

Pastor:

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am

Morning Worship: 11 am

Evening Worship: 6 pm

Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423

Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Worship Service: 11 am

Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm

Adult Bible Study 6 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center

899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114

Priest: Father Charles Schneider

Deacon: Gretchen Talitha

Adult Forum: Sunday : 8:30 am

Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays

Holy Eucharist: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30

Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (719) 346-7984

Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church

223 E. 10th

899-5250

Pastor: John Coumerilh

Weekend services

Sunday: Worship Celebration

and Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:

Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona:

Minister: Rev. Bob Winters

Worship Service: 9 am CST

Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo

Spanish Speaking Church

Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.

1601 Texas • 899-5275

Daily Prayer: Sunday thru

Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Norbert Dlabal

307 W. 13th • 899-7205

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 6 pm

Sunday: 10:30 am

Spanish Mass:

1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church

Serving the rural community for over 100 years

Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70

Pastor: Charlie Busch

694-2242

Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am

Sunday School: 10 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

Good Samaritan Center
 208 W. 2nd

Koons Funeral Chapel
 North Main

Topside Office Products, Inc.
 1110 Main

Goodland Daily News
 1205 Main

Short & Son Trucking
 Hwy. 24