

## Chapter 5

# Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What does it mean to say that something is sacred? How do we show respect for the sacredness of God?*

We call something sacred when it is holy and worthy of respect and reverence. We show reverence for the sacredness of God in all the words and actions of our daily life. That is, we show respect for God not only by going to Mass or taking time to pray but also by having reverence for all of God's creation and by treating all people reverently, recognizing that every person is made in God's image.

2. *How did people in biblical times understand the importance of names?*

People in biblical times understood that a person and their name are closely connected and that a name indicates something special about the person. Misusing a person's name was seen as a literal injury to the person. For this reason, people did not readily give their names to strangers. The Revelation of God's personal name was therefore significant for the Israelites.

3. *Why did ancient people make oaths and covenants in the name of their god(s)?*

Ancient people made oaths and covenants in the name of their gods to call upon these gods to witness the agreement, enforce the sacred promises made, and punish anyone who broke their oath or covenant.

4. *Name some of the ways we continue to make sacred vows today.*

We continue to make sacred vows in public life today. For example, politicians and judges place their hand on the Bible while calling on God's help to fulfill their public duties. Defendants in a courtroom also swear on a Bible that they will tell the whole truth. We also make sacred oaths in God's name in prayer and the sacraments. In Baptism and Confirmation, we vow to reject Satan. In the Sacrament of Matrimony, a couple vows to be true to each other until death. A man being ordained to the priesthood makes promises of celibacy and obedience. Men and women who enter consecrated life make public vows committing to the evangelical counsels. Finally, we also make less serious promises to God, such as committing to a spiritual practice.

5. *Define blasphemy.*

Blasphemy is speaking, acting, or thinking about God, Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, or the saints in a way that is irreverent, mocking, hateful, or otherwise offensive. It is a grave sin against the Second Commandment.

6. *Why is perjury a serious sin?*

Perjury is the sin of lying while under oath to tell the truth. It is a serious sin against the Lord because he always keeps his promises. It is also a serious sin because we need to be able to trust individuals who swear to tell the truth, or else civil law and order are threatened.

