

GRADE TWELVE SOCIAL STUDIES - 2012
CIVICS LESSON PLAN

Introduction

Catholics sometimes become overwhelmed when they consider how far our country has departed from the nature of a true Christian Society, especially when they realize that so much of the American way of life is a result of the philosophical and religious errors of Protestantism and Naturalism. In fact, it is astonishing to learn that *Article 11* of the *Treaty of Tripoli*, which was drawn up under the Presidency of George Washington and then signed into law by President John Adams in 1797, clearly states that ***“the government of the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the Christian Religion.”***

We should not, however, lose heart; the grace of Christ can and does work miracles. We just need to get back to basics and do our part to restore all things in Christ. And seeing that society is based on the family, it stands to reason that we must begin with the family, and concentrate on the sanctity of husband and wife, and the Catholic education of youth. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph will be our Model.

To become good and active adult citizens, we must learn about the basic functions of the government in order to participate in it. Indeed, it is the duty of every Catholic to be familiar with Catholic social principles, and to understand the Constitution upon which our nation is established. By studying what the Constitution actually says, we can compare the words of this very important document, with the interpretations by those who are supposed to be safeguarding it.

In addition, as Catholics, we must understand our duties and obligations to our country. The Church has always clearly taught that along with our rights come serious obligations of patriotism, which may include, for example, service in a capacity in which our talents can best be used. True patriotism, of course, is predicated on the idea that we love our country for all we find in it that is good, while attempting to rectify those characteristics of our country which are bad. Note, though, that rectifying that which is bad must be done out of true charity for one’s country – that is, done for the greater glory of God.

The textbooks which we will use in this course are: *The Measuring Tape* and *Christian Citizenship*, and *Catholic Action for Christ our King*. We will also be using the small booklet, *The Reign of Christ the King*, as well as various readings which are included in this lesson plan. *The Measuring Tape*, by Catholic Frank Denke, is described as “a book of Catholic principles and common sense regarding government and citizenship.” It specifically deals with Catholic teaching (particularly teachings from papal encyclicals) on duties and obligations of Catholic citizens, as well as Church-state relations. *Christian Citizenship* is a text written by the staff of Our Lady of Victory School for the express purpose of arming our youth with knowledge of the Constitution. By becoming familiar with the foundations of our American government, we can discern whether laws, practices, and usages, are truly in accord with this most basic of documents. While always keeping Catholic social teaching in mind, the student will be armed, through *Christian Citizenship*, with a fundamental set of criteria by which to gauge any governmental act by its constitutionality, thereby giving him the tools to do whatever is in his power, and within the scope of his duties of state, to oppose errors in government from a Catholic, as well as a constitutional or juridical, perspective. In *The Reign of Christ the King*, Catholic apologist Michael Davies shows that all authority originally comes from God, and that political leaders have a moral obligation to insure that the laws of man conform to the laws of God. The student will also read *Catholic Action for Christ Our King* and answer assigned questions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: KEEP THESE FIRST FOUR PAGES; DO NOT RETURN THEM TO OLVS WITH LESSON PLANS.

CIVICS

Student's Name _____

Gr. Level _____

MT: *The Measuring Tape*, Frank Denke

Week 1

Grade

MT Read and study Chap. I
Answer Questions p. 3, #s 1 - 4

Read and study Chap. II
Answer Questions pgs. 5-6, #s 1 - 11;

Send GRADED assignment to school.

Time _____

Week 2

MT Read and study Chap. III
Answer Questions p. 8, #s 1 - 12;
Answer Essay Question #1, p. 8

Send this UNGRADED paper to school.

Read and study Chap. IV
Answer Questions pgs. 9-10, #s 1 - 6
Answer Essay Question #3, p. 10

Time _____

Comments: _____

