

# ETHICS AND ETHICAL ISSUES

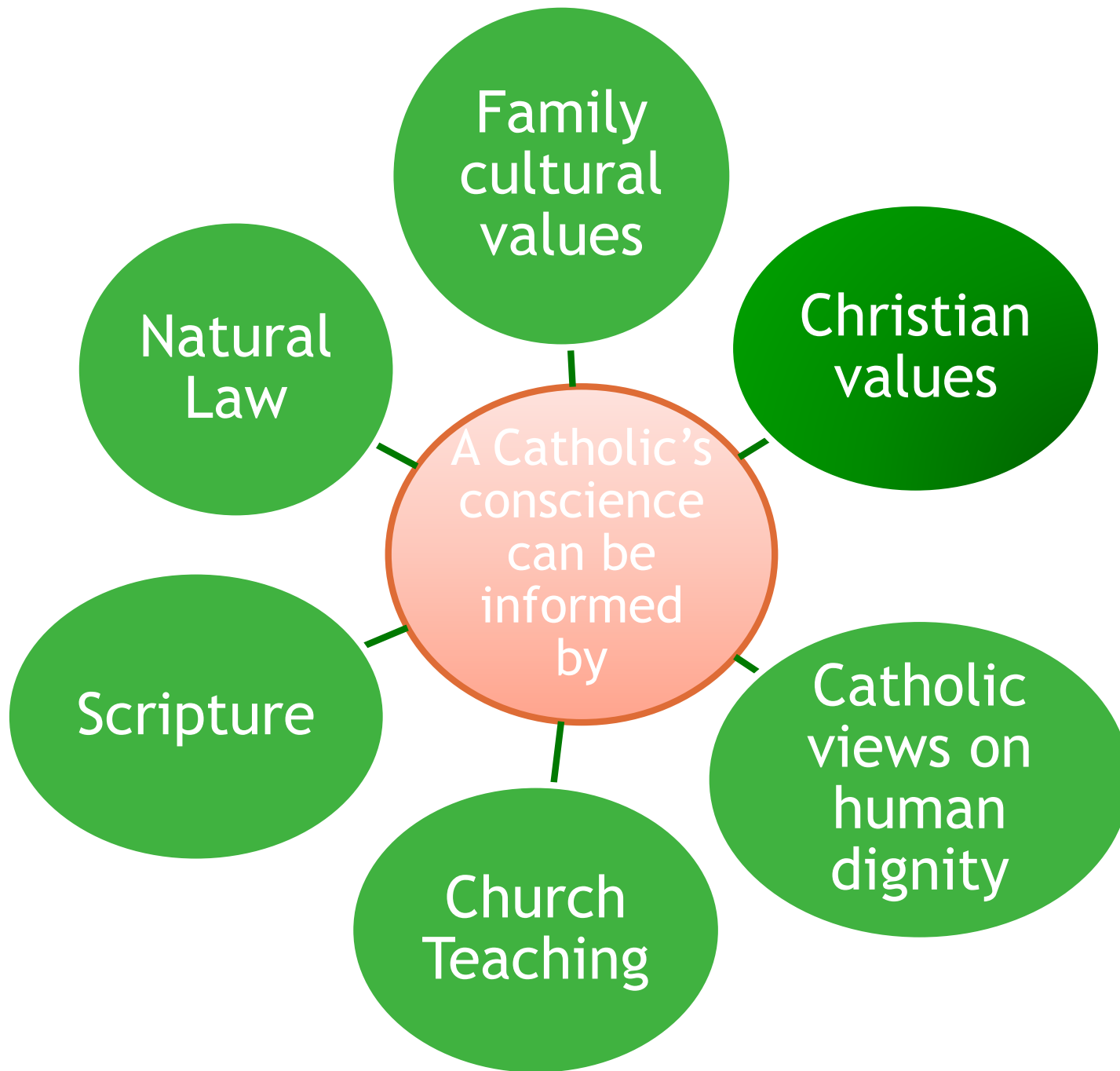
Resources and notes for part 3

On The Threshold

Year 13 Religious Education



## 3.6 MAKING ETHICAL DECISIONS



*People are obliged to follow their conscience in all circumstances and cannot be forced to act against it.*

*John Paul II, World Day of Peace, 1999*

## THE PRIMACY OF CONSCIENCE



# THE EXERCISE OF CONSCIENCE

- ⦿ A process whereby a person is led to make a judgement about the right course of action.
- ⦿ It concludes with the self-evaluation of the action.
  - Desire to know the good - proactive.
  - Discernment of the particular good - alternative and reasons:
    - Analysis of the situation.
    - Gathering of information and seeking wise advice.
    - Reflection on consequences.
  - Judge the right action - do this, shun that.
  - Self-evaluation - post action reflection.

# A PROCESS OF MORAL DECISION-MAKING

- Step 1 - Define the issue
- Step 2 - Seek advice, information and guidance
- Step 3 - Reflect honestly on the proposed action itself and its consequences
- Step 4 - Pray for God's guidance
- Step 5 - Decide and act