HRE1O – Mrs. Williams

**Moral Decision Making and Forming Your Conscience**

**The moral dilemma:**

Avery recently got a part-time job at Lulu Lemon. She has never had a job before and wants to make a good impression. Her parents want her to set aside most of the money she earns for her university tuition next year. Avery finds it difficult to not spend her earnings. She loves Lulu Lemon clothing!

Last night, Avery caught Cindy, one of her coworkers, putting a pair of Lulu Lemon yoga pants in her bag without paying for it. Cindy said that she always returns the clothing she takes. Cindy said that she just borrows one article of clothing at a time and then washes and returns it to the store with nobody noticing. Cindy encouraged Avery to do the same. “The company’s rolling in dough! Nobody will notice if we borrow a couple of things!” exclaimed Cindy.

Avery is now considering borrowing clothing like Cindy does. Since Avery’s parents want her to save her money, borrowing clothing from the store will allow her to wear her favourite brand of clothing without spending money. What do you think Avery should do?

**Your task**: Answer the following questions with a partner. Be prepared to submit your answers and share your ideas with the class.

**See**

* Who will Avery’s decision affect? How? Identify at least 3 individuals or groups who will be affected and then briefly explain how they will be affected.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Individuals or groups who will be affected: | Brief explanation of how each individual or group will be affected: |
| 1 |  |
| 2 |  |
| 3 |  |
| 4 |  |
| 5 |  |

* Is it a moral decision? Explain why or why not.

**Judge**

* Read The Rich Fool (Luke 12: 13-21). What does this parable teach us about what Jesus would want Avery to do in this situation?
* Read the following passages from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

*2408: The 7th commandment forbids theft, that is usurping another’s property against the reasonable will of the owner. There is no theft if consent can be presumed or if refusal is contrary to reason and the universal destination of goods. This is the case in obvious and urgent necessity when the only way to provide for immediate, essential needs (food, shelter, clothing …) is to put at one’s disposal and use the property of others.*

*2409: Even if it does not contradict the provisions of civil law, any form of unjustly taking and keeping the property of others is against the 7th commandment: thus deliberate retention of goods lent or of objects lost; business fraud; paying unjust wages; forcing up prices by taking advantage of the ignorance of others or hardship of another.*

What does the Catholic Church teach about the situation Avery is facing?

* Consider the experience of a committed Catholic like St. Therese.

“*Catholics and other Christians have been attracted to St. Thereses style. Her little way seems to put holiness of life within the reach of ordinary people. Live out your days with confidence in God’s love for you. Recognize that each day is a gift in which your life can make a difference by the way you choose to live it. Put hope in a future in which God will be all and love will consume your spirit. Choose life, not the darkness of pettiness and greed. St. Therese knew the difference love makes by allowing love to be the statement she made each day of her life*.” - Rev. John F. Russell, O.Carm. Seton Hall University

What do you think St. Therese would advise Avery to do?

**Act**

* Now that you have informed your conscience, listen to it. What does it tell you to do? Explain what recommendation you will give Avery and why you have made this decision.

**Evaluate**

* How will your decision affect Avery’s relationship with God?
* How will your decision affect Avery’s relationship with herself?
* How will your decision affect Avery’s relationship with others?
* Did you listen to God, or turn away from God through your decision?