

In a Changing World

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 17*.

❖ In the 16th century, scientists discovered that the earth and other planets revolve around the sun. This led some people to believe that God's role in the universe was limited. This discovery and other discoveries during the Age of Enlightenment, the 1700s, led to a belief that God was distant, not involved in the world, and was sitting back as the world ran itself. As Catholics, we understand that the words "Our Father, who art in heaven" describe God's amazing presence in our hearts, not in some distant place.

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❖ Vincent de Paul realized that detachment from material goods is necessary to truly love God and others. It is a privilege to help those who are poor. Vincent remained friends with rich and influential people so that they could help those in need. With the help of Louise de Marillac, Vincent de Paul founded the Daughters of Charity, sisters who cared for those who were sick and poor.

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❖ The French Revolution attacked not only the existing government but also the Church, which supported the government.

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❖ Saint Julie Billiart was a remarkable woman who founded a community dedicated to teaching children who were poor.

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❖ In the 1700s, many people began to think that we could solve all of humanity's issues by examining them scientifically. These people are called rationalists. Their philosophy is known as rationalism. During the Age of Enlightenment, some people went as far as to reject or deny the existence of God. This belief is called atheism. Pope Pius IX convened the First Vatican Council in 1868 to define the Church and discuss its role in the rapidly changing world.

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❖ The Fourth Commandment tells us to honor our parents, but it also calls us to respect legitimate authority. We should help those in authority build a society that is just and truthful, provide all people with everything they need for human decency, and not follow orders that are contrary to the Gospel.

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