

**Session 7**  
**Conscience and Freedom**  
**Conclusion**

# Dignitatis Humanae

*Freedom has limits*

- “This Vatican Council declares that the human person has a right to religious freedom. This freedom means that all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits.”

*Dignitatis Humanae, §2*

# Dignitatis Humanae

*Freedom is ordered to Truth*

- “It is in accordance with their dignity as persons—that is, beings endowed with reason and free will and therefore privileged to bear personal responsibility—that all men should be at once impelled by nature and also bound by a moral obligation to seek the truth, especially religious truth”

*Dignitatis Humanae, §2*

to seek the **Truth**

- “Therefore the right to religious freedom has its foundation not in the subjective disposition of the person, but in his very nature.”

*Dignitatis Humanae, §2*

# Dignitatis Humanae

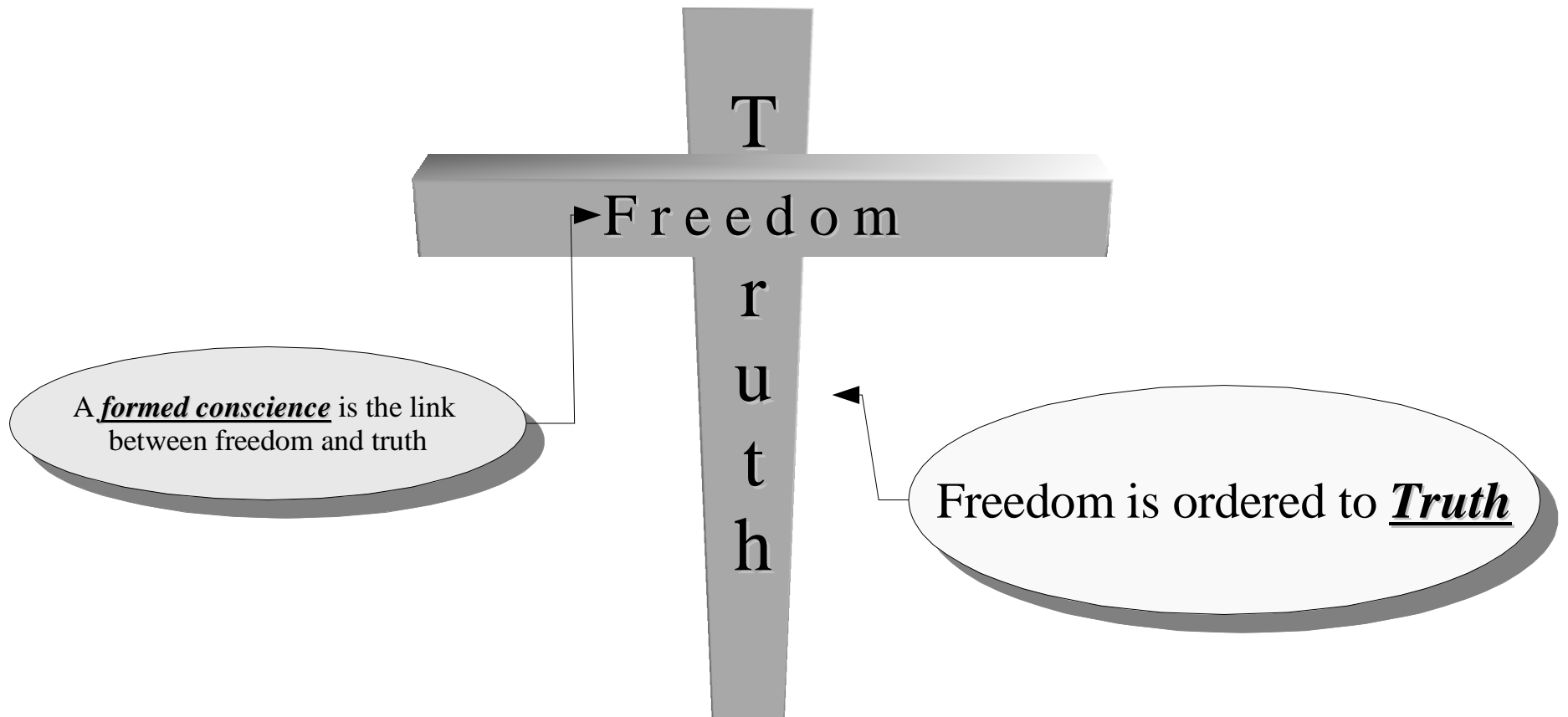
*Conscience is not opinion*

- “On his part, man perceives and acknowledges the imperatives of the divine law through the mediation of conscience. In all his activity a man is bound to follow his conscience in order that he may come to God, the end and purpose of life.”

*Dignitatis Humanae, §2*

# Dignitatis Humanae

*Conscience is not opinion*



# Dignitatis Humanae

*Eliminating coercion does not imply eliminating the Truth*

- “Truth, however, is to be sought after in a manner proper to the dignity of the human person and his social nature. The inquiry is to be free, carried on with the aid of teaching or instruction, communication and dialogue, in the course of which men explain to one another the truth they have discovered”

*Dignitatis Humanae, §3*

# Dignitatis Humanae

*Eliminating coercion does not imply eliminating the Truth*

- “From the very origins of the Church the disciples of Christ strove to convert men to faith in Christ as the Lord; not, however, by the use of coercion or of devices unworthy of the Gospel, but by the power, above all, of the word of God.”

*Dignitatis Humanae, §11*

# Dignitatis Humanae

*Conscience must be formed*

- “In the formation of their consciences, the Christian faithful ought carefully to attend to the sacred and certain doctrine of the Church. For the Church is, by the will of Christ, the teacher of the truth. It is her duty to give utterance to, and authoritatively to teach, that truth which is Christ Himself”

*Dignitatis Humanae, §14*

# Thank you!!

## Be a Lamp in the world

- May the Lord God almighty protect you and your families, may He guide your hands, thoughts and actions to give glory to Him, and may He send His Holy Mother to accompany you day and night directing you in the courageous path to heaven.

Amen.

In the Holy Eucharist,

Omar