

## THREE SENSES OF CONSCIENCE

Conscience/1  
(Synderesis)

Conscience/2  
(Moral Science)

Conscience/3  
(Conscience)

### A Capacity

The sense of the fundamental characteristic of being human which makes it possible to know and do the good.  
Our general sense of value and fundamental sense of responsibility which makes it possible for us to engage in moral discussions to determine the particular moral good.  
The fundamental condition which serves as the presupposition to moral agreement or disagreement on a particular issue.

### A Process

The sense of our way of seeing and thinking.  
The realm of moral disagreement and error, blindness and insight.  
The proper realm of the formation and examination of conscience.  
Follows moral truth which it seeks to grasp by making use of sources of moral wisdom wherever they may be found.  
The goal of its tasks is to reach "evaluative knowledge," personally appropriated, interiorized knowledge.  
Searches for what is right through accurate perception, and a process of reflection and analysis.

### A Judgment

The concrete judgment of what I must do in the situation based on my personal perception and grasp of values.  
The primary object of this judgment is not simply this or that object of choice, but being this or that sort of person through what I choose.  
This act of conscience makes a moral decision "my own" and the moral action expressive of "me" by realizing and expressing my fundamental stance.  
This is the conscience which I must obey to be true to myself.  
This is the "secret core and sanctuary" of our self which must not be violated (G.S. #16). Each "is bound to follow his conscience faithfully in all his activity so that he may come to God, who is his last end. Therefore he must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience" (D.H. #3).