

Two Ways of Making Choices

First Way
Intellectual Way

Step 1: What is the object of my decision

- 178. First Point. This is to place before my mind the object with regard to which I wish to make a choice, for example, an office, or the reception or rejection of a benefice, or anything else that may be the object of a choice subject to change.

Step 2: Ignatian indifference

- 179. Second Point. It is necessary to keep as my aim the end for which I am created, that is, the praise of God our Lord and the salvation of my soul. Besides this, I must be indifferent, without any inordinate attachment, so that I am not more inclined or disposed to accept the object in question than to relinquish it, nor to give it up than to accept it. I should be like a balance at equilibrium, without leaning to either side, that I might be ready to follow whatever I perceive is more for the glory and praise of God our Lord and for the salvation of my soul.

Step 3: Ask for Light in Prayer

- 180. Third Point. I should beg God our Lord to deign to move my will, and to bring to my mind what I ought to do in this matter that would be more for His praise and glory. Then I should use the understanding to weigh the matter with care and fidelity, and make my choice in conformity with what would be more pleasing to His most holy will.

Step 4: Pros and Cons

- 181. Fourth Point. This will be to weigh the matter by reckoning the number of advantages and benefits that would accrue to me if I had the proposed office or benefice **solely for the praise of God our Lord and the salvation of my soul**. On the other hand, I should weigh the disadvantages and dangers there might be in having it. I will do the same with the second alternative, that is, weigh the advantages and benefits as well as the disadvantages and danger of not having it.

Step 5: Make a Decision following Right Reason

- 182. Fifth Point. After I have gone over and pondered in this way every aspect of the matter in question, I will consider which alternative appears more reasonable. Then I must come to a decision in the matter under deliberation because of weightier motives presented to my reason, and not because of any sensual inclination.

Step 6: Present it to the Lord in Prayer and Ask for Peace and Joy

- 183. Sixth Point. After such a choice or decision, the one who has made it must turn with great diligence to prayer in the presence of God our Lord, and offer Him his choice that the Divine Majesty may deign to accept and confirm it if it is for His greater service and praise.

Summary

- Step 1: What is the object of my decision
- Step 2: Ignatian Indifference
- Step 3: Ask for Light in Prayer
- Step 4: Pros and Cons
- Step 5: Make a Decision following Right Reason
- Step 6: Present it to the Lord in Prayer and Ask for Peace and Joy

Second Way
Intuitive Way

Step 1: Ignatian Indifference

- 184. First Rule. The love that moves and causes one to choose must descend from above, that is, from the love of God, so that before one chooses he should perceive that the greater or less attachment for the object of his choice is solely because of His Creator and Lord.

Step 2: What Would I Advice a Friend to Do in my Same Circumstances?

- 185. Second Rule. I should represent to myself a man whom I have never seen or known, and whom I would like to see practice all perfection. Then I should consider what I would tell him to do and choose for the greater glory of God our Lord and the greater perfection of his soul. I will do the same, and keep the rule I propose to others.

Step 3: What Decision I Make Now Will Give Me **Peace at the Hour of Death?**

- 186. Third Rule. This is to consider what procedure and norm of action I would wish to have followed in making the present choice if I were at the moment of death. I will guide myself by this and make my decision entirely in conformity with it.

Step 4: What Decision I Make Now Will Give Me Confidence at the Hour of Judgement?

- 187. Fourth Rule. Let me picture and consider myself as standing in the presence of my judge on the last day, and reflect what decision in the present matter I would then wish to have made. I will now choose the rule of life that I would then wish to have observed, that on the day of judgment I may be filled with happiness and joy.

Step 5: Present it to the Lord in Prayer and Ask for Peace and Joy

- 188. Note Guided by the rules given above for my eternal salvation and peace, I will make my decision, and will offer it to God our Lord as directed in the sixth point of the First Way of Making a Choice of a Way of Life.
- 183. Sixth Point. After such a choice or decision, the one who has made it must turn with great diligence to prayer in the presence of God our Lord, and offer Him his choice that the Divine Majesty may deign to accept and confirm it if it is for His greater service and praise.

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- Step 2: What Would I Advice a Friend to Do in my Same Circumstances?
- Step 3: What Decision I Make Now Will Give Me Peace at the Hour of Death?
- Step 4: What Decision I Make Now Will Give Me Confidence at the Hour of Judgement?
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