

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Forgiveness and Eternal Life

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, / nor the human heart conceived, / what God has prepared for those who love him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Insight

Who do you know that needs a new lease on life? Why?

Six months ago Debbie’s son Sammy had no strength, was constantly in and out of the hospital, and was resigned to going on dialysis—that is, until a compatible kidney became available. The transplant went smoothly. Sammy’s body accepted the donor kidney.

Debbie reflected on how this wonderful gift completely turned around Sammy’s condition. He had his appetite again, his strength, and most of all, hope for the future.

This was the case for not only Sammy, however. The whole family was given a boost. Debbie could tell things were much better. The children were arguing again like healthy, normal kids and not tiptoeing around quietly. Hope filled the family.

For Reflection . . .

There is no obstacle that can separate us from God. God’s healing love is always present with us.

Is there a particular situation in which you felt separated from a holistic, healthy, and holy life? How did you deal with it? Recover from it?

How do you understand the Church’s teaching that at death “life is changed not ended”?

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 976–1060

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 153–162

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 200–216

Church Teaching

More Than We Deserve

Living in a world wounded and suffering from the effects of Original Sin, we struggle daily. We struggle for healing from evil—emotional, physical, moral, and spiritual. We struggle as individuals and as families, as a Church, as a nation, and as a global community.

All creation, including humanity, was rescued from the power of sin and death by Jesus Christ. There is no sin too big that God’s love cannot overwhelm and dissolve its harmful consequences. Nothing can keep us from being friends with God—except our own willingness to turn our backs on God’s love.

More Than We Can Fathom

At Baptism Christ unites us to himself, and we are intimately linked to both his Death and his Resurrection. Living a graced life in friendship with God means that we will ultimately transcend the inherent weakness of both this world and our mortal bodies. On the last day the faithful will be raised up. Our spirits will join with our glorified bodies to rejoice throughout eternity.

More Than We Can Imagine

We are so bound up in time that we cannot imagine what timelessness is. Yet life beyond the confines of this world, this body, and this time await us in God. In Christ the sting of death is destroyed and we have the hope and promise of Heaven: endless light, peace, and joy before the throne of mercy with all the angels and Saints forever—everlasting happiness with God. No one need be lost. No one need be separated from eternal happiness with God. God desires that we should live with him—now and forever!