



# Archdiocesan Program

## WHY CATHOLIC?

STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



## THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

### *I BELIEVE IN LIFE EVERLASTING*

#### **Biblical Reflection: Lk 16:19-31**

The Christian who unites his own death to that of Jesus views it as a step toward him and an entrance into everlasting life... (CCC 1020)

All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. (CCC 1030)

God predestines no one to go to hell; for this, a willful turning away from God (a mortal sin) is necessary, and persistence in it until the end. In the Eucharistic liturgy and in the daily prayers of her faithful, the Church implores the mercy of God, who does not want "any to perish, but all to come to repentance". (2 Pe 3:9) (CCC 1037)

At the end of time, the Kingdom of God will come in its fullness. After the universal judgment, the righteous will reign for ever with Christ, glorified in body and soul. The universe itself will be renewed: The Church... will receive her perfection only in the glory of heaven, when will come the time of the renewal of all things. At that time, together with the human race, the universe itself, which is so closely related to man and which attains its destiny through him, will be perfectly re-established in Christ (LG 48). (CCC 1042)

"We know neither the moment of the consummation of the earth and of man, nor the way in which the universe will be transformed. The form of this world, distorted by sin, is passing away, and we are taught that God is preparing a new dwelling and a new earth in which righteousness dwells, in which happiness will find and surpass all the desires of peace arising in the heart of men" (GS 39,1) (CCC 1048)

*"May your Creed be for you as a mirror. Look at yourself in it, to see if you believe everything you say you believe. And rejoice in your faith each day."* St. Augustine, *Sermo* 58, 11, 13. (CCC 1064)

#### **Questions for discussion:**

- **St. John of the Cross said, "at the evening of life, we shall be judged on our love". What do these words mean to you?**
- **How would you like to live the rest of your days here in this world? Is this a topic that worries you or that you think about at any time?**
- **To be afraid of death is understandable as part of our survival instinct, but how could we, as Christians, reach a peaceful acceptance of the fact that one day we will die?**
- **Who or what do I want most to see when I enter into the eternal life?**
- **How do I visualize the eternal life in the glory of heaven?**

**Further reading:** Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 1020-1065

