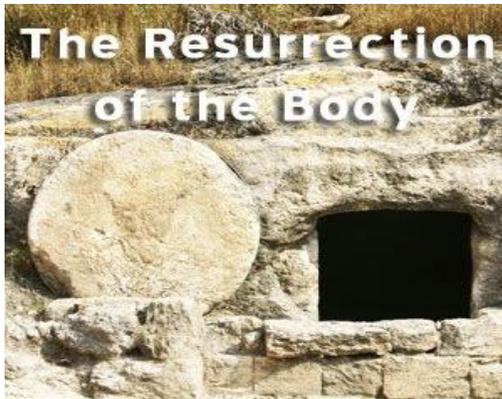




# Archdiocesan Program

## WHY CATHOLIC?

STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



### The Resurrection of the Body

## THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

### *I BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY*

#### **Biblical Reflection: Jn 6:39-40**

We firmly believe, and hence we hope that, just as Christ is truly risen from the dead and lives for ever, so after death the righteous will live for ever with the risen Christ and he will rise them up on the last day. Our resurrection, like his own, will be the work of the Most Holy Trinity. (CCC 989)

... Jesus links faith in the resurrection to his own person: "I am the Resurrection and the life" (Jn 11:25). It is Jesus himself who on the last day will raise up those who have believed in him, who have eaten his body and drunk his blood (cf. Jn 6:54). Already in his present life he gives a sign and pledge of this by restoring some of the dead to life, announcing thereby his own Resurrection, though it was to be of another order. He speaks of this unique event as the "sign of Jonah". The sign of the temple: he announces that he will be put to death but rise thereafter on the third day (cf. Mk 10:34). (CCC 994)

"It is in regard to death that man's condition is most shrouded in doubt" (GS 18). In a sense bodily death is natural, but for faith it is in fact "the wages of sin" (Rm 6:23). For those who die in Christ's grace it is a participation in the death of the Lord, so that they can also share his Resurrection (cf. Rm 6:3-9; Phil 3:9-10). (CCC1006)

Death is the end of man's earthly pilgrimage, of the time of grace and mercy which God offers him so as to work out his earthly life in keeping with the divine plan, and to decide his ultimate destiny. When "the single course of our earthly life" is completed (LG 48), we shall not return to other earthly lives: "It is appointed for men to die once" (Hb 9:27). There is no "reincarnation" after death. (CCC 1013)

I am not dying; I am entering life (St. Thérèse of Lisieux, *The Last Conversations*). (CCC1011)

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

- Under number 1010 of the Catechism we read: "Because of Christ, Christian death has a positive meaning". How these words can help us to contemplate with peace and confidence our own death and the death of our loved ones?
- How can we prepare ourselves for the hour of our death?
- St. Francis of Assisi spoke about our sister bodily Death... what did he mean by this image?
- How will our body look after our own resurrection exceeds our imagination and understanding. It is a mystery for us during this life, however, it is something sure and true... How could I be sure that my body will rise at the end of times?

**Further reading:** Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 988-1019.