

# Week 33

Paragraphs 1667–1698



# THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

*f* faith.<sup>82</sup> By “analogy of faith” we mean the

## How We Worship PART TWO: THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

### HOW DO WE LIVE TOWARD ETERNITY?

Everything we do points toward the moment when death moves us from this life into eternity. The Christian meaning of death is revealed in how Jesus died, embracing the Cross with trust in the Father. The Cross itself is a sign of suffering, sin, and brokenness, but also of hope: Through the Cross, Jesus conquered death and opened heaven. In the Nicene Creed, we say, “I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” We strive to follow in Jesus’ footsteps toward heaven, choosing the moral life God calls us to. It can feel impossible, but everything is possible with God. Every time we fall but get up, it’s a victory for the kingdom and a step closer to eternal life.

#### Keep in Mind

- Without freedom, we simply would not be human. God gave us the incredible privilege of being free to choose the good.
- Our bodies are who we are. How we live in the body determines our character, even for eternity. So, we have to treat the body with respect.
- We hear the Gospel proclaimed, are brought into communion with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through the sacraments, and are called to live a new life as partakers of the divine nature as children of God.
- We fall, but the Lord sustains us, giving us grace through the sacraments and prayer.
- Sacramentals, like holy water, sanctify daily life and prepare us for sacramental grace.
- The Sign of the Cross reminds us of being claimed for Christ at baptism.



#### Dive Deeper

Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, the holy parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, lived in the 1800s and became the first modern married couple to be canonized in 2015. Their marriage models the pursuit of sanctity in every vocation.

- Even if they die in a state of grace, most people still need cleansing from the effects of sin. This is why we pray for the dead and offer Masses for their souls.
- Three elements are crucial for living out sometimes very challenging moral teachings: the mercy of God the Father, the truth of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- We also have a solemn obligation to form our conscience.
- To be saints, we have to acknowledge that we are sinners but also that God loves us and gives us mercy.
- Without acknowledging our sins, we presume upon God’s grace and presume that we will go to heaven.
- Without the mercy of God, we would be overwhelmed.

Use the space below to reflect on this week's content.

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### Take It to Prayer

God our Father, thank you for teaching us more about you so we can know you and our deepest identity as your beloved sons and daughters. Help us to look upon you as our Father and be drawn into your love. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

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*The Catechism in a Year* is a daily podcast produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us understand what it means to be Catholic by reading the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and allowing those truths to shape our lives. This bulletin was adapted from the books that complement the podcast: *The Catechism in a Year Companions* by Petroc Willey, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Matthew Doeing.