

## Six Essential Faith Studies for Overcomers

The primeval  
events that  
resulted in  
the fall of man

The totally  
gratuitous  
saving works  
of God

Why we  
venerate  
the Blessed  
Virgin Mary



The mystery  
of our  
redemption  
revealed

The spiritually  
vital mission  
of the  
Holy Church

Our  
personal  
identity in  
Jesus Christ

# Overcoming the World the Flesh and the Devil *In and Through Our Lord Jesus Christ*

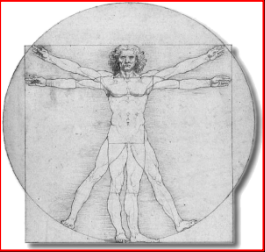


**The “Common Narrative” of Universal Christianity**

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**THE WORLD:** Christians are “pilgrims” dwelling only temporarily on the earth, on a “path” to heaven. The ways of this present world are not God’s ways, nor should they be ours, as we are the divinely provisioned “People of God”.



**THE FLESH:** An insidious side-effect of free will is our fallen, rebellious, human nature, which in and of itself, is incapable of pleasing God or keeping his law. Prone to shamelessly and repeatedly committing all types of deadly, grievous sins, “The Flesh Wants What It Wants”.



**THE DEVIL:** The fallen angel who seduced Adam and Eve into sin. By the Power of Death, the devil gained a certain dominion over all mankind. Satan. The adversary of God and tempter of man. “The Prince of This World”.

# The primeval events that resulted in the fall of man

Definition of “primeval”: *Relating to the earliest of times. Original and/or ancient.*

# Satan - Before He Fell



Ezekiel 28:12 **...Thus said the Lord God:**

**You were the seal of resemblance,  
full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.  
You were in the pleasures of the paradise  
of God: every precious stone  
was your covering...**

Ezekiel 28:14-15 **You were a cherub stretched out,  
and protecting, and I set you in the holy  
mountain of God, you walked in the midst  
of the stones of fire. You were perfect in  
your ways from the day of your creation,  
until iniquity was found in you...**

# The Fall of the Angels

Revelation 12:7 **And there was a great battle in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon, and the dragon fought, and his angels.**

**And they prevailed not: neither was their place found any more in heaven.**

**And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, who seduced the whole world.**

***And he was cast unto the earth:  
and his angels were  
thrown down with him.***



# Satan's *Sin* and His *Sentence*

Isaiah 14:12-15 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, who did rise in the morning? How art thou fallen to the earth, he that did wound the nations?

And thou said in thy heart: *I will* ascend into heaven,  
*I will* exalt my throne above the stars of God,  
*I will* sit in the mountain of the covenant, in the sides of the north.  
*I will* ascend above the height of the clouds.  
*I will* be like the most High.

***But yet thou shall be brought down to hell,  
into the depth of the pit.***

# There Is No *Redemption* Or *Second Chance* for **Rebellious Angels**



Angelic choices are made by a fully informed, supernatural intellect

Hence, a decision once made is irrevocable, eternally unchanging and wholly reflective of their fidelity (or lack of it) to God's rule

The dimension of *time* also likely applies differently to angels, who probably spend most of their existence in *eternity*

Can an *eternal* mind *change*?



# Speculation About Satan



Refusing to serve God, ejected from Heaven and looking forward only to an eternity in Hell, his future was indeed, very bleak

Cursing the Almighty, Satan vowed to take every single one of God's newly created human beings to Hell with him, if he could

With his angelic powers, as well as his access to the Earth intact, the rest is history

# Larceny In the Garden

From the Catechism:

**391 Behind the disobedient choice of our first parents lurks a seductive voice, opposed to God, which makes them fall into death out of envy.**

**Scripture and the Church's Tradition see in this being a fallen angel, called "Satan" or the "devil". The Church teaches that Satan was at first a good angel, made by God:**

***"The devil and the other demons were indeed created naturally good by God, but they became evil by their own doing."***



# Willingly Swindled

Adam traded away everything that he owned, including all the physical, temporal gifts God had given him:

Genesis 1:26 “... **dominion over the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the air, and the beasts, and the whole earth, and every creeping creature that moved upon the earth**”.

***This was Satan's price  
for imparting  
“The Knowledge  
of Good and Evil”***

***It was a fool's bargain!***



# **You Sin ... *You Die!***

**Romans 8:2**



So it was that  
Satan gained control  
over the whole world  
*and*  
by the Power of Death  
a certain dominion  
over all mankind

The process  
was technically “legal”  
but it certainly wasn't right

# **Sin – Original, Insidious, Congenital and Deadly** (Romans 5:12)

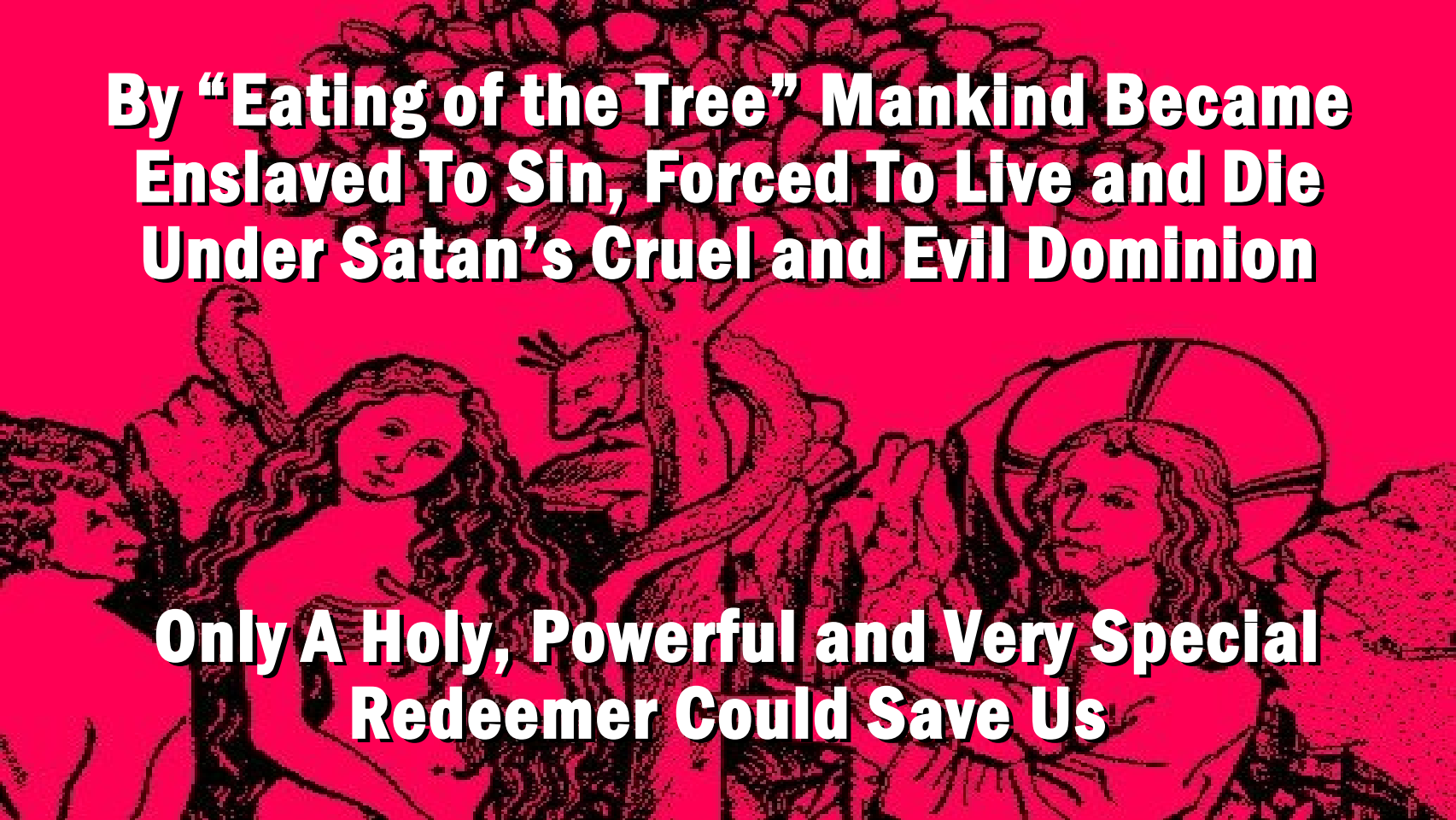


**Adam's sin brought death into the world. Worse still, "Original Sin" would automatically be passed along to Adam's descendants, as they were conceived in the womb**

**The beneficiary of all this was Satan, who held the Power of Death over anyone "stained" in any way by sin; *a demonic, unholy dominion that encompassed nearly every human being who would ever be born!***

**By “Eating of the Tree” Mankind Became  
Enslaved To Sin, Forced To Live and Die  
Under Satan’s Cruel and Evil Dominion**

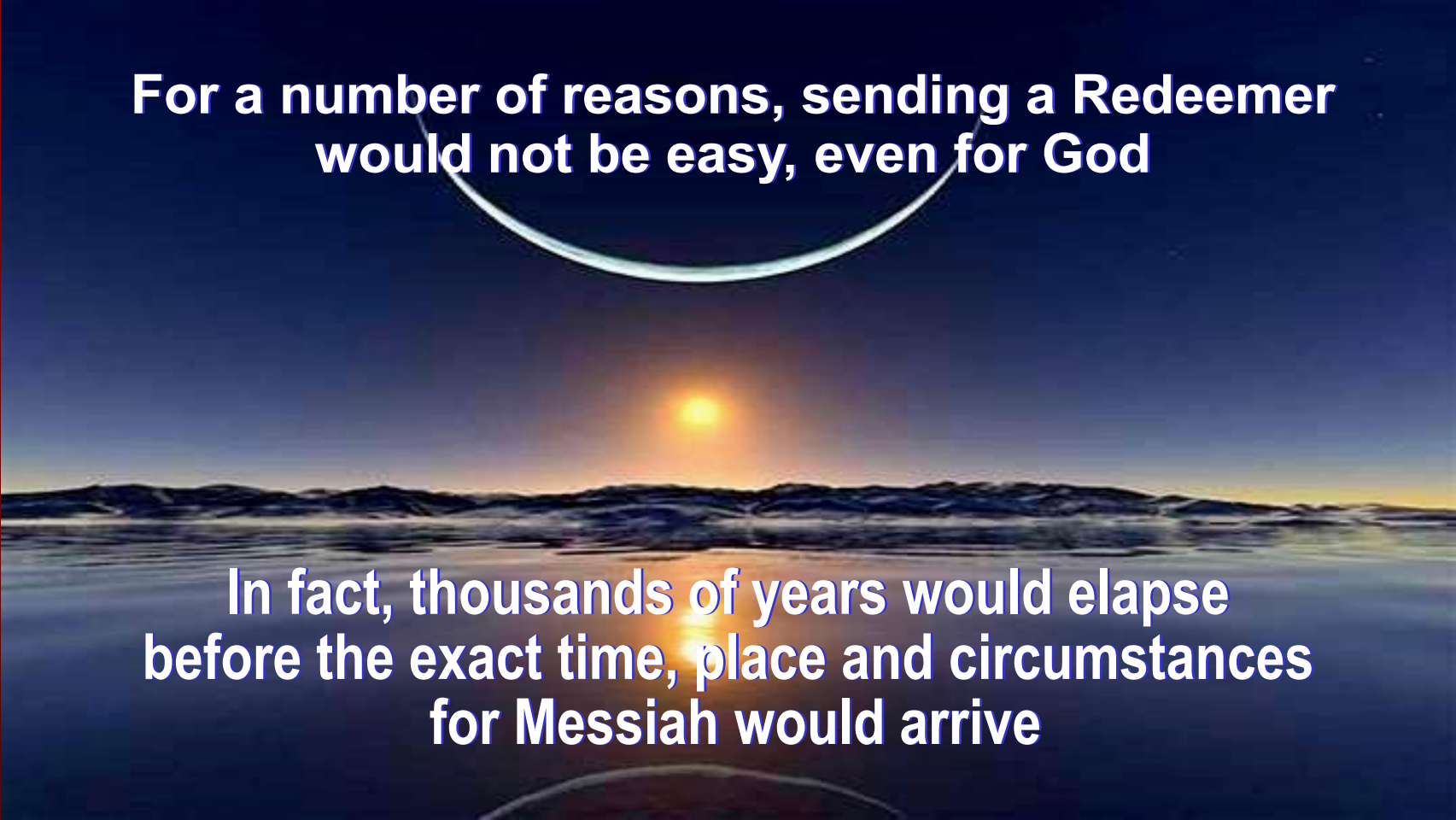
**Only A Holy, Powerful and Very Special  
Redeemer Could Save Us**



**Only One With *No Sin*  
Could *Vanquish Evil***

**Only One With *the Power of  
Everlasting Life* Could Overcome *Death***

**Only One Who Is *Fully God* and *Fully Man*  
Could *Heal* the “*Rift of Sin*”  
That Separated Man From *His Creator***

A landscape photograph showing a sunset over a range of mountains. The sun is a bright yellow-orange orb on the horizon, casting a glow across the sky and reflecting on the water in the foreground. A thin, white crescent moon is visible in the dark blue sky above the mountains. The overall scene is serene and atmospheric.

**For a number of reasons, sending a Redeemer  
would not be easy, even for God**

**In fact, thousands of years would elapse  
before the exact time, place and circumstances  
for Messiah would arrive**





**Meanwhile, Satan remained free  
to wield the power of death and hell over the whole earth  
along with virtually everyone and everything dwelling upon it**

# The totally gratuitous saving works of God

Definition of “gratuitous”: *Solely due to love and/or good will, without return benefit or compensation. Gracious. Unmerited. Unearned. Free of charge.*

Galatians 4:4-5

**But when  
the fullness of the time  
was come, God sent  
his Son, made of a  
woman, made under  
the law: That he might  
redeem them who were  
under the law:  
that we might receive  
the adoption of sons.**



**God  
the Father  
Sent His  
Divine  
Son  
Into  
the World  
As A Man**



**So  
That  
All  
Might  
Obtain  
Salvation  
Through  
Him**



John 3:16 For God so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son: that whosoever believeth in him may not perish, but may have life everlasting.



# **Jesus Christ, *the Lamb of God!***

(John 1:29-36)

**Perfect Victim**


**Messiah  
and Savior**

**Prince of Peace**

**Holy One**

**King of Kings**

**Lord of Lords...**



In  
and  
Through  
Jesus Christ  
and  
His  
One  
Holy  
Catholic  
Apostolic  
Church

We Obtain  
All That Is  
Necessary  
To Please God  
Defeat Death  
and Hopefully  
*Overcome  
the World  
the Flesh  
and  
the Devil*

*Thanks to Jesus, we all have an easy choice:*  
**Enjoy everlasting life in Our Lord Jesus Christ  
or perish in hell, along with Satan and his minions**

**Ezekiel 28:18 – 19 ... therefore I will  
bring forth a fire from the midst  
of thee, to devour thee, and  
I will make thee as ashes upon  
the earth in the sight of all  
that see thee.**

**... thou art brought to nothing,  
and thou shall never be any more.**





# The Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Rightly understood  
worthily received and properly  
administered, the Sacrament of  
Reconciliation freely dispenses  
the redemptive fruits of Christ's  
life, death and resurrection  
*absolving the individual of all sin  
while restoring spiritual life  
and sanctifying grace  
to the soul***



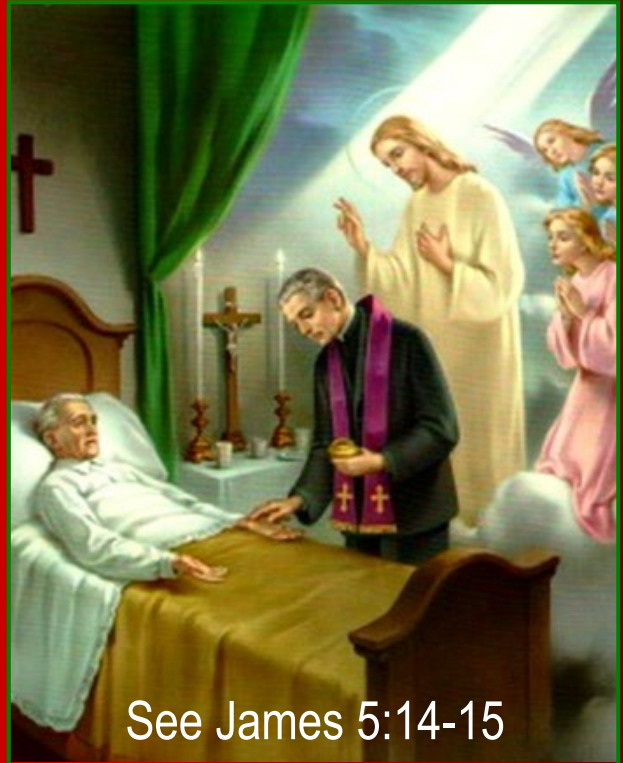
See John 20:19-23

# A “*Last-Chance*” for *Lost Souls*

*Old age, illness, or infirmity often make it impractical to persist in a sinful lifestyle*

*The end of a “relationship” or the imminent death of a “life partner” may provide both parties with a “window of opportunity” for repentance and conversion*

*Absolution is available in these cases, as God is always willing to forgive. Don’t forget, many great saints were once “hypocrites” too*



See James 5:14-15

# Jesus Knows

Jesus knows that we have a hard time figuring out what God wants us to do, so He left us the Church, the Holy Spirit and the Bible to be our guide

Jesus knows that resisting temptation and avoiding sin is not easy (due to our fallen human nature) so He left us the Mass and the Sacraments, in the care of the Church, to be applied to our needs

Jesus knows that life is an ordeal, in part, because He personally lived it, so He has granted the faithful a rich reward, according to his grace:

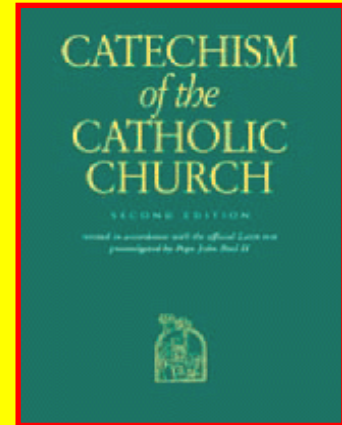
***Eternal life and perfect happiness  
in the Kingdom of Heaven***



***We're All Expected To Know  
and Do What's Right  
According To God's Law***

***When Governments Pass  
Laws That Encourage Or  
Condone Mortally Sinful  
Behavior, We Have A Duty  
To Stand In Opposition  
To Those Laws***

**The Catechism Is the  
Reference Text for Virtually  
All Catholic Teachings**



**When In Doubt  
Check It Out**

*Judgment Day*

Romans 6:23

The  
wages  
of  
sin  
is  
death

but  
the grace  
of God  
is life  
everlasting  
in  
Christ  
Jesus,  
our Lord.



# **GRACE!**

**God's Unmerited Favor  
Comes In Two Varieties**

***Actual Grace:*** Enlightens, guides and empowers us to conform our human will to God's divine will

***Sanctifying Grace:*** The living presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling within a human soul; the "Currency of Heaven"; transforms us, making us holy and acceptable to God



*Actual Grace Abounds  
Throughout Human  
History*

1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17:40-54

*By the Grace of God  
David Slew Goliath*

**But Until Jesus Redeemed Us By His Death  
On the Cross, Virtually All of Mankind Lacked  
*the Sanctifying Grace Necessary To Enter Heaven***



**Sanctifying Grace  
is ordinarily, initially  
obtained by means of  
*the Sacrament of Baptism***

***It is maintained and increased  
by fervently practicing our faith,  
attending Mass and receiving  
all the appropriate Sacraments;  
especially Reconciliation  
and Holy Communion***



Unfortunately, our Redemption would require much more than the forgiveness of sins

Satan's myriad, brutal counter attacks would need to be blunted and turned aside, *until the end of time*



*That's Why Both A Holy Redeemer  
and An Indefectible Church  
Are Necessary for Our Salvation*



## **Our Holy Savior Would Need A Sin-Free Human Mother**

**Luke 1:26-28** And in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David: and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel said unto her: *Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.*

**Conceived  
By the Power of the Holy Spirit,  
Jesus Had No Sinful “Natural” Father**



**Luke 1:35 ... the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee  
and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee.  
And therefore also the Holy which shall be born  
of thee shall be called the Son of God.**



**(See Isaiah 35) True God and true man, without sin of any kind  
Jesus is uniquely qualified to be our Messiah and Savior**



**Jesus Perfectly  
Accomplished  
the Will  
of His  
Heavenly  
Father**

***Even  
Unto Death  
On  
the Cross***

Philippians 2:8

**John 10:17-18**  
Therefore  
does  
the Father  
love me:  
because  
I lay down  
my life,  
that I may  
take it again.



No man  
takes it away  
from me: but  
I lay it down  
of myself. And  
I have power  
to lay it down:  
and I have  
power to take  
it up again...

# **St. Augustine of Hippo** (354-430)



**“Christ demonstrated justice by His death. He promised power by His resurrection.**

**What could be more just than to go as far as the death of the cross, for the sake of justice?**

**What greater act of power than to rise from the dead and ascend to heaven with the very flesh in which He was slain?”**



# Biblical Prophecy



Luke 24:44-45 **And he said to them: These are the words which I spoke to you while I was yet with you, that all things must needs be fulfilled which are written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms, concerning me.**

**Then he opened their minds, that they might understand the Scriptures.**

# Sacred Scripture (the Holy Bible) and Tradition


From The Catechism ...

**81 Sacred Scripture is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit. 82 ... the Church, to whom the transmission and interpretation of Revelation is entrusted, "does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence."**





**Tradition is the means by which the Holy Spirit infallibly guides the Church, from generation to generation**

An aerial photograph of St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums in Rome, Italy. The basilica's large dome is prominent in the upper left, and the long, curved colonnades of the museums extend across the center and right. The surrounding city of Rome is visible in the background.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:15** Therefore, brethren, stand fast:  
**and hold the traditions, which you have learned,  
whether by word or by our epistle (letter) – Saint Paul**

**From The Catechism : 78 ... Through Tradition, "the Church, in her doctrine, life and worship, perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes."**



# **Magisterium: A Holy Office and Sacred Trust**

**The Magisterium is the authoritative teaching office of the Church, personally commissioned by Jesus Christ and held in common by every Catholic Bishop, including and most importantly, the Pope**

**The Bishops also typically delegate this teaching authority to their faithful and trusted assistants: the priests, deacons, and certain lay persons**

The background of the image shows St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy, with a large crowd of people gathered in the square in front of it. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on this scene.

# The Holy Bible Tradition Magisterium

*Three authentic witnesses  
which must be in complete agreement*  
in order to provide accurate and reliable  
testimony regarding all the truths of our faith

# Why we venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary

Definition of “venerate”: *To honor and/or hold in very high esteem.  
To treat with respect, reverence and affection, according to relationship,  
position, privilege, high office and/or personal merit.*



**The Blessed Virgin Mary, Our “Model of Holiness”  
Served As “Spiritual Mother” to the Apostles  
and the Members of the Early Church**



## *That Has Never Changed!*

Inspired by the Holy Spirit,  
confirmed by the Sacred Deposit of the Faith  
and illuminated by grace, faith and reason,  
Christians have always and everywhere  
greatly loved, esteemed and revered  
the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
asking her to “put in a good word for us”  
with our (and her) risen Lord and Savior,  
*Jesus Christ*



Luke 1:28

**And the angel said unto her:  
*Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou among women.***

What do we know about the meaning  
of the terms *“Full of Grace”* and  
*“Blessed Art Thou Among Women”*  
in the context of the Blessed Virgin Mary’s  
*uniquely privileged existence*  
*and divine motherhood?*

A prophetic passage from the Old Testament’s  
*“The Wisdom of Solomon”* (7:25-26)  
*gives us a very good “sense” of it*

Wisdom 7:25-26

For she is a breath  
of the power  
of God,  
and a certain  
pure emanation  
of the glory  
of the Almighty  
God: and therefore  
no defiled thing  
cometh into her.



For she is  
the brightness  
of eternal light,  
and  
the unspotted  
mirror of  
God's majesty,  
and  
the image  
of his  
goodness.

**“Solomon”** employs female, gender specific language that not only describes various Marian attributes and privileges, but also harkens back to the time when God, in the beginning, created Adam and Eve in a state of grace, according to his own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-31)

*In order to fulfill her divinely predestined mission as the Mother of God, Mary was also conceived “Full of Grace” ... totally free of sin ... and Mary, the “New Eve” would never “fall” from God’s grace*

*“The Immaculate Conception”*

Mary was preserved from all sin from the moment she was conceived in her mother's womb

*“Full of Grace”*

Mary's human nature remained perfectly intact; her body and spirit, absolutely pure



*Mary acted with humility and of her own free will*

God's superabundant graces empowered the Mother of God to cooperate with his will and his plan without fail

*Mary never sinned*

# A Holy and Suitable Mother for Jesus Christ the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

**The Blessed Virgin Mary was divinely graced  
and specially privileged for the Glory of God  
and for the Purpose of Our Salvation**

Mary cooperated with God's redemptive plan in many, many ways; one way in particular, is absolutely unique:

***She permitted our Holy Redeemer's human body  
to be made from her own pure and sinless flesh***

Luke 1:35

**... the Holy  
Ghost shall  
come upon thee  
and the power  
of the Most  
High shall  
overshadow  
thee.**



**And therefore  
also the Holy  
which shall  
be born of  
thee shall be  
called the  
Son of God.**





Luke 1:39-40

And Mary rising up in those days, went with haste into the hill country...  
And she entered into the house of Zachary and saluted Elizabeth.

Luke 1:41-42

...And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. And she cried out with a loud voice and said:

*Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.*



Luke 1:46-50 And Mary said: My soul doth magnify the Lord.  
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. Because he hath  
regarded the humility of his handmaid: for behold, from henceforth



*all generations shall call me blessed.* Because he that is mighty  
hath done great things to me: and holy is his name. And his mercy  
is from generation unto generations, to them that fear him.

# Mary – The “Woman” of Prophecy



Genesis 3:15

**I will put enmities  
between thee and *the  
woman* and thy seed  
and *her seed*: she (*he*)  
shall crush thy head,  
and thou shall lie in wait  
for her (*his*) heel.**

*(The original scriptural  
text curiously accommodates  
both genders)*

# Mary - The “Virgin” of Isaiah



Isaiah 7:14 **Therefore  
the Lord himself  
shall give you a sign.  
Behold, *a virgin  
shall conceive,  
and bear a son*  
and his name shall  
be called Emmanuel  
(*God with us*)**



**Tradition  
holds that Mary  
like many Jewish  
girls of her time  
was consecrated  
to God  
at the age of three  
by means  
of a formal  
Temple ceremony**

*Since there was no way for them to know if/how and/or at what point in their life God might choose to “call” upon them, young maidens dedicated to God in this manner vowed to remain perpetually (forever) virgin*

The Holy Church knows this from history, from the Bible and Tradition, and from the Blessed Virgin Mary’s personal testimony

*According to the Law of Moses such vows of “perpetual” virginity would apply even to married couples*

# From the Book of Numbers - Chapter 30

3-4: *... when a woman vows a vow to the LORD, and binds herself by a pledge, while within her father's house, in her youth, and her father hears of her vow and of her pledge by which she has bound herself, and says nothing to her; then all her vows shall stand ...*

6-7: *And if she is married to a husband, while under her vows ... and her husband hears of it, and says nothing to her on the day that he hears; then her vows shall stand, and her pledges by which she has bound herself shall stand.*



Short of the father or husband acting in a timely manner to “legally” renounce the vow, it would remain in effect for life, with no further recourse available

*According to the Law of Moses, intentionally disregarding such a vow would constitute a very serious ... and even “deadly” sin*

# Mary - “Queen Mother”

## In the Tradition of the Royal House of David...



1<sup>st</sup> Kings 2:19-20

Then (the queen) Bathsheba came to (her son) King Solomon. And the king arose to meet her, and bowed to her, and sat down upon his throne: and a throne was set for the king's mother, at his right hand. And she said to him:

**I desire one small petition of thee. And the king said to her: *My mother ask, for I must not turn thee away.***

## ... and Jesus Christ, the Eternal King



Luke 1:31-33

Behold, you shall conceive in thy womb and shall bring forth a son: and you shall call his name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of David his father: and he shall reign in the house of Jacob forever.

***And of his kingdom  
there shall be no end.***



## ***Mother of God***



Since the revered Mother of God  
from all eternity joined in a hidden way  
with Jesus Christ in one and the same  
decree of predestination, immaculate  
in her conception, a most perfect virgin  
in her divine motherhood ...

**Official Catholic Church Source Document: *Munificentissimus Deus***



## *Noble Associate of Christ*



... the noble associate of the divine Redeemer who has won a complete triumph over sin and its consequences, finally obtained, as the supreme culmination of her privileges, that she should be preserved free from the corruption of the tomb ...



## *Queen of Heaven*



... and that, like her own Son, having overcome death, she might be taken up body and soul to the glory of heaven where, as Queen, she sits in splendor at the right hand of her Son, the immortal King of the Ages.

Official Catholic Church Source Document: *Munificentissimus Deus*

# Mary - The Blessed Mother Who Would Be Pierced By A “Sword”

Luke 2:34-35 **And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother: Behold this child is set for the fall and the resurrection of many in Israel and for a sign which shall be contradicted.**

*And thy own soul  
a sword shall pierce,  
that out of many hearts  
thoughts may be revealed.*



# Mary - The “Woman” of Cana



**John 2:1-5** And the third day, there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee: and the mother of Jesus was there. And Jesus also was invited, and his disciples, to the marriage. And the wine failing, the mother of Jesus said to him: They have no wine. And Jesus said to her: *Woman*, what is that to me and to thee? My hour is not yet come. His mother said to the waiters:

*Whatever he shall say to you, do.*



# Mary - The “Woman” of the Cross

John 19:25-27 **Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, his mother and his mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalen. When Jesus therefore had seen his mother and the disciple standing whom he loved, he said to his mother: *Woman*, behold thy son. After that, he said to the disciple: Behold thy mother. And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own.**

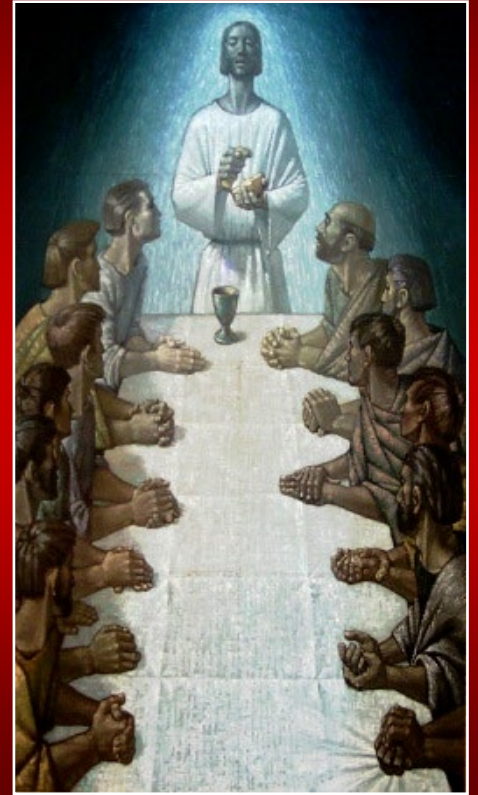


*The Apostles, particularly St. John, understood the “whole” truth about the Blessed Virgin Mary*

That truth was faithfully handed down to the Church via Tradition and Scripture and that is what Catholics have always known and believed

*Mary remained completely and totally devoted to God; a perfect virgin before, during and after the birth of Jesus. Mary never “knew” any man (Luke 1:34) and she never had any other children*

# Mary ... Ark of the New Covenant





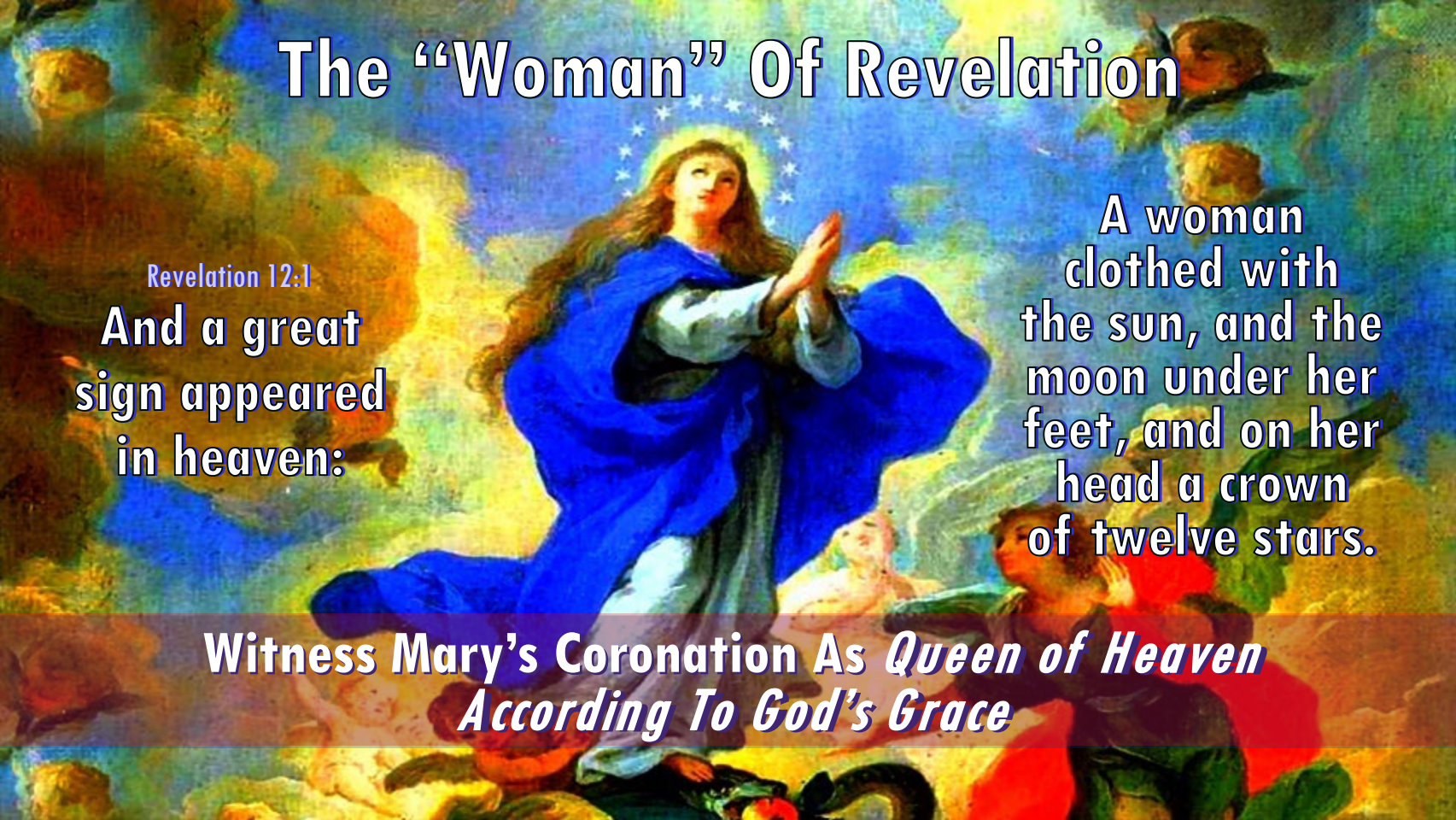
*Her  
Earthly  
life  
complete,*

the “Ark”  
was taken  
up to  
Heaven

Revelation 11:19

**And the temple of God was opened in heaven:  
and the ark of his testament was seen in his temple...**

# The “Woman” Of Revelation



Revelation 12:1

And a great  
sign appeared  
in heaven:

A woman  
clothed with  
the sun, and the  
moon under her  
feet, and on her  
head a crown  
of twelve stars.

Witness Mary's Coronation As *Queen of Heaven*  
According To *God's Grace*

***The Bible Says:***

*Hail (Mary)  
full of grace,  
the Lord is  
with thee.  
Blessed art  
thou among  
women and  
blessed is  
the fruit of thy  
womb (Jesus).*



***Our Response,  
Based On Faith  
and Reason:***

*Holy Mary  
Mother of God,  
pray for  
us sinners,  
now and  
at the  
hour  
of our death,  
Amen.*

# Good News From Jesus!



**All the faithful who manage to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil, with the help of God's grace, will receive the same type of heavenly rewards that Mary already fully enjoys**

The background is a vibrant blue-toned image of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and reflecting on the water's surface. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a couple is visible, looking out towards the horizon. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.

**Revelation 2:26 He That Shall Overcome ...**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him...**

**and keep my words unto the end,  
I will give him power over the nations.**





Revelation 3:5 **He That Shall Overcome ...**

Matthew 10:32 Every one therefore that shall confess me before men,  
I will also confess him before my Father who is in heaven.

**shall be clothed in white garments: and I will not blot his name out of the book of life. And I will confess his name before my Father and his angels.**

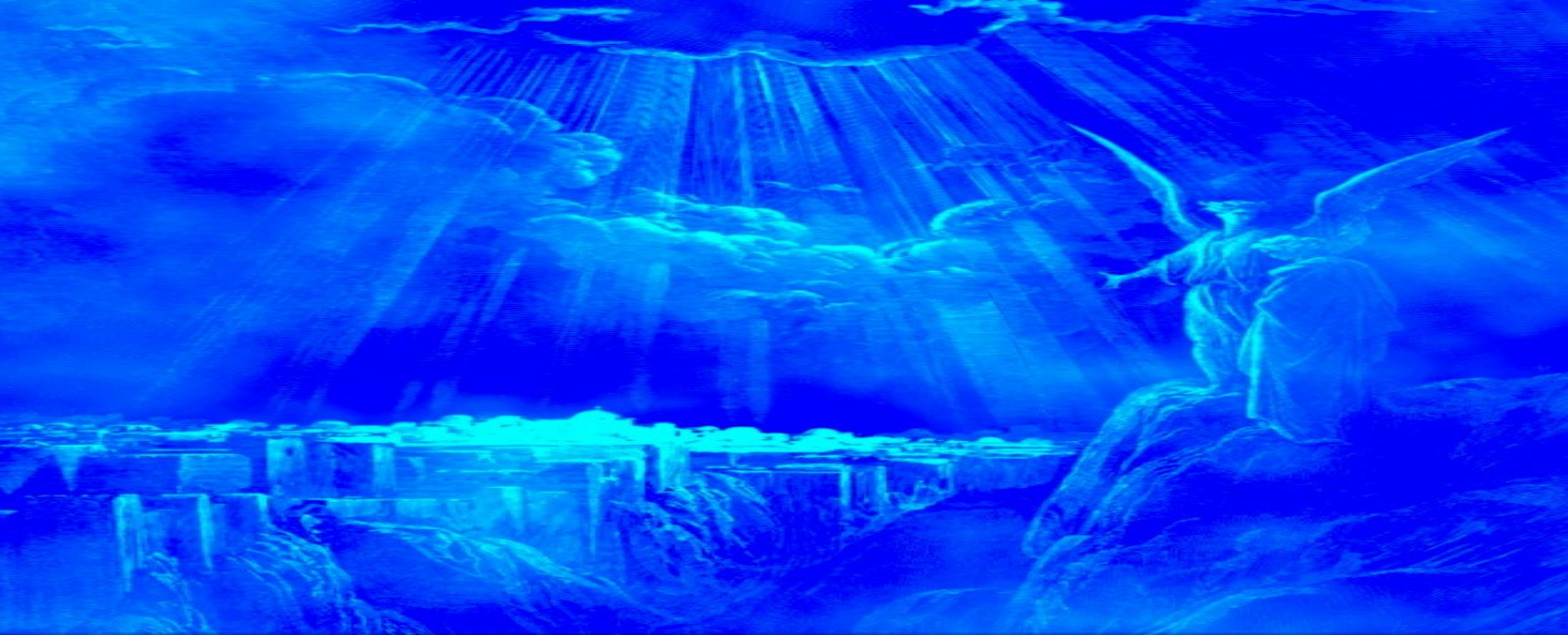


Revelation 3:12 **He That Shall Overcome ...**

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.

**I will make him a pillar in the temple  
of my God: and he shall go out no more...**



**and I will write upon him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God, and my new name.**

**Revelation 3:21 He That Shall Overcome ...**

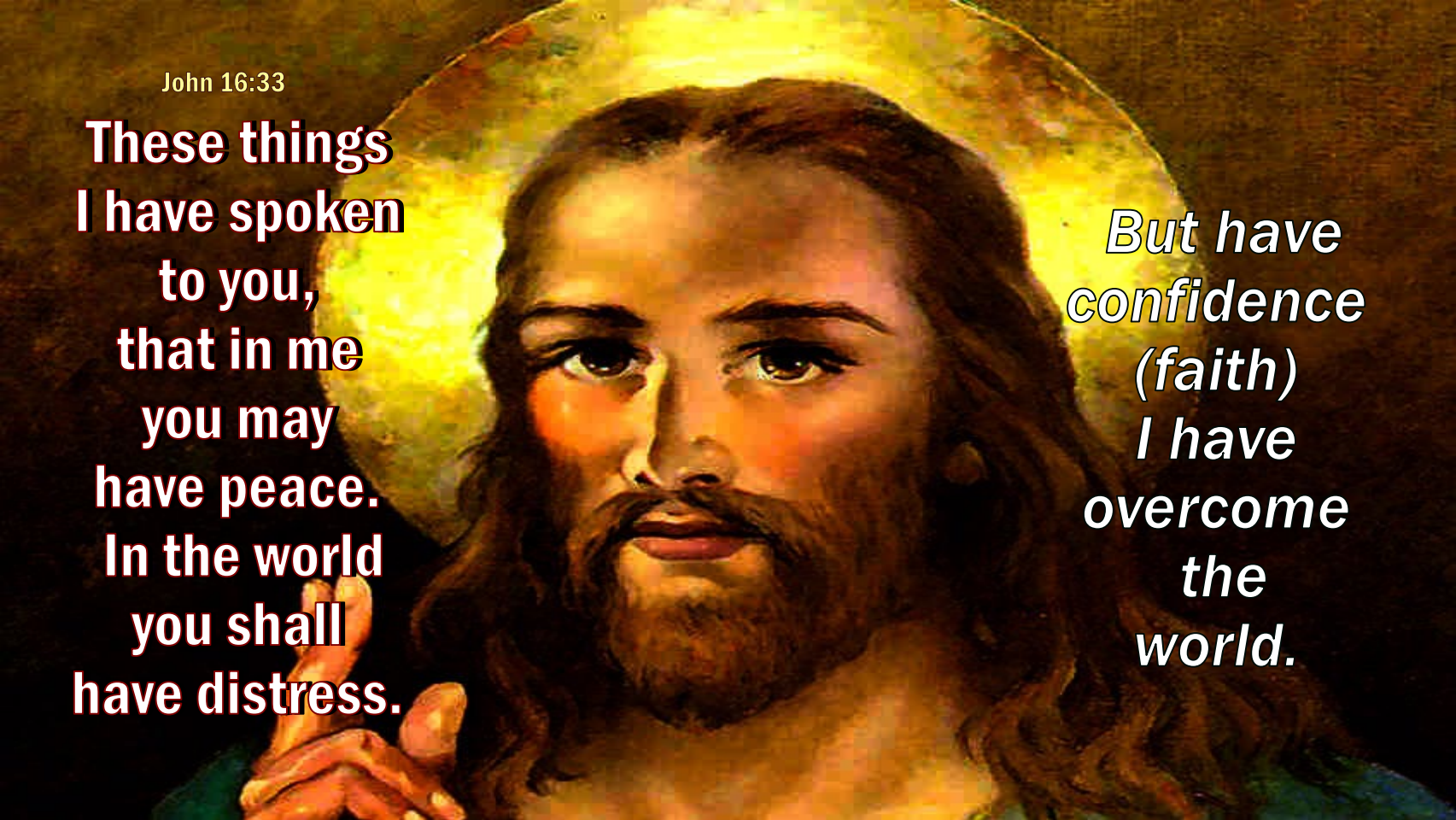


**I will give to sit with me in my throne: as I also have overcome and am set down with my Father in his throne.**

**Revelation 21:7 He That Shall Overcome ...**



**shall  
possess  
these things.  
And I will be  
his God: and he  
shall be my son.**



John 16:33

**These things  
I have spoken  
to you,  
that in me  
you may  
have peace.  
In the world  
you shall  
have distress.**

*But have  
confidence  
(faith)  
I have  
overcome  
the  
world.*

# The mystery of our redemption revealed

Definition of “mystery”: *A truth that can only be fully explained through divine revelation.*

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:7-8

...we speak of the wisdom of God  
in a mystery, a wisdom which is hidden,  
which God ordained before the world,  
unto our glory: Which none of *the princes  
of this world* knew. For if they had known it,  
they would never have crucified the Lord of glory...



**The Coming of the Son of God To Die For Us  
So Sins Could Be Forgiven, Is History's Greatest Love Story**



**In That Singular Event, the Law, Free Will, Good, Evil, Faith, Grace  
and Most Importantly, God Himself, Acted To Bring About  
the Salvation of the World**

**It Happened In A Way That Most Never Expected, That Billions  
Still Refuse To Accept and Many More Do Not Fully Understand**



**It Happened for the Benefit of Mankind and for the Glory of God  
*and It Was Good!***

**Because the Task of Overcoming Sin Made It Necessary  
for God To Become One of Us, Our Story Became His Story**



***Yet Many Christians Remain Unable To Explain How  
Our Salvation, In and Through Jesus Christ, Actually Works***



**Why Was It  
Necessary for  
the Only  
Begotten Son  
of God To  
Redeem Us?**



**Why Did Jesus Have To Suffer?**

**Why Did He Have To Die?**



**How Did  
the  
Passion  
Death  
and  
Resurrection  
of  
Jesus**

**Act To  
Destroy  
Satan's  
Power  
and  
Reconcile  
Mankind  
With God?**

# St. Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)

One of the great philosophers and theologians of the middle ages;  
Declared A Doctor of the Church by Pope Clement XI in 1720



**Saint Anselm is likely the most important Christian theologian between Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aquinas**

*His favored area of theology:*

**“Why God Should Become Man”**

**(In Order To Redeem Us)**

# On God's Justice and the Law

Man naturally owes honor,  
obedience and allegiance to God  
in all things,  
so with what could man pay  
for his sin against God?

*Man alone, possesses nothing  
that can satisfy his debt  
to God for sin.*

Saint Anselm



# **On Sin and Death**

**For as death  
came upon  
the human race  
by the disobedience of man,  
it was fitting  
that by man's obedience  
life should be restored.**

Saint Anselm

# On Vanquishing Satan

**And so also was it proper  
that the devil, man's tempter,  
who had conquered him  
in eating of the tree,  
should be vanquished by man  
in the suffering of the tree  
which man bore.**

Saint Anselm

# Why Was Suffering Necessary?

**If man was overcome by the devil  
in the easiest manner possible,  
so as to dishonor God  
by sinning against him,  
is it not right that man,  
in making satisfaction for his sin,  
should honor God by conquering the devil  
with the greatest possible difficulty?**

Saint Anselm

# Why Only God *Should* Redeem Us

... if any other being should  
rescue man from eternal death,  
man would rightly be adjudged  
as the servant of that being.

Now if this be so, he would in no wise  
be restored to that dignity  
which would have been his  
had he never sinned.

Saint Anselm

# **Why *Only* God *Could* Redeem Us**

**Jesus Christ,  
the only divinely acceptable  
sacrifice for the sins of the world  
suffered, died and rose again  
in order to restore all that had been lost.  
Such was the will of his Father in Heaven  
and absolutely nothing less  
would justly suffice.**

# From the Catechism: **Jesus was handed over according to God's mysterious plan**



599 Jesus' violent death was not the result of chance in an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances, but is part of the *mystery* of God's plan, as St. Peter explains to the Jews of Jerusalem in his first sermon on Pentecost:

**"This Jesus [was] delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God."**

393 This Biblical language does not mean that those who handed him over were merely passive players in a scenario written in advance by God.



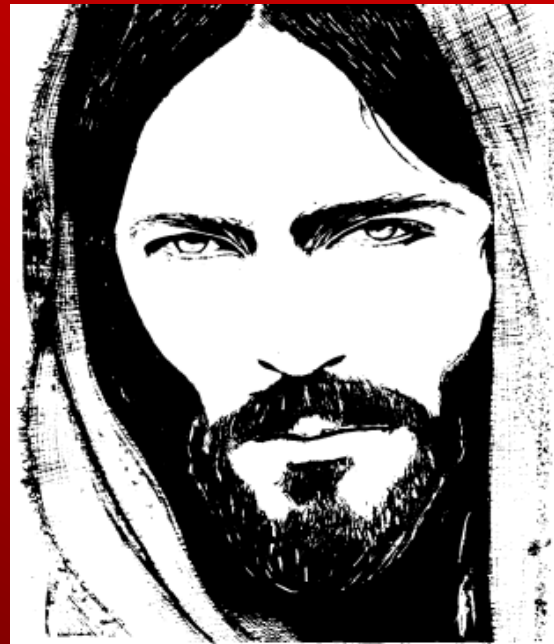
**For the sake of accomplishing his plan of salvation,  
God permitted the acts that flowed from their blindness.**

600 To God, all moments of time are present in their immediacy. When therefore he establishes his eternal plan of "predestination", he includes in it each person's free response to his grace:

"In this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place."

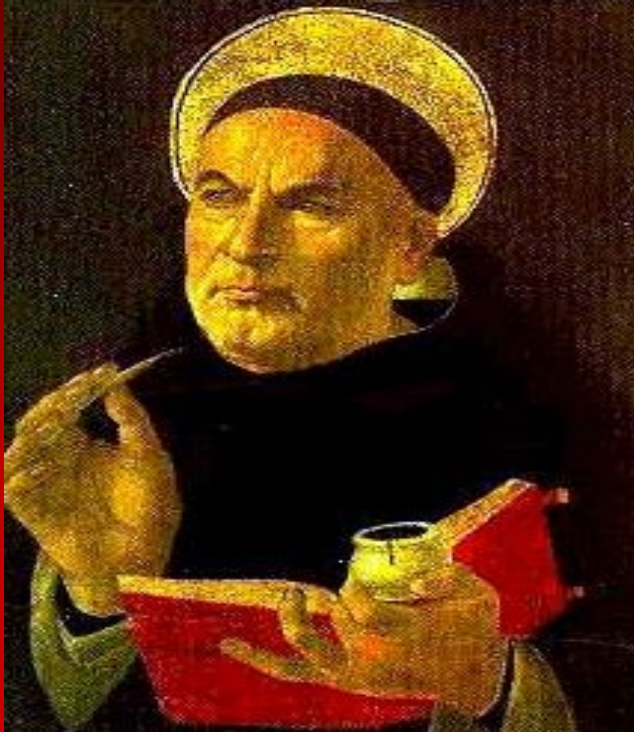
# Attempting To Resolve God's Greatest Mystery

616 ... No man, not even the holiest, was ever able to take on himself the sins of all men and offer himself as a sacrifice for all. The existence in Christ of the divine person of the Son, who at once surpasses and embraces all human persons, and constitutes himself as the Head of all mankind, makes possible his redemptive sacrifice for all.





# St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)



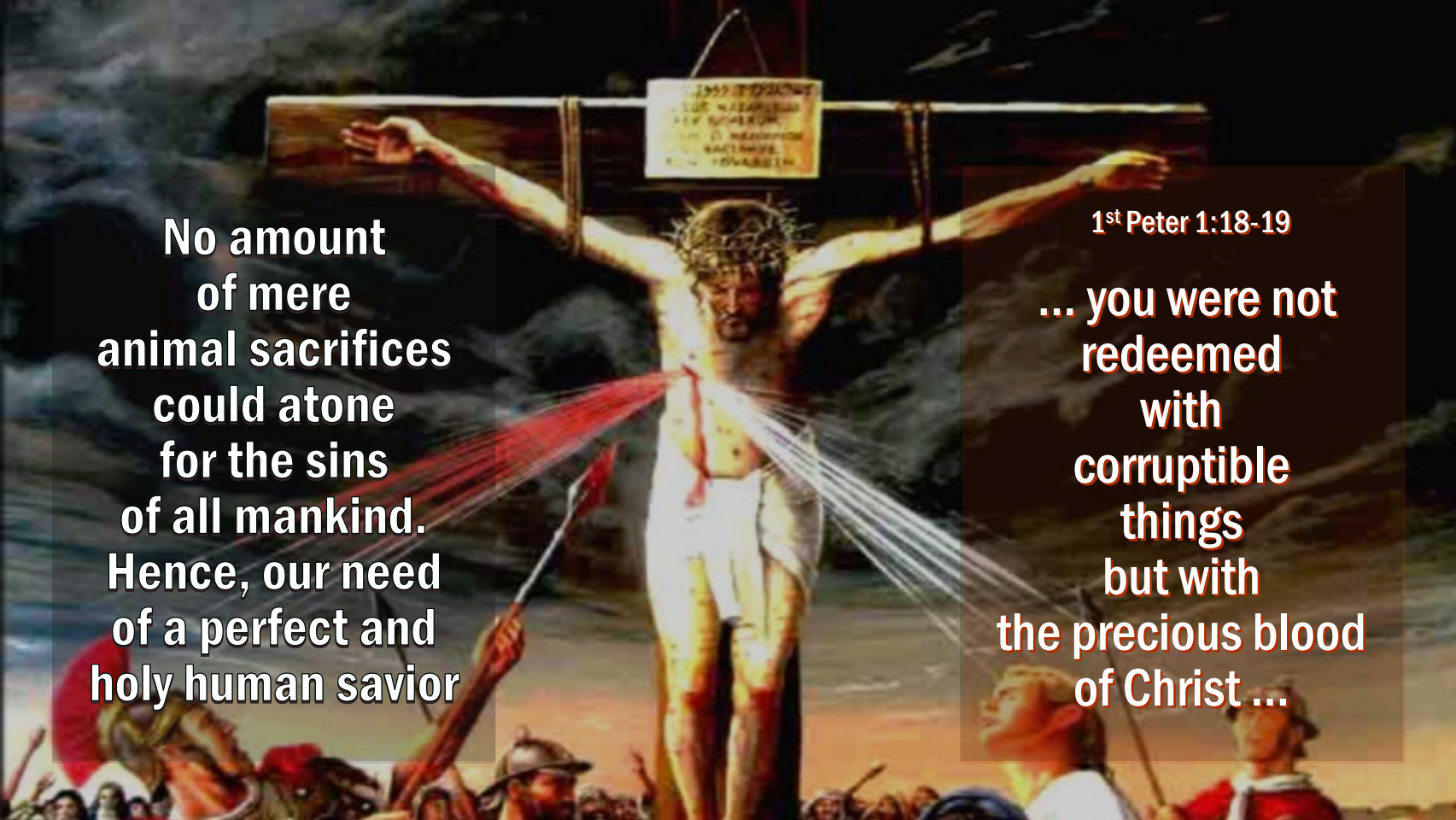
“The passion of Christ was of such value that it sufficed to expiate (atone for) all the sins of the whole world; even of a hundred thousand worlds.”



**Christ's One Time, Once for All  
Holy Sacrifice On the Cross  
At Calvary Was Prefigured  
In the Sacrifices of Old**

**Leviticus 17:11**

**Because the life of the flesh  
is in the blood: and I have  
given it to you, that you may  
make atonement with it  
upon the altar for your souls,  
and the blood may be  
for an expiation of the soul.**



**No amount  
of mere  
animal sacrifices  
could atone  
for the sins  
of all mankind.  
Hence, our need  
of a perfect and  
holy human savior**

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:18-19**

**... you were not  
redeemed  
with  
corruptible  
things  
but with  
the precious blood  
of Christ ...**

# ***The Perfect, Atoning Sacrifice***

(Romans 3:25, Hebrews 2:17)

Jesus is our “**propitiation**” because he freely, heroically and charitably became the sacrificial victim, atoning for our sins by his suffering and death.

His perfect, infinitely valuable, divine sacrifice, as one of us and on our behalf, destroyed Satan’s power, appeased God’s wrath and restored God’s eternal favor, obtaining good will, grace, forgiveness and peace for those who love him

# Christ's total self-giving for our salvation



**From the Catechism:**

**766 The Church is born primarily of Christ's total self-giving for our salvation, anticipated in the institution of the Eucharist and fulfilled on the cross.**

**"The origin and growth of the Church are symbolized by the blood and water which flowed from the open side of the crucified Jesus ..."**

# **The Church was born from the pierced heart of Jesus Christ**



**"For it was from the side of Christ as he slept  
the sleep of death upon the cross that there came  
forth the 'wondrous sacrament' of the whole Church."**

***As Eve was formed from the sleeping Adam's side,  
so the Church was born from the pierced heart  
of Christ hanging dead on the cross.***

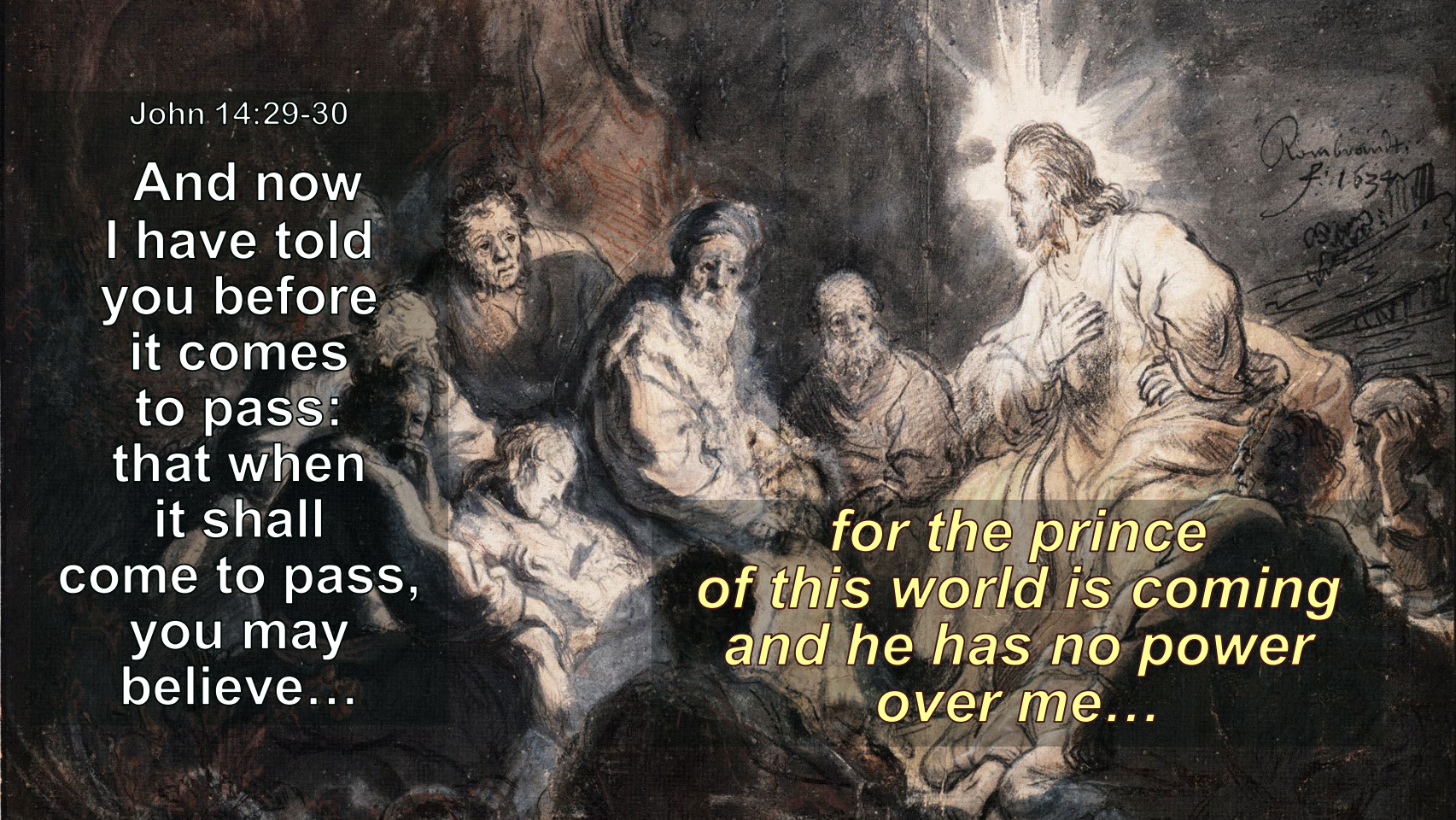
**According to the Law of Sin and Death  
Satan held the power of death over every sinner  
but Jesus was totally without sin and therefore  
not subject to Satan and certainly not obliged to die**

**Hence, not even the devil had the power or authority  
to do even the slightest harm to the holy Christ  
and no one could forcibly take his life from him**

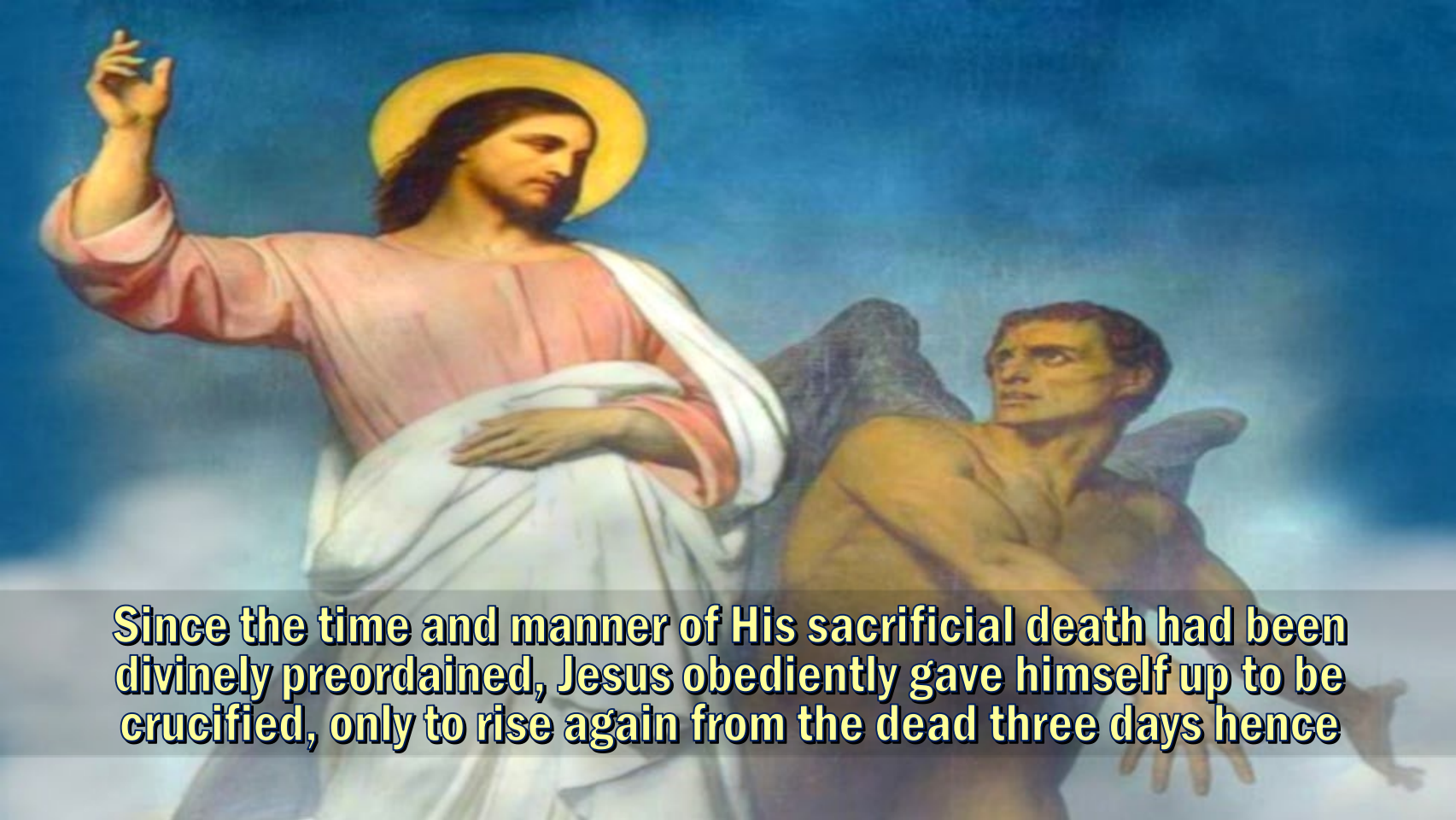
John 14:29-30

And now  
I have told  
you before  
it comes  
to pass:  
that when  
it shall  
come to pass,  
you may  
believe...

*for the prince  
of this world is coming  
and he has no power  
over me...*







**Since the time and manner of His sacrificial death had been divinely preordained, Jesus obediently gave himself up to be crucified, only to rise again from the dead three days hence**

**Satan, the undisputed “Prince of This World”  
bore the ultimate responsibility for unjustly putting  
the completely innocent Christ to death**



**Willingly assisted by Pilate, Herod, the Chief Priests, Pharisees, Judas  
and others, the devil's fate was sealed the moment Jesus gave up his spirit**

# As Prophesied, Satan's Head Was "Crushed"

Genesis 3:15

**I will put  
enmities  
between thee  
and the *woman*  
and thy seed  
and her seed: he  
shall crush thy head,  
and thou shall lie  
in wait for his heel.**



# His Evil Dominion Destroyed!

John 12:31-32

**Now is the judgment  
of the world:  
now shall  
the prince of this  
world be cast out.  
And I,  
if I be lifted up from  
the earth, will draw  
all things to myself.**

# St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

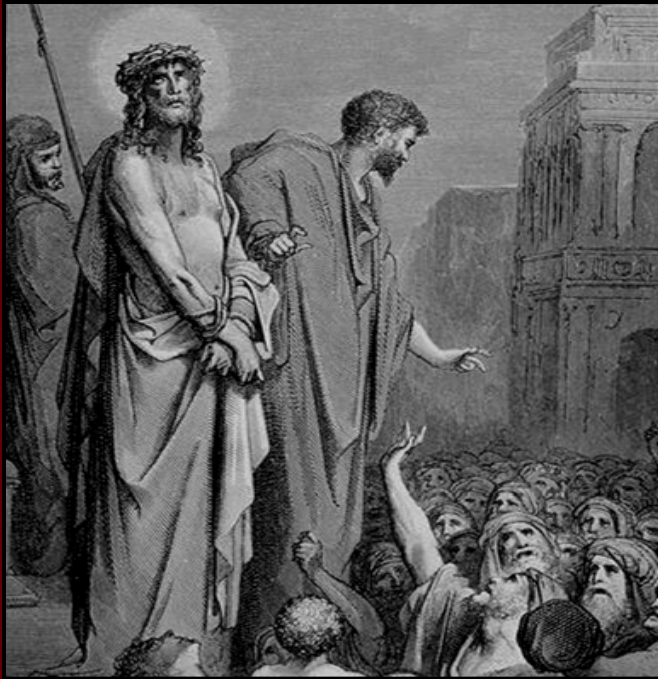


**“First, justice conquered the devil,  
then power;**

***Justice*, because Christ had no sin  
and was most unjustly put to death  
by the devil;**

***Power*, because He lived again after  
death, never to die thereafter.”**

# Jesus Fully Accomplished His Heroic Mission of Redemption and Reconciliation



**Jesus overcame sin and death for us, destroying Satan's power**

**Shedding his blood, so sins could be forgiven, in total obedience to God's will, Jesus appeased God's wrath, reconciled mankind with God and opened the gates of heaven**

**Establishing his Holy Church, Jesus officially inaugurated the earthly Kingdom of God**

# His Resurrection Was the Proof

(See 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:6)

More than 500 people  
encountered  
the risen Christ

Acts 10:39

And we are witnesses  
of all things that He did  
in the land of the Jews and in  
Jerusalem: whom they killed,  
hanging Him upon a tree.

*Him God raised up  
the third day ...*





# Jesus' Resurrected Body Is Real *Not An Illusion Or Apparition*

*A real, human body, supernaturally transformed into glory, fully compatible with the divine realities of everlasting life, on earth and in heaven*

*Our resurrected bodies will be just like his!*

John 6:40

*And this is the will of my Father who sent me: that every one who sees the Son and believes in him may have life everlasting.*

*And I will raise him up on the last day.*

## ***The Mystery: Revealed and Explained***

The devil had been put on notice in the beginning that God would send a holy and powerful redeemer

*But the precise time and method of our redemption, as well as the identity of the Messiah, was known only to God*



**In the thousands  
of years that elapsed  
between Eden and Calvary,  
Satan had put to death with impunity,  
uncounted millions of poor souls**

*The “Prince of This World” may have been  
within his “rights” to treat sinners that way*

*(See the Book of Job)*

**but the Holy Messiah would prove to be  
essentially and very substantially different**

1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 16:22

**Touch not my anointed:  
and do no evil to my prophets.**

*No one, not even the devil, the undisputed  
“Prince of This World” had the power or authority  
to do even the slightest harm to the impeccably holy  
and sinless Jesus Christ: the long awaited “Messiah”  
and “Son of Man”; the ultimate priest, prophet and king*

**(The term “Christ” means “Anointed One”)**

*It was left solely  
up to the devil to correctly discern  
at his own peril, the critical difference  
between ordinary sinners and the Holy Messiah*

*Satan was an expert at quoting the sacred texts.  
He knew all the prophecies, was aware of all  
the “signs” and should have been able to recognize  
the Messiah, whenever and wherever he arrived*

*The devil should have known, but blinded by hate and pride,  
as well as a long “unholy tradition” of sin and death, he just  
couldn’t stop himself from crucifying Jesus, the Lord of glory!*



*Of course*

*Jesus permitted the crucifixion  
for that is why he came into the world,  
knowing full well that the devil  
would be severely judged for this  
most grievous of all possible offenses  
and mankind redeemed*

*Everything Satan  
had earlier gained  
by Adam's "fall" was now forfeit;  
his evil dominion of death, destroyed!*

The risen Christ, who had personally  
overcome the world, the flesh  
and the devil for us,  
would rule forever more as the holy,  
triumphant and merciful head  
of all mankind: ***"The Lord of Life"***

**Once  
the Power of Death  
had been overcome  
by the resurrected Jesus,  
all of the faithful:**

***Through him, with him, in him, in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit, to the greater glory,  
praise and honor of God the Father***

***obtained the power to overcome death, as well***

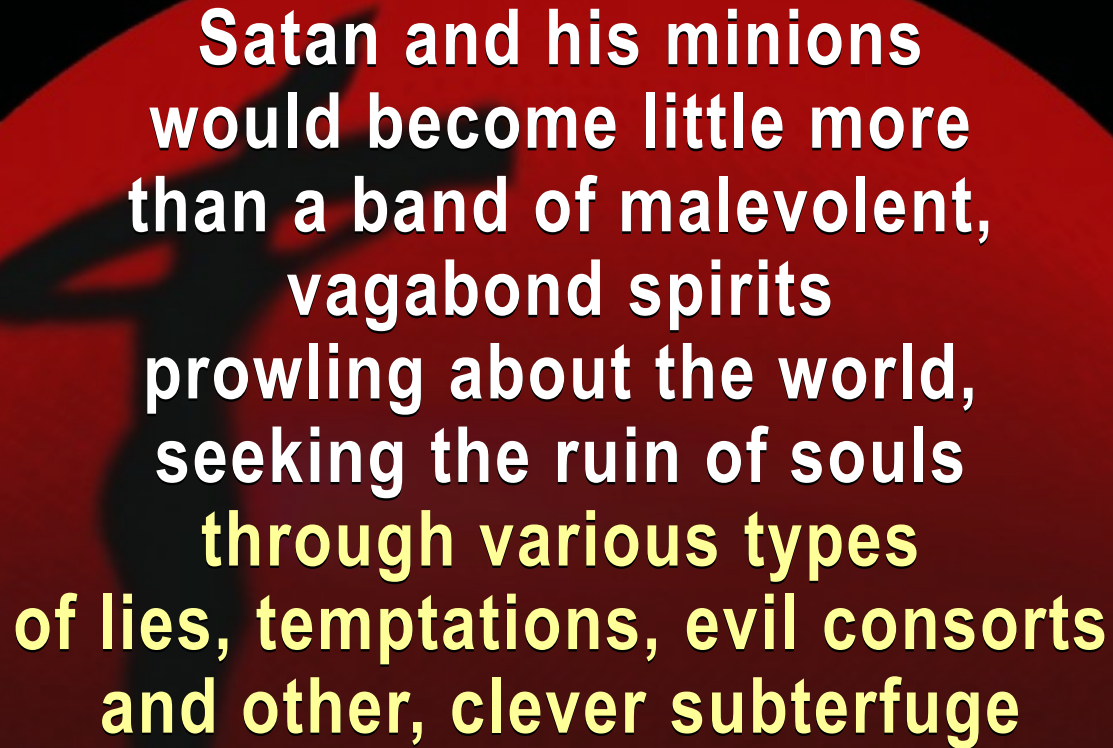
**Anyone  
who is capable  
of overcoming death  
in and through Jesus Christ  
has nothing to fear from Satan,  
demonic hordes, or any mortal man!**

**The Apostles and the other Holy Martyrs  
of the universal Church most certainly knew  
and believed this – as should we**

**God the Father**  
would “ratify”  
**the Kingship of Jesus Christ**  
with resurrection, new life, grace,  
kinship, forgiveness and peace

**The Holy Spirit**  
would provide consolation, power,  
advocacy, infallible truth and a supernatural  
abundance of other miraculous gifts  
to the faithful members of his universal Church





**Satan and his minions  
would become little more  
than a band of malevolent,  
vagabond spirits  
prowling about the world,  
seeking the ruin of souls  
through various types  
of lies, temptations, evil consorts  
and other, clever subterfuge**

**This system of things  
will continue until  
the end of the age  
when Jesus returns in power and glory  
with all his angels and saints**

At that time, the balance of Satan's divinely  
ordained "sentence" will finally be carried out  
and death itself will be utterly destroyed

(See Revelation 21:4)

*Meanwhile,  
faithful allegiance to Jesus Christ,  
typically demonstrated by water baptism  
in the name of the Father  
and the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
along with full participation in the work, worship  
sacraments and devotions of his Holy Church  
will provide all the necessary protection  
against the wickedness and snares of the devil,  
as well as the genuine, blessed hope of eternal life*

**Wouldn't it  
have been a lot easier for God  
to simply forgive Adam and Eve  
for their sins and save himself a lot of trouble?**

*No. That would have left the devil  
in charge and kept mankind enslaved  
to Satan, sin and death, forever*

**Satan would first, have to be legitimately cast out.  
Only then, under the divine rule of Jesus Christ,  
could sinful mankind finally be reconciled with God  
and all things be properly and justly restored**




**Jesus, the New Adam, Is Now  
and Will Forever Be the Sinless  
and Perfect Head of All Mankind**

*True Man*, Jesus Accomplished  
the Will of God the Father In All Things

*True God*, Jesus Paid An Infinite Price  
To Redeem Mankind

**Enthroned In Heaven At the Right Hand  
of God the Father, Jesus Has Been Endowed  
With All Power Over Heaven and Earth,  
Death and Hell**



**Because He  
Is Man, the  
Grace Jesus  
Obtained for  
Us Accrues To  
the Benefit of  
All Mankind**

**Because He  
Is God, the  
Power and  
Efficacy of  
That Grace  
Is Infinite  
and Eternal**

# The spiritually vital mission of the Holy Church

Definition of “spiritually vital”:

*Essential to maintaining the life and welfare of the human soul.*

*By God's Awesome Power and Justice*

**Mankind Has Already Been Rescued**

**From Eternal Slavery**

**To Satan, Sin and Death**

*Through Membership In God's Holy Church*

**According To His Grace and Providence**

**We Inherit the Sacred Deposit of the Faith**

**and Hope To Obtain Everlasting Life**





Matthew 16:18

*(The words of Jesus Christ)*

And I say to thee: That thou art Peter;  
and upon this rock  
I will build my church,  
and the gates of hell  
*(which is the power of death)*  
shall not prevail against it...

The “flip side” of Matthew 16 logically holds that without the Holy Church, the Gates of Hell, which is the Power of Death, would indeed prevail. That’s why we may *conditionally* state:

# Outside the Church There Is No Salvation

*(Pope Innocent III, Fourth Lateran Council, 1215)*

This is subject only to the divine will and grace of our loving, creator God and sovereign Lord, the just and merciful judge of all, who might or might not deem it appropriate, at his sole discretion, to make certain allowances and/or exceptions

According to Saint Ignatius of Antioch,  
Who Lived In Those Days, the Only Church  
That Was Ever Personally Founded, Authorized  
Empowered and Eternally Guaranteed  
By Jesus Christ Has Been Known As

**CATHOLIC**  
(Universal)

Since at least 107 A.D.

From the Catechism:

# The Four “Marks” of the Authentic Church

**866 The Church is one:** she acknowledges one Lord, confesses one faith, is born of one Baptism, forms only one Body, is given life by the one Spirit...

**867 The Church is holy:** the Most Holy God is her author; Christ, her bridegroom, gave himself up to make her holy; the Spirit of holiness gives her life...

**868 The Church is catholic:** she proclaims the fullness of the faith. She bears in herself and administers the totality of the means of salvation...

**869 The Church is apostolic.** She is built on a lasting foundation: "the twelve apostles of the Lamb" (Rev. 21:14)...

From the Catechism: 842

The Church's bond with non-Christian religions is in the first place the common origin and end of the human race:

All nations form but one community. This is so because all stem from the one stock which God created to people the entire earth, and also because all share a common destiny, namely God...

Hence, the Catholic Church  
Is Entrusted By God With the Mission  
of Freely Dispensing To Every Nation  
and To Each Successive Generation  
the Fruits of Christ's Absolute Triumph  
Over the World, the Flesh and the Devil

Matthew 28:19

*Go therefore, teach ye all nations:  
baptizing them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...*

# **“The Universal Sacrament of Salvation”**

**The Catholic Church Is the Divinely Designated  
Primary Dispensary of God’s Sanctifying Grace**

**The Gratuitous, Charitable, Saving Mission  
of the Holy Church Is Ordinarily Accomplished  
By Means of:**

**The Catholic Ministerial Priesthood**

**The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**

**The Seven Sacraments**

**The Work, Worship and Prayers of the Faithful**

**The Main Purpose of the Catholic Ministerial Priesthood Is To Offer Acceptable Sacrifice To God On Behalf of the Faithful, and also:**

**To**

**T e a c h**

**G o v e r n**

**S a n c t i f y**

**R e c o n c i l e**

**Provide Manifold Aid and Comfort**

**To the Members of the Mystical Body of Christ  
(Which Is the Church)**

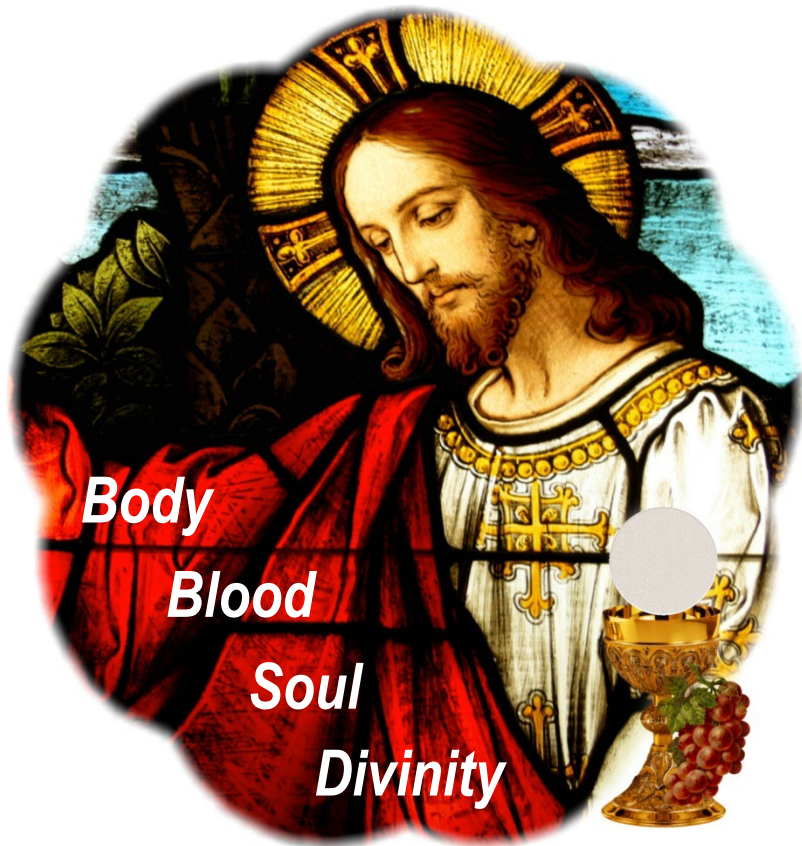


# The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Is the Real Time Embodiment of Christ's Words At the Last Supper

Luke 22:19 **This is my body, which is given up for you.  
Do this for a commemoration of me.**

At Mass, Jesus Christ, the one time, once for all, perfect and atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world, becomes really and truly present on the altar for us, under the auspices of bread and wine, where we offer Him up to God the Father for the needs of the faithful and of the whole world.

*Then, we personally receive Him.*



# Holy Communion

Then Jesus said to them: Amen, amen, I say unto you: except you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you shall not have life in you. He that eats my flesh and drinks my blood has everlasting life: and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed: and my blood is drink indeed. He that eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me: and I in him... (John 6:53-56)

# The Seven Sacraments

**By Definition, A Sacrament Is An Outward Sign  
Instituted By Christ, To Give Grace**

**Reception of A Sacrament Constitutes A Personal Encounter  
With Jesus Christ, By the Power of the Holy Spirit,  
Facilitated By the Catholic Ministerial Priesthood**

**The Sacraments, Declared By Name:**

**Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion  
Confirmation, Holy Orders  
Holy Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick**

# The Work, Worship and Prayers of the Faithful

Luke 10:27

...Thou shall love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart  
and with thy whole soul and with all thy strength  
and with all thy mind: and thy neighbor as thyself.

1st Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful;  
it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way;  
it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong,  
but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things,  
believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things...

Mark 16:16 *He that believes and is baptized shall be saved...*

**By Virtue of the Sacrament of Baptism  
All Past Sins Are Washed Away  
Our Soul Receives An Indelible “Mark of Faith”  
and Is Infused With Sanctifying Grace**

*We Become:*

**Members of the Holy Church  
Adopted Children of God  
Living Temples of the Holy Spirit  
Immortal Citizens of Heaven  
Co-heirs With Jesus Christ**

From the Catechism: 84

**The apostles entrusted  
the "Sacred Deposit" of the faith  
*(the depositum fidei)*  
contained in Sacred Scripture and Tradition,  
to the whole of the Church.**

**183 *Faith is necessary for salvation.***

# **We Receive Practical Moral Guidance**

**From the Catechism: 2049**

**The Magisterium of the Pastors of the Church in moral matters is ordinarily exercised in catechesis and preaching, on the basis of the Decalogue (*the Ten Commandments*) which states the principles of moral life valid for every man.**

# **We Receive Absolution for Sins Committed After Baptism**

**From the Catechism: 1484 "Individual, integral confession  
and absolution\* remain the only ordinary way  
for the faithful to reconcile themselves with God  
and the Church, unless physical or moral  
impossibility excuses from this kind of confession."**

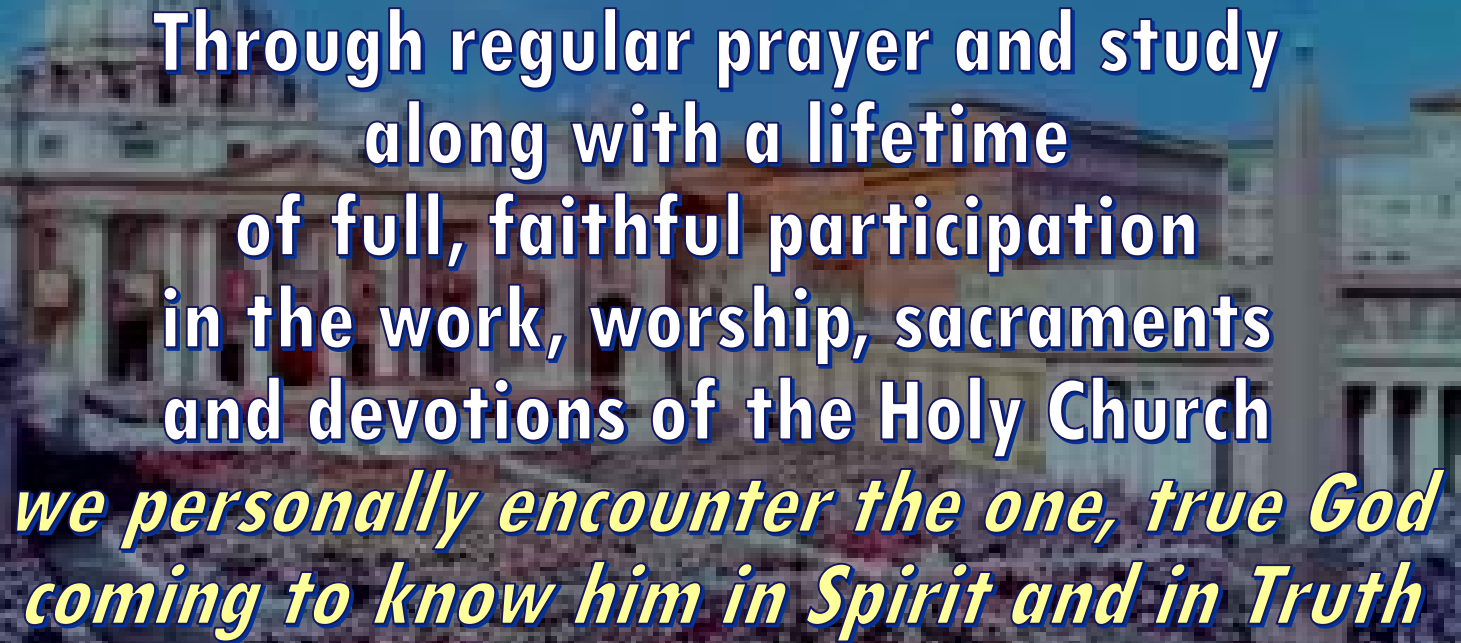
**\*Forgiveness of sins via the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**See John 20:19-23**



# We Receive Supernatural Gifts and Graces of Every Kind

From the Catechism: 2003 **Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us. But grace also includes the gifts that the Spirit grants us to associate us with his work, to enable us to collaborate in the salvation of others and in the growth of the Body of Christ, the Church...**

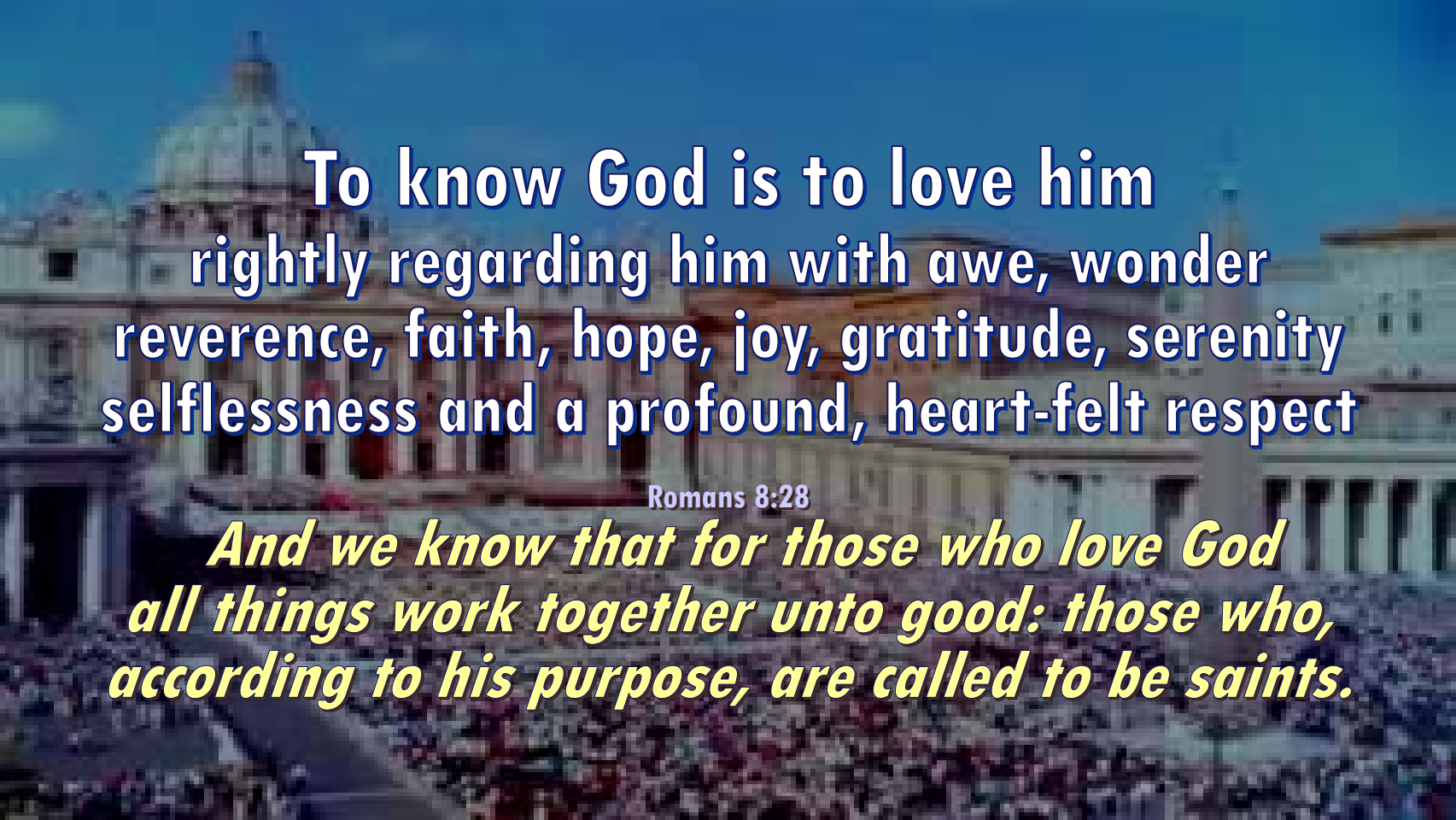


Through regular prayer and study  
along with a lifetime  
of full, faithful participation  
in the work, worship, sacraments  
and devotions of the Holy Church  
*we personally encounter the one, true God  
coming to know him in Spirit and in Truth*

# What Are Devotions?

Devotions are pious practices and prayers, outside of and in addition to the official liturgical celebrations of the church, which are centered on developing a deeper understanding and appreciation of specific aspects of the Christian faith, for requesting divine blessings and favors, and for increasing personal holiness.

Approved personal devotions include the Holy Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, various nine-day prayer campaigns known as Novenas, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, devotion to the Holy Trinity, praying the Divine Office and many, many more.



**To know God is to love him  
rightly regarding him with awe, wonder  
reverence, faith, hope, joy, gratitude, serenity  
selflessness and a profound, heart-felt respect**

Romans 8:28

***And we know that for those who love God  
all things work together unto good: those who,  
according to his purpose, are called to be saints.***

# Who Or What Are Saints?

**Saints Are Those Who, By the Grace of God,  
Have Overcome the World, the Flesh and the Devil**

**Hopefully, Many Saints Are Alive On Earth Today,  
Predestined By God, for Heaven**

**Other Saints Have Already Passed Away, Experienced Particular  
Judgment and Subsequently, Have Been Admitted Into Heaven**

**At Present, the Total Number of Saints Is Not Known To Us.  
But, For the Edification of the Faithful and the Glory of God  
the Catholic Church Has Infallibly Declared By Name  
Approximately Ten Thousand of These Holy Men and Women**

1st John 5:3-5

**For this is the charity of God:  
That we keep his commandments.**

*And his commandments are not burdensome.  
For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.  
And this is the victory which overcame the world:*

**O U R F A I T H**

*Who is he that overcomes the world,  
but he that believes Jesus is the Son of God?*

**God Is Love**

**Love Is Another Word for Charity**

*Anyone Who Departs This Earthly Existence  
With At Least A Modicum of Charity  
Remaining In His/Her Soul Is Not Likely  
To Experience Eternal Damnation*

*Yet we know that nothing less than perfect  
may enter Heaven, so how can this be?*

From the Catechism: 1031

The Church gives the name *Purgatory* to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned.

...The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire...

From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all, the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God.



1st John 5:5-7

...and it is the Spirit which testifies  
*that Christ is the truth.*

And there are Three who give testimony  
in heaven: the Father, the Word (Jesus)  
and the Holy Spirit.

*And these three are one.*

How is it possible for **THREE** divine  
and distinct **PERSONS** (The Holy Trinity)  
to constitute **ONE** God?

*Such a thing is beyond human understanding  
yet God himself informs us that it's true.*

*There is also a very simple mathematical  
equation which properly "models" this  
fundamental article of the Christian faith:*

$$1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$$



From the Catechism: 838

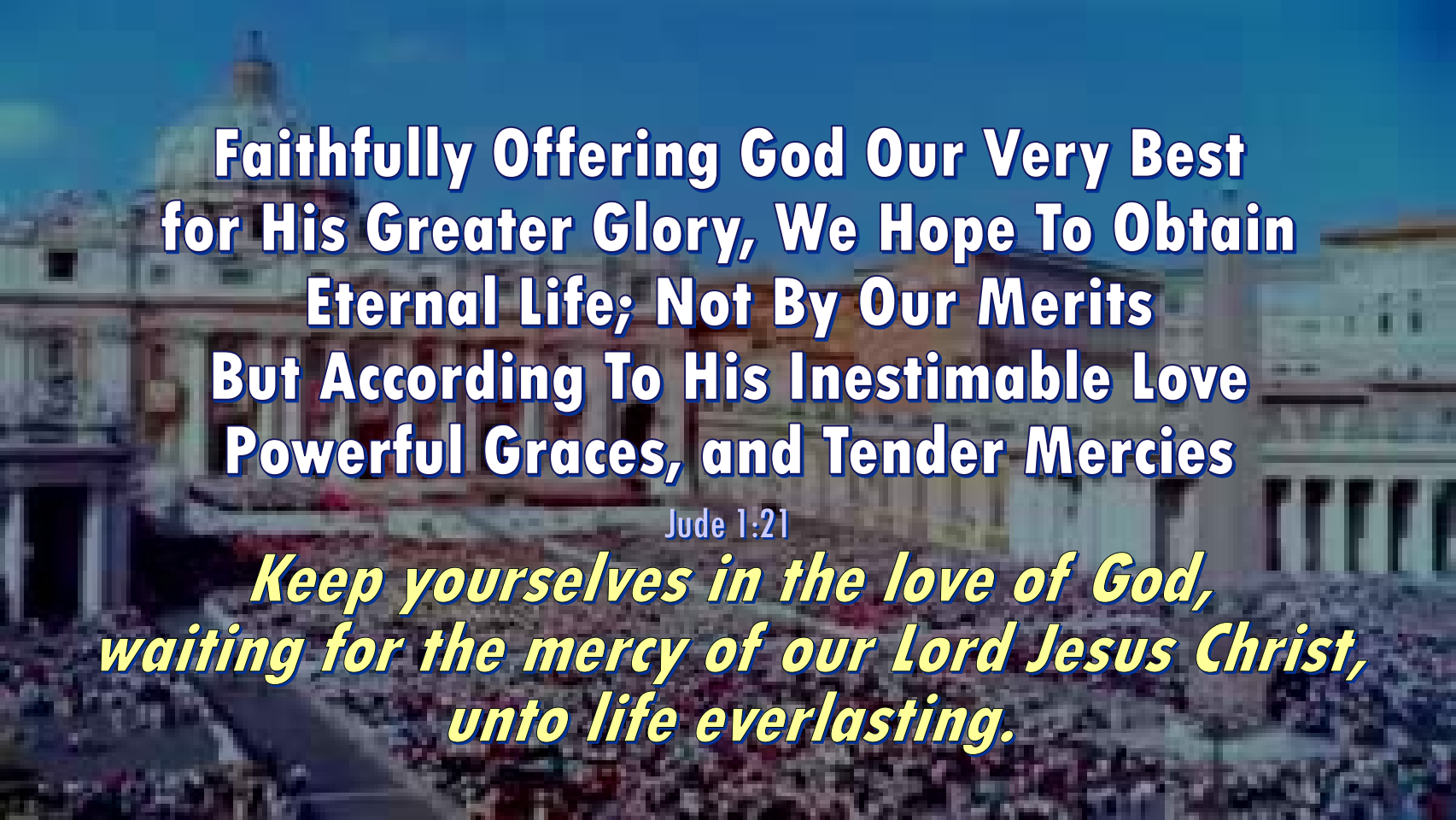
"The Church knows that she is joined in many ways to the baptized who are honored by the name of Christian, but do not profess the Catholic faith in its entirety..."

Those "who believe in Christ and have been properly baptized are put in a certain, although imperfect, communion with the Catholic Church..."

From the Catechism: 2030

It is in the Church,  
in communion with all the baptized,  
that the Christian fulfills  
his vocation...

*(Vocation: A person's authentic life's work  
and divine calling; not necessarily restricted to  
the priesthood, diaconate and/or religious orders)*



**Faithfully Offering God Our Very Best  
for His Greater Glory, We Hope To Obtain  
Eternal Life; Not By Our Merits  
But According To His Inestimable Love  
Powerful Graces, and Tender Mercies**

Jude 1:21

***Keep yourselves in the love of God,  
waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
unto life everlasting.***

# Our personal identity in Jesus Christ


Definition of “identity”: *The beliefs, practices, disciplines, behaviors, characteristics and/or relationships that properly define a person or group.*

Acts 4:11

**This is  
the  
*stone*  
the  
builders  
rejected**



**which  
has  
become  
the  
*corner  
stone***

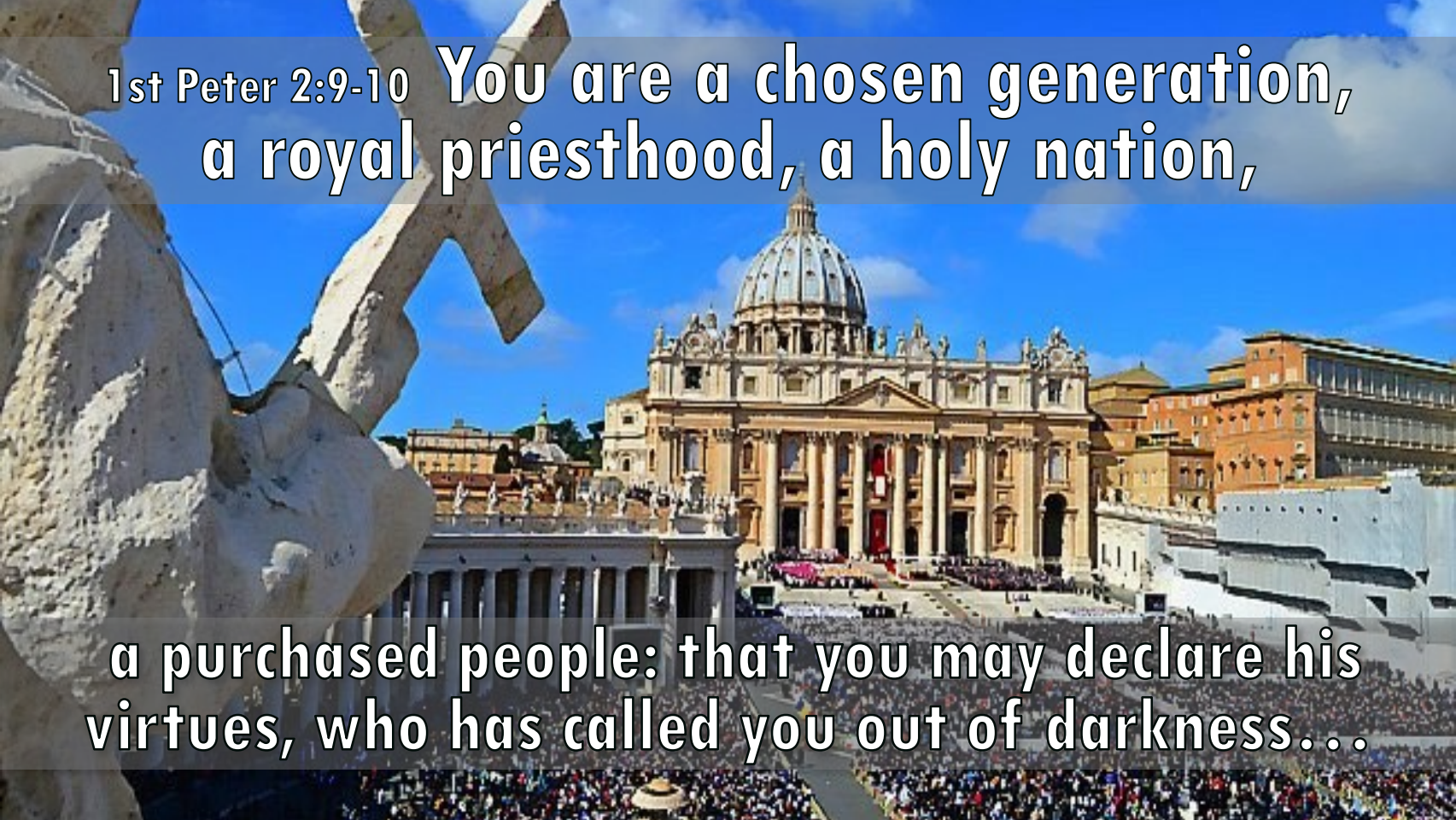
A close-up photograph of a priest in green vestments with gold embroidery. His hands are clasped in prayer. He is holding a golden chalice in his left hand and a golden paten in his right hand. The background is a soft-focus green.

1st Peter 2:5 ***Be as living stones built up,  
a spiritual house, a holy priesthood***

***to offer up spiritual sacrifices  
made acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.***

***(See Malachi 1:11)***





1st Peter 2:9-10 **You are a chosen generation,  
a royal priesthood, a holy nation,**

**a purchased people: that you may declare his  
virtues, who has called you out of darkness...**

The image shows the interior of a grand cathedral, likely St. Peter's Basilica, with a large crowd of people gathered in the nave. The architecture features high vaulted ceilings and large arches. In the center, a prominent mosaic of Christ Pantocrator is visible, surrounded by other religious art. The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the scale of the building.

**Who in times past were not a people**

***but are now the People of God!***

# JESUS



Joh 14:25

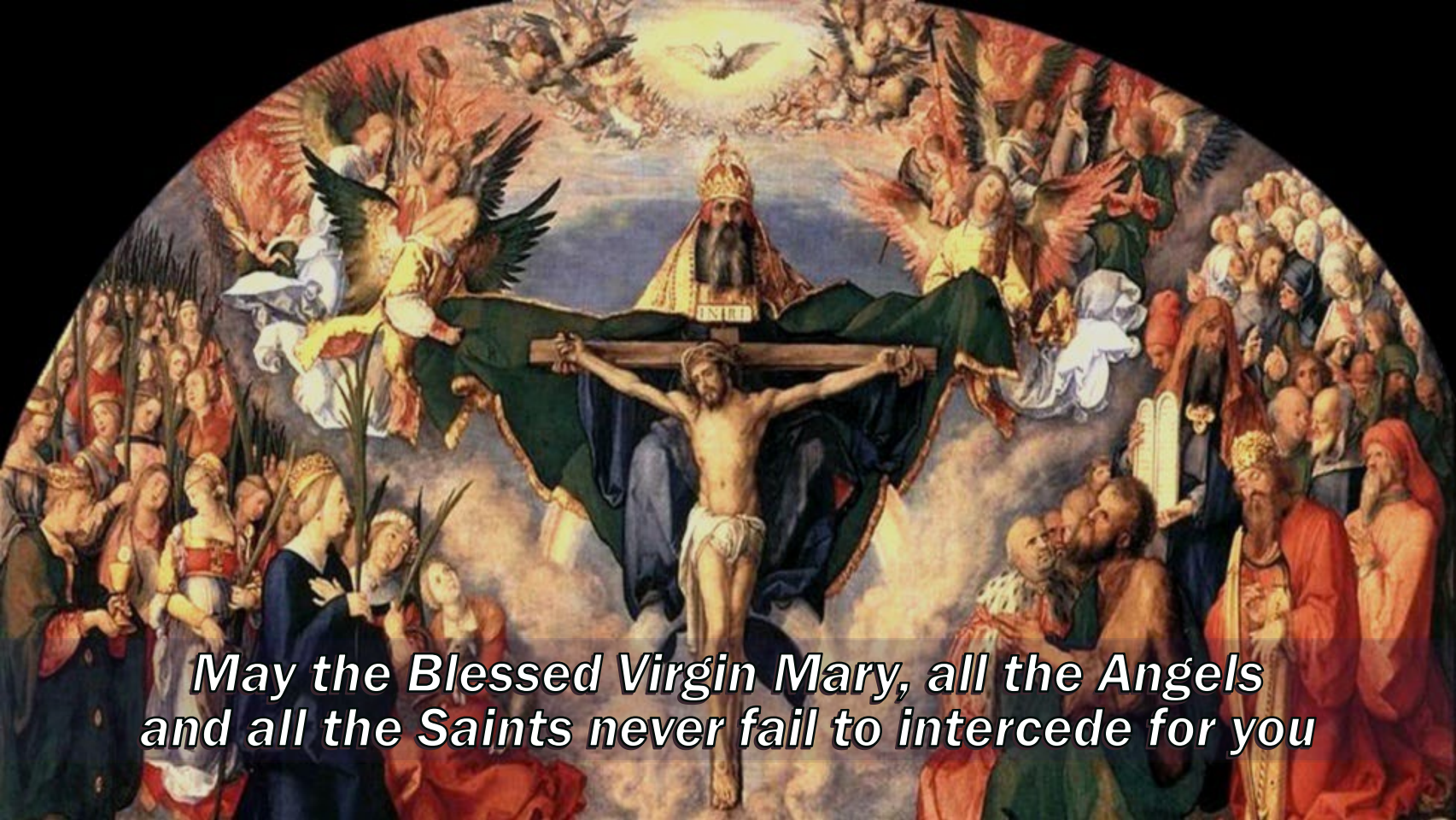
For there  
is no  
other  
name  
under  
heaven

He who  
believes  
in me, even  
though  
he dies,  
yet shall  
he live

Praying  
that you and yours  
by the grace of God  
may overcome  
the world  
the flesh  
and  
the  
devil



***May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit  
Bless you and keep you and grant you peace***



*May the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels  
and all the Saints never fail to intercede for you*



***May the Grace of God lead you, your family, friends  
neighbors and fellow citizens to Heavenly glory!***



Daniel 10:13, 10:21, 12:1  
1Peter 5:8, Jude 1:9, Rev 12:7

**Saint Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.  
Be our protection against  
the wickedness and snares  
of the devil; may God rebuke him,  
we humbly pray. And do thou,  
O Prince of the heavenly host,  
by the power of God, thrust  
into hell Satan and all the evil  
spirits who prowl about the world,  
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.**



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