**Upper Room: October/November 2020**

*Host or designated reader/leader begins the Upper Room prayer hour by first reading this message from Fr. David:*

Dear friends in Christ:

For the next 3 **Upper Rooms** we consider death and Heaven, Hell and Purgatory. If you were asked the question “What does your death mean to you?” would one or all of these places be a part of your answer or discussion? Let’s have a discussion about death and Heaven in this Upper Room.

In Christ;

Fr. David

**Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

L: **Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created.**

R: And you shall renew the face of the earth

L: **Let us pray – God our Father, pour out the gifts of your Holy Spirit on the world. You sent the Spirit on Your Church to begin the teaching of the Gospel; now let the Spirit continue to work in the world through the hearts of all who believe. Through Christ our Lord.**

R: Amen

L: **You, O lord, will open my lips.**

R: And my tongue shall announce Your praise.

L: **Incline unto my aid, O God.**

R: O Lord, make haste to help me.

L: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit**.

R: As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen

**Lesson**

**Read Luke 16:19-31**

 **i One particular torment for the Rich Man was the thought of his five brothers suffering the same fate. What was the remedy to his anxiety? Abraham responds that “even if a man rose from the dead” they wouldn’t change their ways.**

**ii A most interesting point of Jesus’ reason or truth; it seems belief in the resurrection of the dead is paramount to Eternal Happiness. Discuss why this is the truth.**

**iii If you worry about someone (you know) and their Eternal Salvation, does it correspond with their lack of faith in the Resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead or other things as well?**

**iv It also is a truth that the Rich Man avoided the Cross in his life… with comfort. Why do we do this? Where do we find the balance?**

***CCC 1020*** *The Christian who unites his own death to that of Jesus views it as a step towards Him and an entrance into everlasting life. When the Church for the last time speaks Christ's words of pardon and absolution over the dying Christian, seals him for the last time with a strengthening anointing, and gives him Christ in viaticum as nourishment for the journey, she speaks with gentle assurance:*

Go forth, Christian soul, from this world
in the name of God the almighty Father,
who created you,
in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God,
who suffered for you,
in the name of the Holy Spirit,
who was poured out upon you.
Go forth, faithful Christian!

May you live in peace this day,
may your home be with God in Zion,
with Mary, the virgin Mother of God,
with Joseph, and all the angels and saints. . . .

May you return to [your Creator]
who formed you from the dust of the earth.
May holy Mary, the angels, and all the saints
come to meet you as you go forth from this life. . . .
May you see your Redeemer face to face.

1. What connects the Christian to the cross of Christ (most effectively)? *Hint: there are 7 of them*. Those who do not have the Sacraments in their life are deprived of many things. Can you name a few?
2. One way you can understand the path to life through death is by considering the second sentence of CCC1020, please re-read that sentence. *This is effectively the Last Rites of the Church.* Have you ever seen the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick conferred on a dying person? Share reflections and memories with group.
3. Look up the definition of the word “Viaticum” and share what it means…

**Please read:**

*CCC* ***1026*** *By his death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ has "opened" heaven to us. The life of the blessed consists in the full and perfect possession of the fruits of the redemption accomplished by Christ. He makes partners in his heavenly glorification those who have believed in him and remained faithful to his will. Heaven is the blessed community of all who are perfectly incorporated into Christ.*

*CCC* ***1027*** *This mystery of blessed communion with God and all who are in Christ is beyond all understanding and description. Scripture speaks of it in images: life, light, peace, wedding feast, wine of the kingdom, the Father's house, the heavenly Jerusalem, paradise: "no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him."*

1. The “Blessed community or communion” – Question: what is this best symbolized through and made real to us by (in this present world)?
2. From the outpouring of the grace of the Eucharist comes what desired result? In other words, the Eucharist is intended to make a Catholic a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? How do you think this is accomplished or has been accomplished in us since the Last Supper?
3. The Beatific Vision – do you have your own concept of it? What images do you have of what it will be like?
4. Of the scriptural images of “blessed communion” in CCC 1027 what one resonates with you most? Least? Why?

This last question is the following: can people go to Heaven who have not been baptized and don’t know Christ?

Speculate first then read CCC1260 for the Church’s teaching

**Prayer**

Lord, have mercy on us. Lord Have mercy on us
Christ, have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us
Lord, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us

Father all-powerful, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Eternal Son of the Father, have mercy on us.

Redeemer of the world, save us.

Spirit of the Father and the Son, boundless life of both, sanctify us.

Holy Trinity, hear us.

Holy Spirit, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, enter our hearts. Holy Spirit, Who art equal to the Father and the Son, enter our hearts.

Promise of God the Father, have mercy on us.
Ray of heavenly light,
Author of all good,
Source of heavenly water Consuming fire
Ardent charity
Spiritual unction
Spirit of love and truth
Spirit of wisdom and understanding
Spirit of counsel and fortitude
Spirit of knowledge and piety
Spirit of the fear of the Lord
Spirit of grace and prayer
Spirit of peace and meekness
Spirit of modesty and innocence

Holy Spirit, the Comforter Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier
Holy Spirit, Who governs the Church
Gift of God, the Most High Spirit Who fills the universe
Spirit of the adoption of the children of God

Holy Spirit, inspire us with horror of sin.
Holy Spirit, come and renew the face of the earth.
Holy Spirit, shed Thy light in our souls.
Holy Spirit, engrave Thy law in our hearts.
Holy Spirit, inflame us with the flame of Thy love.
Holy Spirit, open to us the treasures of Thy graces.
Holy Spirit, teach us to pray well.
Holy Spirit, enlighten us with Thy heavenly inspirations.
Holy Spirit, lead us in the way of salvation.
Holy Spirit, grant us the only necessary knowledge.
Holy Spirit, inspire in us the practice of good.
Holy Spirit, grant us the merits of all virtues.
Holy Spirit, make us persevere in justice.
Holy Spirit, be Thou our everlasting reward.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, Send us Thy Holy Spirit.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, pour down into our souls the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us the Spirit of wisdom and piety.

Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of Thy faithful, And enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

**Let us pray…**

**Grant, O merciful Father, that Thy Divine Spirit may enlighten, inflame and purify us, that He may penetrate us with His heavenly dew and make us fruitful in good works, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who with Thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever*. R. Amen.***