

# The Gift of Salvation

RCIA for Newman Center and St. Mary

Tuesday 9 September 2018

Presenter: Deacon Joe Welter

# Introductions

- ▶ Name
- ▶ Occupation/Major
- ▶ Where are you from?
- ▶ Family
- ▶ Favorite Hobby
- ▶ One thing that you are looking forward to in the RCIA process
- ▶ Are you:
  - ▶ Catechumens - those not baptized
  - ▶ Candidates - those baptized in other Christian faith traditions
  - ▶ Confirmandi - those baptized Catholic and seeking Confirmation
  - ▶ Sponsors
  - ▶ Catechist

# Faith, Hope, and Love

- ▶ St. Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 13:13):

*“faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”*

- ▶ Jesus in the Gospel of John (John 3:16):

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”*

- ▶ How many have heard these two verses before?

# Faith

*Salvation comes from God alone; but because we receive the life of faith through the Church, she is our mother: "We believe the Church as the mother of our new birth, and not in the Church as if she were the author of our salvation." Because she is our mother, she is also our teacher in the faith.*

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 169

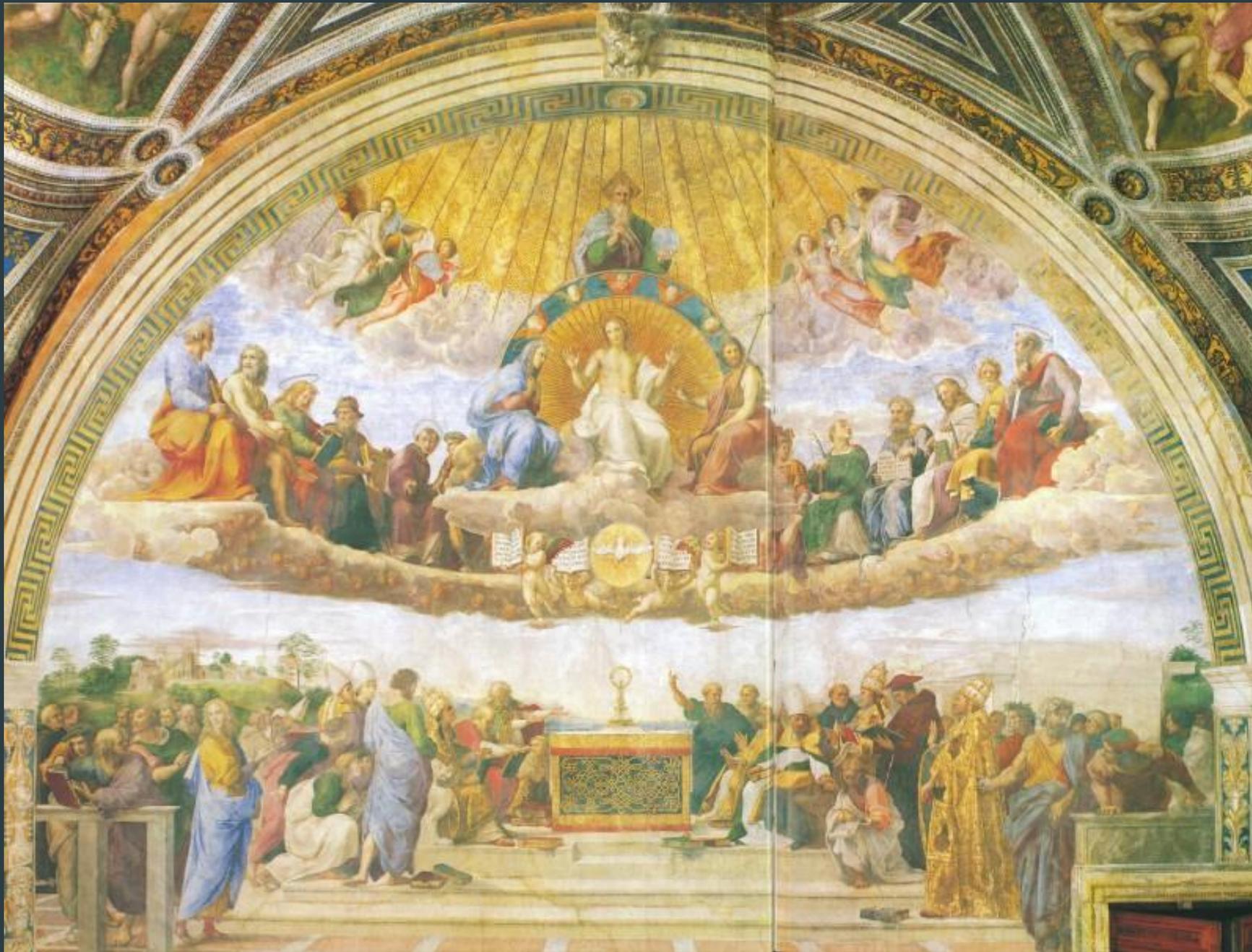
- ▶ Our guide is the Church
- ▶ Christian faith has remained

# Brainstorming

- ▶ We all have hopes. What are they?
  - ▶ BEGIN LISTING RESPONSES

# Brainstorming (Continued)

- ▶ WHY do you have these hopes?
  - ▶ BEGIN LISTING RESPONSES



*Paradiso*  
From Dante's *Divine Comedy*

## Love/Charity

How would you define Charity?

Merriam-Webster's definition is:

### CHARITY

#### Isaiah 53: 4-5

*Yet it was our pain that he bore, our sufferings he endured. We thought of him as stricken, struck down by God and afflicted, but he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed.*

#### ▶ John 13: 34-35:

*“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

#### ▶ John 15: 12-13:

*“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.”*



# God Loves You

- ▶ Summary from last week:

- ▶ Isaiah 43:4

- ▶ John 3:16

- ▶ 1 John 3:16

- “The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.”*

- ▶ Romans 5:8

- “But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.”*

# Theological Virtues

- ▶ Faith
- ▶ Hope
- ▶ Charity

*Three Theological Virtues*  
*(Catechism 1812 - 1829)*

- ▶ Faith
- ▶ Hope
- ▶ Love

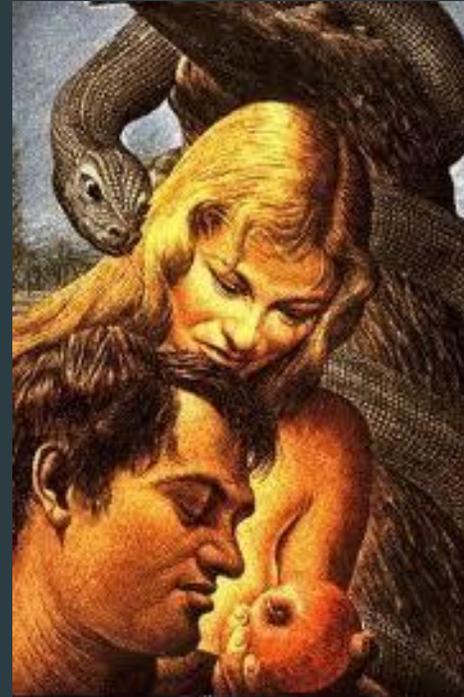
*St. Paul (1 Corinthians 13:13)*

# What Went Wrong...



# WHERE TO START - SIN

- ▶ Christians live backwards - not birth to death
  - ▶ Death at Baptism
  - ▶ Salvation when our earthly life ends
- ▶ Sin - pollution of sin is death
- ▶ Sin does not mean we are going to hell!
- ▶ God's Love
  - ▶ Grace and Mercy



# Sin

- ▶ Romans 6:23

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

- ▶ Romans 3:23

*“all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God.”*

- ▶ Isaiah 53:6

*“We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.”*



*The Last Judgment*  
Michelangelo  
In the Sistine Chapel

# Our Response to God's Love

1. Repent of our sins
2. Accept Jesus as Savior and Lord
3. Enter into relationship with Jesus through prayer and sacraments
4. Go good works

# Repentance

- ▶ Repent the Kingdom is near...
- ▶ 2 Peter 3:9

*The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

# Ongoing Conversion

- ▶ This is a JOURNEY...
- ▶ You are not ALONE - James 5: 16 - 20

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful. Elijah was a human being like us; yet he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain upon the land. Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the earth produced its fruit.*

*My brothers, if anyone among you should stray from the truth and someone bring him back, he should know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.*

# Ongoing Conversion

- ▶ Examination of Conscience
- ▶ You went through all the steps, are you done?
- ▶ Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance/Confession avails nothing and pronouncement of absolution is of no effect without:
  - ▶ Sincere sorrow
  - ▶ Purpose of amendment
  - ▶ The guilt of the sinner is greater than before

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# Jesus - Savior and Lord

- ▶ Jesus as Savior

- ▶ Acts 4: 12

*There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.*

- ▶ An Act of Faith - Our response...

- ▶ Romans Chapter 10

- ▶ Verse 9

*for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

- ▶ Jesus as Lord

- ▶ Philippians 2: 5-11

- ▶ Verses 10-11

*At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

# Our Response to God's Love

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# Enter into Relationship: Prayer

- ▶ Study Sacred Scripture
- ▶ Memorize some common prayers
- ▶ Intentionality and Planning
  - ▶ Time
  - ▶ Space

*"Everyone of us needs half an hour of prayer each day," remarked St. Francis de Sales, "except when we are busy—then we need an hour."*



*"For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."*

—Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2558, citing St. Therese of Lisieux, *Manuscrits Autobiographiques*, C 25rr

# Enter into Relationship: The Seven Sacraments

## ▶ Sacraments of Initiation

- ▶ Baptism
- ▶ Eucharist
- ▶ Confirmation

## ▶ Sacraments of Service

- ▶ Matrimony
- ▶ Holy Orders

## ▶ Sacraments of Healing

- ▶ Reconciliation
- ▶ Anointing of the Sick





## Light of the Word by William Holman Hunt

Revelation 3:20

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.*

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# Do Good Works

- ▶ Faith and Works
- ▶ James 2: 14-18
- ▶ Verse 14

*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?  
Can that faith save him?*

# Merit

- ▶ Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2006-2011, and 2025-2027
  - ▶ 2025 *We can have merit in God's sight only because of God's free plan to associate man with the work of his grace. Merit is to be ascribed in the first place to the grace of God, and secondly to man's collaboration. Man's merit is due to God.*
  - ▶ 2026 *The grace of the Holy Spirit can confer true merit on us, by virtue of our adoptive filiation, and in accordance with God's gratuitous justice. Charity is the principal source of merit in us before God.*
  - ▶ 2027 *No one can merit the initial grace which is at the origin of conversion. Moved by the Holy Spirit, we can merit for ourselves and for others all the graces needed to attain eternal life, as well as necessary temporal goods.*

“Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

- ▶ Saint Peter response to Jesus at the end of the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel.



# Summary of God's Plan for Our Salvation

- ▶ Jesus dies for ALL people on the Cross.
  - ▶ 1 Timothy 4
- ▶ ALL people are saved by his death.
  - ▶ Covenant Relationship with God
- ▶ For those who have heard the Gospel, a decision of faith is required.
  - ▶ John 3:4
  - ▶ John 6:53 (entire sixth chapter of John's Gospel)
  - ▶ James 2:14
  - ▶ Matthew 25
- ▶ What about those who have said neither yes or no?
  - ▶ Revelation 3:16