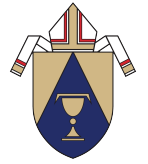




# AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE, WE BELIEVE: ONE DAY, WE SHALL SEE GOD AS HE IS.



"We shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.  
Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure  
as he is pure." — 1 John 3:2-3

## REFLECTION:

We have an eager, confident expectation that one day, we shall see God as he is. This is our hope, that anchors our soul. It is firm and secure.<sup>1</sup> It is a living hope through the resurrection of Christ from the dead. To have eternal life in heaven is the *"ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest of human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness"*.<sup>2</sup> Eternal life can be described as life in the kingdom of God (Mk 9:47), as a heavenly banquet (Mt 8:11), as a paradise gained (Lk 23:43), as the heavenly Jerusalem (Heb 12:22), as a place of rest (Heb. 4:1-9), and as an arena of unending light (Rev. 22:5). St. Cyprian contemplated God in his heavenly glory:

*"How great will your glory be, to be allowed to see God, to be honored with sharing the joy of salvation and eternal light with Christ your Lord and God . . . to delight in the joy of immortality in the Kingdom of heaven with the righteous and God's friends."*<sup>3</sup>

By his death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has "opened" heaven to us. This heavenly Jerusalem will be a place of purity, where sinners will not enter but only those who have washed their robes in the blood of Christ and who have been purified through the forgiveness of sins in Christ.<sup>4</sup> Those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live forever with Christ, for they are like God forever and they *"see him as he is, face to face"*. He *"makes partners in his heavenly glorification those who have believed in him and remained faithful to his will"*.<sup>5</sup> As **Pilgrims of Hope**, we on our journey to see God as he is. Our hope is anchored knowing that *"at the evening of life, we shall be judged on our love"*<sup>6</sup>, and be granted entrance into the blessedness of heaven because we have *"believed in him and remained faithful to his will"*.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *"Those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live forever with Christ"*.<sup>7</sup> In what ways do you remain in God's grace and friendship in your own life? In what ways do you remain in God's grace in your family, or as a ministry leader?
2. We declare in the Apostles' Creed, *"I believe in . . . the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting"* and confess in the Nicene Creed, *"We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come"*. What emotions and imagery do you have when you contemplate the hope of eternal life?

SHARE YOUR  
REFLECTIONS  
& DISCUSSION  
NOTES HERE:



<sup>1</sup> Hebrew 6:19-20 | <sup>2</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1024 | <sup>3</sup> St. Cyprian, Ep. 58, 10,1 | <sup>4</sup> The Hope of Eternal Life, No. 140, (2010), USCCB Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs | <sup>5</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1026 | <sup>6</sup> St. John of the Cross, Dichos 64 | <sup>7</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1024

