

BENEDICT XVI, *Spe Salvi***Saved in Hope**

30. “In the course of our reflections it has become evident that we need a hope that goes further than the many greater or lesser hopes we experience day by day at different times in our lives. Clearly, only something infinite will suffice, something that will always be more than we can ever attain. It has also become clear, however, that this hope is constantly receding in our time; Biblical hope in the Kingdom of God has been displaced by hope in a kingdom of man that claims to be the real ‘Kingdom of God.’ We must be committed to improving the world, but a better world cannot be the proper and sufficient content of our hope. The questions always arise: When is the world better? What makes it good? What are the paths that lead to its goodness?”

31. “Again, the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day are not enough without the great hope that surpasses everything else. The foundation of every hope is the God who has a human face; He has loved us to the end, each one individually and humanity as a whole. His Kingdom is present wherever He is loved and wherever His love reaches us. Only with His love can we persevere day by day in this imperfect world in a life that is truly Life.”

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

Doctrinal Statements pgs 122-123

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS

- The word *Church* is based on both the Greek word *ekklesia* and the Hebrew word *qahal*, which mean the gathering of the community. It was first applied to the people of Israel, whom God called into existence. The Church was planned and formed by God, who called together into one those who accepted the Gospel.
- The Father prepared for the Church through a series of covenant events described in the Old Testament. Jesus fulfilled the divine plan for the Church through his saving death and Resurrection. The Holy Spirit manifested the Church as a mystery of salvation.
- The Church is a visible society and a spiritual community; she is a hierarchical institution and the Body of Christ; she is an earthly Church and one filled with heavenly treasures. Hence the Church is a complex reality that has human and divine elements.

The reality of the mystery of the Church is expressed in a variety of ways as follows:

- The Church is the sacrament of salvation, the sign and instrument of our communion with God (cf. CCC, nos. 774-776).
- The Church is the People of God. “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. . . . Once you were ‘no people,’ / but now you are God’s people” (1 Pt 2:9-10). We become members of God’s People through faith and Baptism (cf. CCC, nos. 781-786).
- The Church is the Body of Christ. Christ is the head, and we are the members. In the unity of this Body, there is a diversity of members and roles, yet everyone is linked together by Christ’s love and grace, especially the poor, the suffering, and the persecuted (cf. CCC, nos. 787-795).
- The Church is the Bride of Christ. “Christ loved the Church and handed himself over [to death] for her that he might sanctify her” (Eph 5:25-26; cf. CCC, no. 796).
- The Church is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. “We are the temple of the living God” (2 Cor 6:16; cf. 1 Cor 3:16-17, Eph 2:21; cf. CCC, nos. 797-801).
- The Church is a communion. The starting point of this communion is our union with Jesus Christ. This gives us a share in the communion of the Persons of the Trinity and also leads to a communion among men and women (cf. CCC, nos. 813, 948, 959).
- These truths about unity and communion in the Church call us to become a source of unity for all peoples.

The Undated Writings

(V. Let no one be proud, but boast in the Cross of the Lord) Francis of Assisi – The Saint - Vol 1 – Page 131

¹Consider, O human being, in what great excellence the Lord God has placed you, for He created and formed you *to the image* of His beloved Son according to the body and to *His likeness* according to the Spirit. [Gn 1:27](#)

²And all creatures under heaven serve, know, and obey their Creator, each according to its own nature, better than you. ³And even the demons did not crucify Him, but you, together with them, have crucified Him and are still crucifying Him by delighting in vices and sins.

⁴In what, then, can you boast? ⁵Even if you were so skillful and wise that you possessed *all knowledge*, [1 Cor 13:2](#) knew how to interpret every *kind of language*, [1 Cor 12:28](#) and to scrutinize heavenly matters with skill: you could not boast in these things. ⁶For, even though someone may

have received from the Lord a special knowledge of the highest wisdom, one demon knew about heavenly matters and now knows more about those of earth than all human beings.

⁷In the same way, even if you were more handsome and richer than everyone else, and even if you worked miracles so that you put demons to flight: all these things are contrary to you; nothing belongs to you; you can boast in none of these things.

⁸But we can boast *in our weaknesses* ^{2 Cor 12:5} and in carrying each day the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. ^{Lk 14:27}

Scripture Reflection

Luke 17:11-19

The Cleansing of Ten Lepers.

¹¹As he continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee.*

¹²As he was entering a village, ten lepers met [him]. They stood at a distance from him

¹³and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!"

¹⁴And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests."* As they were going they were cleansed.

¹⁵And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice;

¹⁶and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan.

¹⁷Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine?"

¹⁸Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"

¹⁹Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."