Catechumenate Session Features

Participant Resource

Prayer
Provides text that correlates to the readings of the day and can be used as a gathering or closing prayer.

Sunday Word
Lists the Scripture readings for the corresponding Sunday, and provides a brief meditation on the readings.

Catholic Doctrine
Identifies and explores a particular aspect of Church teaching based on the corresponding Sunday's readings.

PARTICIPANT

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C • August 10, 2025

O God,
we long for life
with you in Heaven,
a blessed longing
that leavens
our thoughts, words,
and deeds
in this world.
May our hope
reside in you alone.



Sunday Word

Wisdom 18:6-9
Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-22
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12
Luke 12:32-48 or 12:35-40

Courageous Waiting

The children of Israel endured slavery in Egypt. But the Book of Wisdom says that they courageously waited for the day of their deliverance. They were guided by God to look toward a promising future, one that surpassed their current sorrowful condition.

Faithful Hope

The Letter to the Hebrews says that hope is based on faith. By faith, Abraham put his hope in God and undertook the journey to a far country. Because he put his hope in God, he received power to produce future generations. By faith, Abraham put his hope in God and offered his son Isaac.

Trusted Servant

Members of Jesus' flock entrust themselves to God's providence. As they minister to the needs of others and do the work of the kingdom, their own future is secure in the love God has for his trusted servants.

Church Teaching: The Virtue of Hope

Human Virtue

A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. Persons who are described as virtuous tend toward the good with all their sensory and spiritual powers. Virtue enables them to pursue the good in any concrete situation. Human virtues are all the firm attitudes, dispositions, and habits of will and mind that guide our actions and control our desires along avenues of reason and faith. They are acquired by education, refined by deliberate acts, renewed in repeated efforts, and purified by divine grace. Human virtues make it possible for us to engage in self-mastery and to lead morally upright lives in joy.

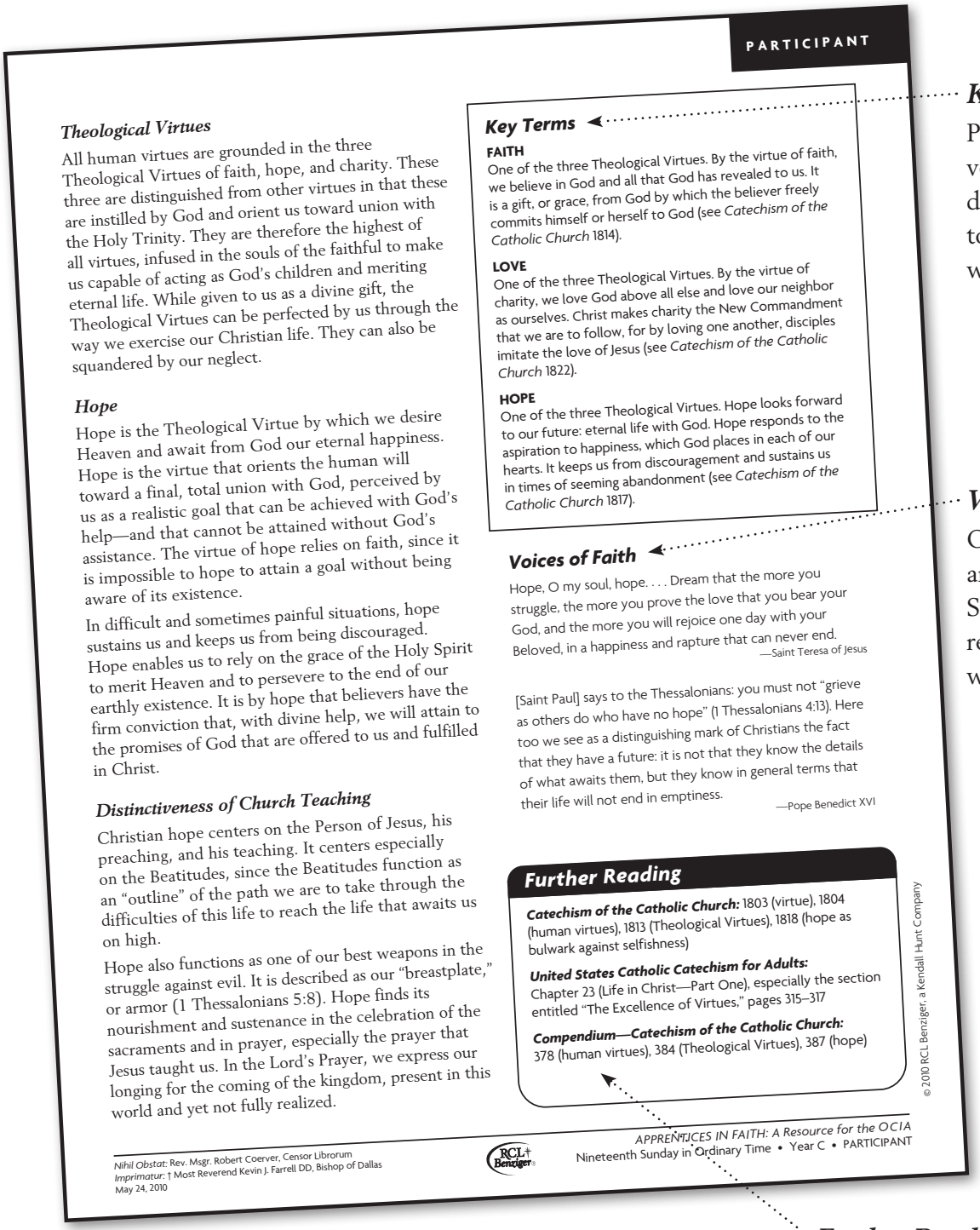
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Nihil Obstat: Rev. Msgr. Robert Coerver, Censor Librorum
Imprimatur: † Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell DD, Bishop of Dallas
May 24, 2010

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Theological Virtues

All human virtues are grounded in the three Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity. These three are distinguished from other virtues in that these are instilled by God and orient us toward union with the Holy Trinity. They are therefore the highest of all virtues, infused in the souls of the faithful to make us capable of acting as God's children and meriting eternal life. While given to us as a divine gift, the Theological Virtues can be perfected by us through the way we exercise our Christian life. They can also be squandered by our neglect.

Hope

Hope is the Theological Virtue by which we desire Heaven and await from God our eternal happiness. Hope is the virtue that orients the human will toward a final, total union with God, perceived by us as a realistic goal that can be achieved with God's help—and that cannot be attained without God's assistance. The virtue of hope relies on faith, since it is impossible to hope to attain a goal without being aware of its existence.

In difficult and sometimes painful situations, hope sustains us and keeps us from being discouraged. Hope enables us to rely on the grace of the Holy Spirit to merit Heaven and to persevere to the end of our earthly existence. It is by hope that believers have the firm conviction that, with divine help, we will attain to the promises of God that are offered to us and fulfilled in Christ.

Distinctiveness of Church Teaching

Christian hope centers on the Person of Jesus, his preaching, and his teaching. It centers especially on the Beatitudes, since the Beatitudes function as an "outline" of the path we are to take through the difficulties of this life to reach the life that awaits us on high.

Hope also functions as one of our best weapons in the struggle against evil. It is described as our "breastplate," or armor (1 Thessalonians 5:8). Hope finds its nourishment and sustenance in the celebration of the sacraments and in prayer, especially the prayer that Jesus taught us. In the Lord's Prayer, we express our longing for the coming of the kingdom, present in this world and yet not fully realized.

Key Terms

FAITH
One of the three Theological Virtues. By the virtue of faith, we believe in God and all that God has revealed to us. It is a gift, or grace, from God by which the believer freely commits himself or herself to God (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1814).

LOVE
One of the three Theological Virtues. By the virtue of charity, we love God above all else and love our neighbor as ourselves. Christ makes charity the New Commandment that we are to follow, for by loving one another, disciples imitate the love of Jesus (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1822).

HOPE
One of the three Theological Virtues. Hope looks forward to our future: eternal life with God. Hope responds to the aspiration to happiness, which God places in each of our hearts. It keeps us from discouragement and sustains us in times of seeming abandonment (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1817).

Voices of Faith

Hope, O my soul, hope. . . . Dream that the more you struggle, the more you prove the love that you bear your God, and the more you will rejoice one day with your Beloved, in a happiness and rapture that can never end.
—Saint Teresa of Jesus

[Saint Paul] says to the Thessalonians: you must not "grieve as others do who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Here too we see as a distinguishing mark of Christians the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness.
—Pope Benedict XVI

Further Reading

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1803 (virtue), 1804 (human virtues), 1813 (Theological Virtues), 1818 (hope as bulwark against selfishness)

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 23 (Life in Christ—Part One), especially the section entitled "The Excellence of Virtues," pages 315–317

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 378 (human virtues), 384 (Theological Virtues), 387 (hope)

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Nihil Obstat: Rev. Msgr. Robert Coerver, Censor Librorum
Imprimatur: † Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell DD, Bishop of Dallas
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Key Terms
Presents faith vocabulary and definitions related to the particular week's theme.

Voices of Faith
Offers wisdom and insight from a Saint and a Pope related to the weekly theme.

Further Reading
Provides optional resource citations that can be used by the catechumens for further information.

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