

Name _____

Religious Imagination and Particular Judgment

Part 1: Read the following story and answer the reflection questions.

At the moment of your death, imagine you walk into a large-screen theatre with a huge sofa in the middle of the room. Who is sitting on this sofa? None other than the Almighty and Ever-Loving God. You take a seat next to the Divine Presence, and God puts his divine arm around your shoulder. The lights dim, and the instant the movie starts, you immediately recognize it as the story of your life. As it plays, you notice that for every good you have done, God squeezes your arm and lovingly whispers, "Thank you!"

As the movie continues, you notice how the good you have done has affected others, has contributed in a positive way, and how this is in line with what God calls us to. You also notice how the harmful and hurtful things you have said or done have affected others (and yourself), and you realize that in those moments, you failed to live up to your potential and your call as a child of God.

You notice that any instances you have expressed sincere remorse for—the times you have sought forgiveness for in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, for example—did not

make it into the movie, as if God does not feel the need to rehash those instances.

The movie ends, the lights come up, God turns to look at you, and you realize you are now faced with some choices.

- You can look into God's loving eyes, take responsibility, apologize, and seek forgiveness, to which God will reply: "Child, you are already forgiven. Welcome home!"
- Or you can refuse to accept the truth of what you have made of your life. You can rationalize, make excuses, and justify your behavior. You can simply get up and walk out, choosing to believe your own version of events, indifferent to God. In effect, you can reject God and, in doing so, choose Hell.
- If you are the type of person who needs time to process the difficult truths you faced, if you want to take responsibility but need time to think and come to terms with things, this is where Purgatory comes in—not as a punishment but rather as a time of purification.

Reflect:

What stands out to you in this imagery?

What do you find helpful?

What questions does it evoke?



Part 2: Particular Judgment Screenplay

With your group, create a screenplay of dialogue between God and a young adult named Persona, that might occur after the movie ends.

Circle Persona's destination: HEAVEN HELL PURGATORY

Your screenplay dialogue between God and Persona should do the following:

- honor the teaching on Particular Judgment, resulting in your group's assigned destination for Persona
- acknowledge behaviors reflecting at least two of the Cardinal or Theological Virtues
- include a struggle with the sin of pride, envy, or greed
- include proper use of at least four of these six vocabulary words:
 - Particular Judgment
 - Last Judgment
 - Parousia
 - Heaven
 - Hell
 - Purgatory

Your screenplay should provide the written dialogue, which your group will either perform as a dramatic reading in front of the class or show to the class as a recorded video.

Your screenplay should be 2–5 minutes in length.

