

# The Last Things

## Lesson 15 Summary

### Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will explore Divine Revelation on death, Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory.
- The participants will identify the characteristics of people who are examples of holiness.

### Content Summary

1. Our faith helps us to understand that death is not a final ending but a new and glorious beginning.
2. Our bodily death is the result of Original Sin. But God will not let death be our final end.
3. Jesus' own Resurrection is the promise of our bodily resurrection after death.
4. We call the time when all the dead will be raised "the last day" or "the Final Judgment." Matthew 25:31–46 tells how Jesus will gather all humanity together to face a Final Judgment.
5. The Book of Revelation teaches that the just will reign with God in Heaven for eternity, their souls united with their glorified, resurrected bodies. God will be all in all because the whole of creation will be in perfect and direct relationship with its creator.
6. Neither the Bible nor the Tradition of the Church has a definitive description of Heaven. What we do know is that in Heaven the relationship between God and humanity that was broken by Original Sin will be restored.
7. Hell is indeed a reality. But the principal punishment isn't physical torture; it is the spiritual anguish of being separated from God.
8. We believe in God and desire God's grace, yet we have areas of our lives that need to be purged of selfishness and sin in order to achieve the holiness necessary to enter fully into the glory of God in Heaven. This purification, called purgation, occurs in Purgatory.
9. The Church teaches that people of other religions who seek God with a sincere heart and try to do his will as they understand it may also achieve eternal salvation.
10. The Communion of Saints is another description of the Church, the gathering of all those who are saints because of their faith in Jesus Christ.
11. The term *Communion of Saints* describes two realities in Catholic life: the spiritual practices that represent and bring about the unity of believers, and the actual communion that ties together all believers, both living and dead.

(All summary points are taken from *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Third Edition*. Copyright © 2013 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.)

