



## Year of Faith: The Four Last Things

Just as our natural world is slowing down and hibernating until the new life of spring, the Church's liturgical life is winding to a close. November marks the feasts of All Saints, All Souls and Christ the King reminding us of our ultimate goal: the beatific vision—union with God in heaven. In this Year of Faith let us recall some elements of the “four last things”—death, judgment, heaven and hell—not out of a spirit of fear and condemnation, but of hope and trust in what we believe is to come.

☪ **Death is not to be feared, nor is it the end of this life:** Death is not something that Christians should fear, for we hope and believe that, just as Christ died and rose again, those who have lived a life in conformity to Christ's teaching will also share in his resurrection. CCC#989. **Action:** What do your learners think about death?

☪ **Heaven and Hell are real.** Heaven and hell are not geographical places, but rather states of being. Heaven is union with God, an active participation in the very life of the Trinity where our deepest longings are fulfilled, where we are made whole. Hell is the complete absence of God: no love, no fulfillment, only emptiness and separation. **Action:** We can create glimpses of heaven or hell in how we treat others; take a moment to show love and compassion toward someone you struggle with.

☪ **How we spend eternity is up to us.** God created us with reason to know him and a will to freely choose him. Though God desires that we all share eternity with him in Heaven, only we determine where we end up by the actions we perform in this life. **Action:** In the last 24 hours have you used your reason and will to bring you closer to God and his people, or have you turned away?

## Correlation to the Religion Course of Study & Six Tasks of Catechesis

### Religion Graded Course of Study

**Standard:II-C.2:** Describe Jesus Christ as our Savior who redeemed us by his life, death, resurrection and ascension. Catholic understanding of Salvation.

### The Six Tasks of Catechesis

**Knowledge of Faith:** “...Become familiar with the *great teachings of Christianity* (its creeds and doctrines) and their place in the hierarchy of truths—for example, “.... the eschatological realities ...” (ACCC, 43)

### Helpful Resources\*

#### Dia de los Muertes/Day of the Dead

A Latino celebration that coincides with All Saints Day in North America. See these links for information about the celebration in [Mexico](#), [Latin American](#) or for a [teacher resource packet](#).

[The Day of the Dead. Hispanic Celebration of Life and Death.](#) Booklet—By Fr. Eliodoro Lucatero. Liguori.

[Significado cristiano de la Fiesta de Todos los Santos](#) (Spanish) VTS 3164.

[“El Dia de los Muertos”](#) por el padre Eliodoro Lucatero. Libros Liguori.

#### High School/Adult

[Catholicism: Session 10 World without end](#) 60 min. 2012 . DVD 1312.

[A Place Prepared](#) 40 min. 2000. VTE 2201. (*Helping Children deal with death*)

[Responding to the Rapture: A Catholic Critique of Rapture Fever](#) Thigpen, Paul. 2002. BK APOL THIGP.

[What Catholics Believe About Death And Afterlife](#) 25 min. 1995. VTE 1357/ VTS 3034 (Spanish).

\* These resources and many others can be borrowed from the Diocesan media library, contact [Sue](#) or [Martha](#) for details