

The Universal Call to Holiness

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT

Jesus has called us to the perfection of his Father, perfection in love. Holiness is the call of all the baptized. Our wholehearted response to God's grace will fill us with joy surpassing human understanding.

Keeping the above statement in mind, read and meditate on the following passages:

SCRIPTURE (IN ORDER BY BOOK)

Lv 11:45	Because God is holy, Israel is therefore to be holy
Prv 3:11-12	Do not hate the suffering sent by God, for he is perfecting us as his children
Hb 3:18-19	The God of my salvation is the source of my rejoicing and my strength
Mt 5:3-12	In the Beatitudes, Jesus promises rewards for holiness and virtuous behavior
Mt 5:48	Our call is to be perfect as God the Father is perfect
Mt 6:25-34	Do not be anxious about anything; your Heavenly Father will take care of you and your needs if you seek first his Kingdom and holiness
Mt 10:37-39	To be worthy of Jesus, we must love him above all and take up our cross; to find our life, we must lose it for his sake
Mt 11:29-30	With Jesus as our model and master, virtue becomes easy and not burdensome
Mt 19:26	It is impossible to save ourselves, but God makes holiness possible
Mt 25:31-46	We will be judged according to how we have loved others
Jn 15:4-5	Jesus is the true vine and we are the branches; we must abide in him to bear fruit
2 Cor 5:17	In Christ we become a new creation
Gal 5:16-26	Living in the Spirit means renouncing the desires of the flesh so that we can attain Heaven; living in the Spirit gives us love, joy, and peace and strengthens our virtues so that we can crucify the flesh
Eph 4:22-24	Put on our new nature, made in the image of God in virtue and holiness
Col 1:9-10	Paul prays that we be filled with a knowledge of God's will so that we can live worthily, bear good fruit, and know God more and more
Heb 12:1-13:17	The plan for holiness

CATECHISM (IN ORDER BY PARAGRAPH NUMBER)

459	Jesus is our model and standard
825-826	We are called to perfection; love shapes and perfects holiness
828	Canonized saints are examples of holiness
1716-1729	The Beatitudes, our charter for holiness
2013-2015	The requirements of our call to holiness and intimate union with Jesus
2030	Christians fulfill their vocations to holiness within the Church

KEY TERMS

<i>Holiness:</i>	A state of complete self-mastery, complete self-gift, heroic virtue, and sinlessness made possible only by the grace of God and the merits of Jesus Christ
<i>Joy:</i>	An abiding sense of happiness that comes from union with God which is not diminished by suffering, trials, or persecution
<i>Love:</i>	The theological virtue by which we love God for himself alone more than ourselves or any creature; out of love of God, we love our neighbor as ourselves

SUGGESTED HYMNS AND SONGS FOR CATECHETICAL SESSION

Bring Forth the Kingdom	O For a Heart to Praise My God
Come into My Heart	Refiner's Fire
Everyday	Take My Life
Go Make of All Disciples	Where Charity and Love Prevail (<i>Ubi Caritas</i>)
Let All on Earth Their Voices Raise	Where True Love and Charity Are Found (<i>Ubi Caritas</i>)
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	You're Worthy of My Praise
O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God	