

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Week Mini Lesson

*Presumption: How It Extinguishes Urgency in the Traditional Catholic Faith*

**Opening prayer**

**Course Material:**

### 1. Opening: The Catholic Sense of Urgency

Objective truth, not experience.

*“From the earliest centuries, the Church has taught that life is short, eternity is real, and salvation is not automatic. Catholic spirituality has always been marked by urgency.”*

Scripture:

*“Watch and pray, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”* (Matthew 25:13)

Points:

- The saints lived urgently
- The Church preached repentance urgently
- The sacraments exist because souls are in danger

Urgency is traditional Catholic realism, not fear.

### 2. Presumption Defined by the Church

**Baltimore Catechism No. 3, Q. 113–115:**

**Q.** What sins are opposed to hope?

**A.** Despair and presumption.

Despair is the sin by which a person loses hope in God’s mercy or in the means of salvation.

Presumption is the sin by which a person expects to obtain God’s forgiveness and heaven without repentance, effort, or the use of the means God has established.

*Presumption is the expectation of salvation without conversion or repentance, or confidence in mercy without obedience to God’s law.*

**Key point:**

Presumption is not a psychological state it is an objective sin against the virtue of hope.

St. Thomas Aquinas teaches:

- Hope is ordered toward God through repentance and grace
- Presumption seeks the end while rejecting the means

### **3. Why Presumption Is Gravely Dangerous**

#### **A. It contradicts the moral law**

Presumption assumes:

- Sin does not require immediate repentance
- Grace can be delayed without consequence

But traditional Catholic teaching insists:

- Mortal sin destroys charity
- One must return to grace without delay

*“Nothing is so necessary as repentance, because death may come at any hour.”* - St. Alphonsus Liguori

#### **B. It empties the sacramental life of urgency**

Historically:

- Confession was frequent
- Examination of conscience was daily
- Penance was taken seriously

Presumption turns the sacraments into:

- Occasional rituals
- Emergency measures
- Optional practices

But the Church teaches:

Grace is necessary, not optional.

## **C. It denies the reality of judgment**

Traditional Catholic preaching emphasized:

- Death
- Judgment
- Heaven
- Hell

Presumption dulls these truths by assuming:

- Mercy without justice
- Heaven without conversion

Scripture:

*“It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment.”* (Hebrews 9:27)

## **D. It insults the Cross**

Presumption says:

- The Cross was excessive
- Sin is manageable
- Conversion can wait

The saints understood:

Christ suffered because sin is deadly, not trivial.

# **4. Presumption vs. Authentic Catholic Hope**

## **Traditional Catholic Hope**

- Fears sin
- Trusts mercy
- Seeks the sacraments
- Acts immediately

## **Presumption**

- Minimizes sin
- Assumes mercy
- Delays confession
- Avoids amendment of life

St. Bernard:

*“Presumption is not hope, but a theft of God’s mercy.”*

## **5. Discussion with Attendees (Objective, Not Emotional)**

1. *Why has the Church always insisted on immediate repentance rather than delayed conversion?*
2. *How does presumption undermine the sacramental system Christ established?*
3. *Why do the saints speak so strongly about delay in the spiritual life?*

The answers will be rooted in doctrine, not feelings.

## **6. Conclusion: Restoring Catholic Urgency**

Summarized:

*Presumption destroys urgency because it promises salvation without conversion, mercy without repentance, and Heaven without the Cross.*

St. Augustine:

*“God has promised forgiveness to the repentant but He has not promised tomorrow.”*

**Closing prayer**