

# Why Were You Born?

## *Rediscovering What Was Never Meant to Be Lost*

### **Class 2 Student Handout: The Last Four Things**

#### **1. Foundational Questions**

##### **Who made us?**

God made us.

##### **Why did God make us?**

To know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.

##### **How must we love and serve God?**

With all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength.

##### *Key Scripture:*

- Deuteronomy 6:5
- Mark 12:30

##### **Key Insight:**

God does not ask for part of us. He commands total orientation of our lives toward Him.

#### **2. Why the Church Begins With the End**

The Church traditionally teaches life backward starting with eternity.

##### **Why?**

- The end gives meaning to the beginning
- Without eternity, morality becomes optional
- Without judgment, repentance loses urgency

##### *Key Scripture:*

- Sirach 7:40
- Ecclesiastes 7:2
- Matthew 25:13

“In all thy works remember thy last end, and thou shalt never sin.”

### **3. Death: The Truth Modern Catholics No Longer Face**

#### **Key Teaching Line**

*“A Catholic who does not prepare for death cannot live rightly for Heaven.”*

#### **Why Death Must Be Taught**

Death was not:

- Hidden
- Sanitized
- Softened
- Treated as distant or abstract

#### **Death Was Once Central to Catholic Life**

Historically, Catholics were formed from childhood to understand three unchanging truths:

1. You will die
2. You do not know when
3. Your eternity depends on how you live now

#### **What Changed**

It is now treated as:

- A medical event
- A natural transition
- A “celebration of life”
- Something distant, abstract, or avoidable

Death is no longer preached as:

- A moment of judgment
- A passage into eternity
- The end of earthly opportunity for repentance

As a result, Catholics are no longer formed to die well.

#### **Why the Loss of Death Teaching Is So Dangerous**

When death is removed from formation, several consequences follow inevitably:

- Sin loses its seriousness
- Urgency disappears
- Sacrifice seems unnecessary
- The Cross becomes meaningless

A Catholic who never thinks seriously about death will not live seriously for Heaven.

### **The Church's Constant Teaching on Death**

She teaches clearly:

- Death is the separation of soul and body
- Death ends the time of merit
- Death brings the soul immediately before God
- Death cannot be undone
- Death demands preparation

This is why the Church speaks of:

- The hour of death
- The good death
- The last sacraments
- Prayers for the dying
- Prayers for the dead

### **Why the Mass Is Oriented Toward Death**

Every Mass:

- Places Christ's death before our eyes
- Reminds us that salvation came through suffering
- Teaches us how to unite our death to His

This is why the traditional liturgy:

- Emphasizes silence
- Uses sober language

- Faces God, not the people
- Prays constantly for the dead

### **Death and the Collapse of Moral Formation**

When death is no longer preached:

- Judgment feels hypothetical
- Hell feels unlikely
- Heaven feels guaranteed
- Confession feels unnecessary

### **The Catholic Response: Recovering the Art of Dying Well**

- Every soul must prepare for death daily
- Every sin matters eternally
- Every day is a gift of mercy
- Every Mass may be your last
- Every Confession prepares the soul for judgment

### **4. The Three Things After Death**

Every soul will face one of the following after death:

#### **1. Heaven**

- Eternal union with God
- Requires perfect holiness
- Nothing unclean may enter

Revelation 21:27

#### **2. Purgatory**

- Temporary purification for souls already saved
- Pain of longing, not despair
- God raises us to Heaven. He does not lower Heaven to us

1 Corinthians 3:15

Matthew 5:26

### **3. Hell**

- Eternal separation from God
- Result of dying in mortal sin without repentance
- The will is fixed forever at death

Matthew 25:46

Mark 9:48

#### **Two pains of Hell:**

- *Poena Damni* : loss of God (greatest pain)
- *Poena Sensus*: real punishment

#### **What Happens at the Moment of Death**

Death is metaphysical, not merely biological.

At death:

- The soul separates from the body
- Particular judgment occurs immediately
- The soul sees itself in the light of truth
- No time, no arguments, no appeals

Hebrews 9:27

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Luke 16:19–31

Judgment does not change the soul it reveals it.

#### **5. The Fixing of the Will**

- Repentance requires time
- Time requires a body
- After death, the will is fixed forever

Isaiah 55:6

Revelation 22:11

A lifetime of habits does not disappear in the final breath.

## **6. Angels and Judgment**

- Guardian angels witness our entire life
- Fallen angels accuse truthfully
- Souls are drawn to what they have become

Matthew 25:31

Matthew 18:10

1 John 3:8

## **7. Presumption: The Quiet Destroyer**

### **Presumption assumes:**

- Mercy without repentance
- Heaven without holiness
- Salvation without conversion

Sirach 5:4

Matthew 7:13–14

Philippians 2:12

God did not create us to be “good people”. He created us to be saints

## **8. The Funeral Mass Matters**

### **Traditional Requiem Mass teaches:**

- Judgment is real
- Souls need prayer
- Mercy must be begged

### **Modern assumptions often teach:**

- Everyone goes to Heaven
- Prayer for the dead is unnecessary

2 Maccabees 12:46

Romans 10:17

*Lex orandi, lex credenda* - how we pray shapes what we believe.

## **9. Our Lady of Fatima: A Warning of Mercy**

### **July 13, 1917: Vision of Hell**

- Real fire
- Human souls
- Demons
- No hope

#### **Our Lady's words:**

“You have seen Hell where the souls of poor sinners go.”

#### **Her remedy:**

Devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

## **10. The Daily Question That Determines Eternity**

Mark 8:36

“What doth it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his own soul?”

#### **Ask yourself daily - Why was I born?**

- To be comfortable
- To be admired
- To be successful
- To know, love, and serve God and be with Him forever

