



THE PASTOR'S DESK

October 25, 2009 - Four Last Things and Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

The Feasts of All Saints and All Souls next Sunday and Monday remind us of the four last things: death, judgment, Heaven, Hell. As the calendar and liturgical years draw to a close, the Church recalls these things. The last things remind us of the meaning of our lives. Death will come to all of us in this life. All of us will be judged and, based on that judgment, our souls (and, after the resurrection, our bodies united with our souls) will enjoy the eternal joy of Heaven or the everlasting flames of Hell. I thought that at this time, we can look at the Catechism articles on these topics and reflect upon them at this time of year. The Catechism deals with these topics under the statement in the Creed "I believe in Life Everlasting." Catholic theology draws a distinction between the particular judgment of each soul immediately after death and the general judgment after the Second Coming:

1020 The Christian who unites his own death to that of Jesus views it as a step towards him and an entrance into everlasting life. When the Church for the last time speaks Christ's words of pardon and absolution over the dying Christian, seals him for the last time with a strengthening anointing, and gives him Christ in viaticum as nourishment for the journey, she speaks with gentle assurance: *Go forth, Christian soul, from this world, in the name of God the almighty Father, who created you, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, who suffered for you, in the name of the Holy Spirit, who was poured out upon you. Go forth, faithful Christian! May you live in peace this day, may your home be with God in Zion, with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, with Joseph, and all the angels and saints.... May you return to [your Creator] who formed you from the dust of the earth. May holy Mary, the angels, and all the saints come to meet you as you go forth from this life.... May you see your Redeemer face to face.*

1021 Death puts an end to human life as the time open to either accepting or rejecting the divine grace manifested in Christ. The New Testament speaks of judgment primarily in its aspect of the final encounter with Christ in His second coming, but also repeatedly affirms that each will be rewarded immediately after death in accordance with his works and faith. the parable of the poor man Lazarus and the words of Christ on the cross to the good thief, as well as other New Testament texts speak of a final destiny of the soul -a destiny which can be different for some and for others.

1022 Each man receives his eternal retribution in his immortal soul at the very moment of his death, in a particular judgment that refers his life to Christ: either entrance into the blessedness of heaven-through a purification or immediately, or immediate and everlasting damnation.

**At the evening of life, we shall be judged
on our love.**

Continue to pray for all our beloved dead. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**God bless,
Fr. LaHood**

Where Are You On This Chart?

Number of Registered Parishioners	4748
Number of Registered Adult Parishioners	3404
Number of Adult Parishioners Who Are Volunteers at SJN	648
% of All Adult Parishioners Who Volunteer	19
Number of Registered Families/Households	1707
Number of Families/Households that made a Financial Support Pledge in 2007	659
% of Families/Households that made a Financial Support Pledge in 2007	38.6
% of Weekly Collection Contributed by Families/Households that Made Pledge in 2007	80.9
Number of Families/Households using Weekly Envelopes for Contributions	302
% of Families/Households Using Envelopes	17.7
% of Weekly Collection Contributed by Families/Households Using Envelopes	63.3
Number of Families/Households using Faith Direct Electronic Transfer for Contributions	125
% of Families/Households using Faith Direct Electronic Transfer for Contributions	7.3
% of Weekly Collection Contributed by Families/Households using Faith Direct	19.5
% of Weekly Collection Contributed by Envelope & Faith Direct Users	82.8
% of Weekly Collection Contributed by Families/Households that don't use Envelopes or Faith Direct	17.2

About 19% of Adult Parishioners do 100% of its work.

25% of the Parish is providing about 83% of its support.

**Imagine what we could do
if everyone did their part?**