

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Our Potential in the Divine

[God] made . . . the whole human race to dwell on the entire surface of the earth, and he fixed the ordered seasons and the boundaries of their regions, so that people might seek God, . . . and find him, though indeed he is not far from any one of us. (Acts 17:26-27)

Insight

Where is human fulfillment found? Are we ever really complete?

Ted has been working at a firm as a bookkeeper for seven years. But he feels unfulfilled. His job is just a job. Ted knows that for many people, work is not fulfilling. But he has to force himself to go through the front door of work each morning. Each evening he cannot pass through the exit door soon enough. He hates crunching numbers. He cannot stand spreadsheets.

Ted's real joy is oil painting. He can really lose himself as he works with the canvas. He realizes that even if his income decreases, being a full-time artist is what he is meant to do and be.

For Reflection . . .

Our vocation in this world can only be found through God.

What is the role of faith in my life?

What are my gifts and talents? How might God be calling me to best use them?

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 27–49

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 3–8

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2, 4, 69, 70

Church Teaching

Something Bigger

Each of us has a sense that there is more to life than merely one's own self. We gather together in groups to pursue various aspects of life. Even so, our network of relationships—our family, friends, and other groups to which we belong—do not offer us complete fulfillment.

A beautiful sunset can cause an ache within us. The quiet voice within our hearts whispers to us and an inner dialogue ensues. A grand initiative made up of many groups and peoples calls us to be our best selves. It is almost as if there is something built within us that draws us beyond ourselves into something that is bigger than we are.

We Are Seekers

We have not created ourselves. God created us. The imprint of the Creator is found in his creatures. We are called to know and love the One who made us.

Through our openness to truth and beauty, our sense of right and wrong, our desire for something more beyond ourselves, and our search for happiness, we are drawn to God and seek him. Without the Creator we are nothing, we lack grounding, we are without a center—we are rudderless.

The Soul Is the Seed of Eternity

God provides us with a link to himself and to immortality by giving each of us a soul. When the body dies, the soul does not—it continues to exist.

We cultivate our truest self when we nourish the soul spiritually by embracing belief, by establishing a firm religious practice, and by participating actively in the Church. Our vocation in this world can only be found through God.