

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Thy Kingdom Come

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah . . .”

Revelation 12:10a

Insight

The students were up on stage, rehearsing a scene. It was going well. Since no one was making any mistakes at the moment, the director’s attention wandered a bit. He reflected on all the hard work that had gone into this particular high school production. *Beauty and the Beast* wasn’t the easiest play for kids to put on, but they got an early start on practice.

From the start, the director had drummed into their heads that they were *really* performing the play even though the auditorium was empty, except for a few tech personnel. Even though they were not yet in costumes, they were to act as if this was opening night. Sure there would be more energy and a heightened dynamic once the theater was filled with an audience, but that didn’t mean that in rehearsals they could break character or horse around.

The play was the play—whether a read-through in a classroom, initial staging with movement using principal characters or the entire cast, with only piano, or with full pit orchestra. It was happening right now, in rehearsal. This was to best prepare them for their live performance, which would happen in just three weeks!

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2816–2821

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: page 486

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 590, 2816–2821

For Reflection . . .

The invitation to participate in the Kingdom of God has been issued to everyone.

What aspects of life, special events, or gatherings require preparation? How and why is that preparation important?

What activities do you personally engage in that most clearly mark you as a member of God’s kingdom?

Church Teaching

The Kingdom of God refers to the justice, love, and peace characterizing his reign or his dominion over the universe. To understand the rich nuances implied in this petition, we must first consider the public ministry of Jesus. When he embarked upon his ministry, Jesus preached, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news” (Mark 1:15).

With Christ’s advent on earth, the kingdom arrived among us. His signs, or miracles, point to his power as Savior. They highlight the power of God breaking into the world in a new way. The Kingdom of God inaugurated by Christ overturns evil and sin with grace, blessing, and goodness.

The Kingdom of God is here. But the Kingdom of God is not yet fully complete. As members of the kingdom, we live in a time in between, poised between Christ’s first coming and his Second Coming—when he will bring with him the fullness of the kingdom.

Praying this petition is like issuing a battle cry. It awakens our passion for action! The Spirit emboldens us by it, reminding everyone that we belong to God’s kingdom as we gird ourselves for doing good. While our activity as disciples does not usher in the fullness of the kingdom, our Christlike actions certainly do prepare us for its fulfillment at the Second Coming.