

again.” (*Rom* 8:11)

SECTION TWO THE PROFESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH THE CREED CHAPTER THREE: I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT ARTICLE 11 “I BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY” (CONT.)

Para 991- If there is no resurrection of the dead, then all that Christ spoke and did is without validity. His resurrection is the assurance that all Christ is, says and does is actually really true! (PM) (*1 Cor* 15:12-14)

I. CHRIST’S RESURRECTION AND OURS

The progressive revelation of the Resurrection

Para 992- The idea of the resurrection of the soul and body was not always so clear to the people of God in salvation history. God chose to tell of it only as time passed. One can read passages in the Psalms that seem to indicate there is no life after death in a bodily resurrection. However, as God gradually in time revealed more about this truth it has become so clear that Jesus affirmed it by teaching. (See the next paragraph) There is a double perspective that faith in the resurrection came to be expressed. God, who created the heavens and the earth, also faithfully maintains his unconditional covenant with Abraham and those of his posterity. *2 Macc* 7:14 sparks of this hope by faith that the body would be resurrected no matter what the persecutors did to it! (PM)

Para 993- Jesus challenged the Sadducees on their inadequate disbelief in the bodily resurrection of the dead. (PM) (*Mk* 12:24 *cf.* *Jn* 11:24; *Acts* 23:6) “Faith in the resurrection rests on faith in God who ‘is not the God of the dead, but of the living.’ ” (*Mk* 12:27)

Para 994- Jesus spoke of his own body being put to death and then being brought back to life. He likens this to the “sign of Jonah.” (PM) (*Mt* 12:39) Jesus also gave us the signs of the temple: He indicates that after his body (the temple) is destroyed he will bring it back in three days. (*Mk* 10:34; *Jn* 2:19-22) He also claims to be the Resurrection and the life in *Jn* 11:25. He links us to this resurrection by indicating in *Jn* 6:40 that he who eats my body and drinks my blood and have believed n him, he will raise up on the last day. (PM)

Para 995- “To be a witness to Christ is to be a ‘witness to his Resurrection; to [have eaten and drunk] with him after he rose from the dead.’ ” (*Acts* 1:22, 10:41 *cf.* 4:33) “Encounters with the risen Christ characterize the Christian hope of resurrection. We shall rise like Christ, with him, and through him.” (CCC)

Para 996- The bodily resurrection is perhaps one of if not the most difficult doctrines of the Christian faith to believe. There has been more opposition to this reality than most all other Christian doctrines. (PM) (*Acts* 17:32; *1 Cor* 15:12-13 St. Augustine, *En in Ps* 88, 5: PL 37, 1134) It is far easier to simply believe that life continues on after death in some way than to actually believe that “this body, so clearly mortal, could rise to everlasting life.” (PM)

How do the dead rise?

Para 997- “What is “rising”? Rising from the dead means that after the soul is separated from the body and the body decays, “God in his almighty power, will definitely grant incorruptible life to our bodies by reuniting them with our souls, through the power of Jesus’ Resurrection.” During the waiting for this to occur the soul goes to meet God. (PM) “For to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” (*2 Cor* 5:8)

Para 998- *Who will rise? All will rise from the dead. Some will rise to life and some will rise to judgment.* (PM) (*Jn* 5:29)