

Week Four:

What we really believe!

Scripture & Tradition,
Saints and the Pope

Homework questions?

- Salvation
- Heaven, Angel
- Tradition/Scripture

Know you were made for love and eternal life!

Tradition

- ⦿ Tradition is not the customs, practices or rituals of a particular Catholic rite.
- ⦿ We have many different rites all in communion with the Pope. All have grown, developed and changed through the centuries.

Apostolic Tradition

The apostles, their successors and the teaching, preaching and explaining the "word of God". Preserving the Christian message and truth.

- -Oral tradition times prior to the New Testaments formation.
- -The ongoing process of explaining what we really believe.
- -The Church Magisterium, teaching

“Sola Scriptura”

Protestant Reformers:

The whole of Christian Truth is the Scriptures.
It is the only source and reference needed.

Problem!

Where did the scripture come from?

Who wrote the books, formed and approved
the Cannon?

(Apostles, Successors, Catholic, TRADITION)

What about us?

The scriptures do encourage us to live in the word, and know it and live it.

The scriptures do not say Sola Scriptura.

We should study the divinely inspired word of God. To encounter Christ and grow our faith. It has been a core element of the spirituality of our greatest saints.

Dei Verbum

“close connection and communication between sacred tradition and sacred scripture”

Balanced, whole view to work with.
Both are needed!!

Saints

- ◉ Are people: Yes
- ◉ Are human: Yes
- ◉ Are sinners: Yes
- ◉ Are examples/role models: Yes
- ◉ Are worshipped: NO

Veneration

Respect and awe
inspired by the dignity,
wisdom, dedication or
talent of a person.

-Merriam-Webster

Universal call to holiness!

We are all called to holiness.

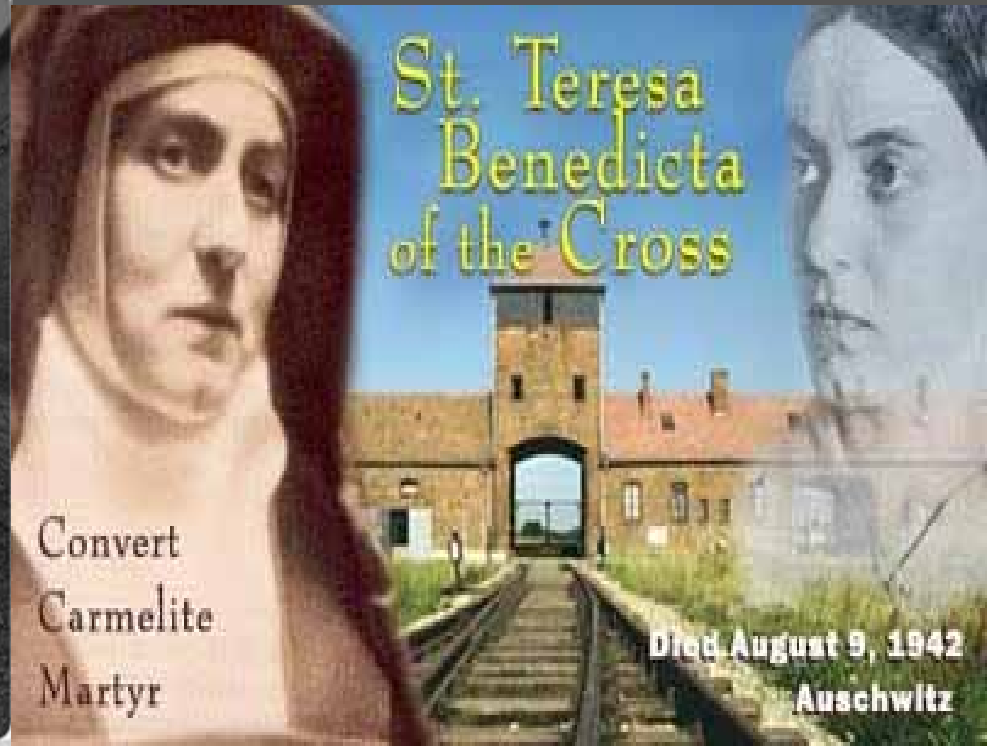
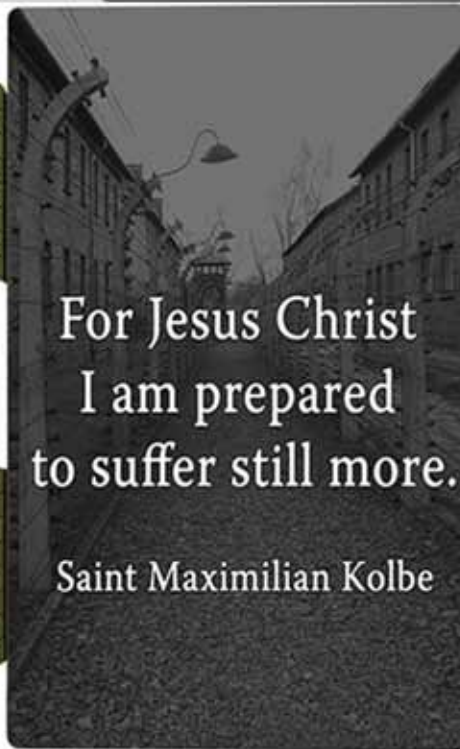
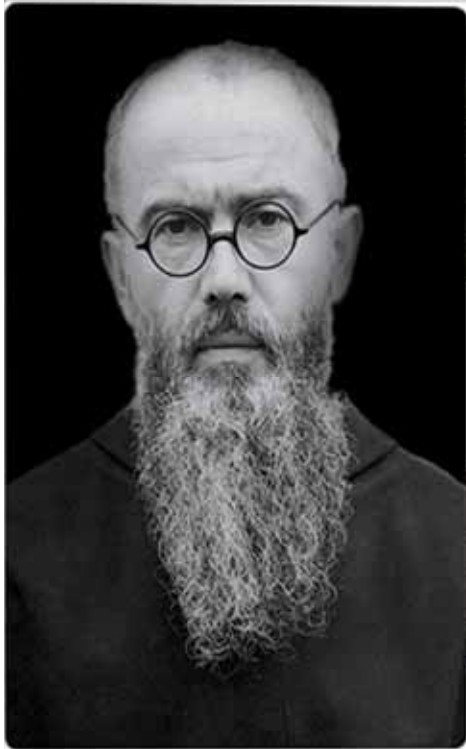
We are all called to love and serve God.

We are all given the Grace to grow spiritually. We can be holy.

The saints actually do it!

Heroic Virtue!!

Lives of the saints!!!

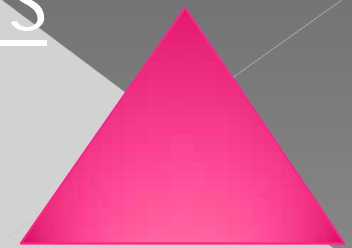


Max Kolbe

Edith Stein

We are in this together!

- ◉ What about others living this faith and on this journey to grow the relationship with Christ?
- ◉ Do we have others to encourage us and help us? (saints, friends, family)
- ◉ Remember: God, Us, Others



Communion of Saints

“What is the Church if not the assembly of all the saints?” ccc946

Communion “in holy things” and “among holy persons”. ccc947

We are fed by the body and blood of Christ to grow in communion with the Holy Spirit and communicate it to the world. ccc948

The Pope



Real Title?

The Church is Apostolic

- ◉ Founded on and linked to the Apostles.
- ◉ Chosen leaders and teachers of the faith.
- ◉ Their chosen successors with the same commission are the Bishops.
- ◉ Christ chose the Apostles and appointed Peter. On this rock build my Church!
(Important, central leader, not only leader)
Ecumenical Council ?

Catholic Church Structure and Organization

Subsidiarity: Matters are handled at the lowest possible level. There are powers reserved exclusively to each level.

The Code of Canon Law:

- ◉ Pastor (parish, deanery)
- ◉ Bishop (diocese, metropolitan, conference)
- ◉ Vatican (cardinals, congregations, Pope)

Not a dictatorship!

The Pope is:

- Successor of St. Peter.
- Spiritual, Servant Leader of the Church.
- Bishop of the Diocese of Rome.
- In some matters the Pope must voice the position of the Church. (faith & morals)
A position that must be consistent with scripture, and Church teaching. (Infallibility?)

Note:

Can retire, Can be removed, may serve for life

What about the bad Popes?

- A class on the history of the Catholic church would give us some important information and context.
- The Pope is just a human and sins like all of us. Some have been holy, responsible stewards and some have clearly fallen short.

Group discussion questions:

1. Why do you think outsiders see us as worshipping the Pope, Saints or Mary?
2. Have you ever been impacted by the holy life of a saint, friend or family member?
3. What are your hopes and dreams for our new Pope?

What we really believe recap:

Week 1: Trinity, Grace, Incarnation

Week 2: Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation

Week 3: Salvation, Heaven, Angels

Week 4: Tradition, Saints, The Pope

We really believe you should:

Respond to God's call of love and service.

Use the gifts of Grace offered in the sacraments.

Know you were made for love and eternal life.

Know, defend and cherish your Catholic faith.

Lord, Increase our faith!

"If you have faith as small as a
mustard seed,

you can
say to this
mulberry
tree, 'Be
uprooted and
planted in
the sea,' and
it will obey
you."

- Luke 17:6

