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Counsels

The Promise of Life After Death

Word: 2Mac 7:1-2,9-14; Ps 17:1,5-6,8,15;
2Thes2:16-3:5; Lk 20:27-38

Order: Direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.

The Theme taken from this Sunday's Gospel is: **Christ is King of our lives when we believe in the resurrection of the dead.** The Sadducees, who believed that life ceases to exist after our bodies die, put a perplexing question before Christ who preached about our resurrection after death. They used a trick question about a widow whose seven husbands died before her: who among them will be her "official" spouse if all were to come back to life? This question was designed to put Jesus in a corner, to draw Him into a discussion with the aim of discrediting Him and what He stands for-- Life, Death and Resurrection. Jesus explained to the Sadducees that after death, when we are all resurrected, our existence will be much more different from how we understand life here on earth. Knowing that the Sadducees are believers of the Mosaic Law, Jesus stopped their further questioning about the truth of the Resurrection by citing God's response to Moses in the burning bush. While God confirmed that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were dead, God further explained to Moses saying "I Am the God" of these three patriarchs. By speaking in the present tense "I Am" (Ex 3:1-8), God affirmed that physically, they were dead, but

(Continued on p. 2, col. 1)

Newsbits

ME8 Grand Reunion Celebrates Love

The community rejoiced as the graduates of ME8 gave glory to the Lord for the victory that the Marriage Encounter weekend had on their lives and their marriage. The ME8 Grand Reunion was held on a balmy Saturday on November 3 at Blessed Sacrament Church. A day of vibrant worship, jovial fellowship, and powerful testimony was capped by a wonderful presentation by the ME8 class. Kudos to the class for a job well done!

YLSS2 Preparations Underway

The sponsoring class of the Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar #2 has been working feverishly in preparation for the weekend scheduled on November 9-11 at the Holy Family Seminary in Silver Spring, MD. Shepherding sessions are now on-going. Please sign up for off-site or on-site vigil and pray for our candidates. For more information, contact Sam & Ellen Antonio or Mel & Zen de la Cruz.

God's Promise for the Week

*"...but those who are deemed worthy to attain the coming of age and to the resurrection of the dead...are like angels; they are the children of God."
(Lk 20:35 – 36)*

(Continued from p. 1, col. 1)

Counsels

at that very moment these three great and faithful servants were with God, presumably in God’s dwelling place which we all know as heaven.

Today our belief in the resurrection and our faith in Christ as The Way, The Truth and The Life are tested constantly. We struggle with similar questions posed by the Sadducees. Our limited capacity to understand and answer difficult questions about our most basic moral values that distinguish us as children of God and followers of Christ, make us vulnerable to being separated from our God and, therefore, risk losing the reward of salvation and eternal life. Science, politics, our personal comfort and those who seek to destroy our faith raise before us “trick” questions everyday. We struggle with questions on Abortion, Stem Cell Research, Divorce, Same Sex Marriage, Environment, Sexual Relations, Euthanasia, and Family Values. Even our most important God-given gift, “Free Will,” that describes our form of society and government (Democracy), is used against God to remove Him from everything--our schools, our laws and our public places--to wipe out God from our consciousness, and thus our belief in the Resurrection and our eternal salvation. A Rabbi speaking before a Christian Advocacy group gathered in Washington, D.C. declared that for every good answer we have to support our Faith and Christian values, the Sadducees of our time can come up with three or more reasons why we should instead believe them. He said we can never win an argument with them, and that our best response to their challenge is to simply say that “it is written in the Bible.” Christ put a stop to the questioning Sadducees when He pointed out to them, as written, God’s response to Moses about the

whereabouts of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, after they died.

In the First Reading from the Maccabees, the promise of eternal life gave the seven brothers and their mother the strength to bravely prefer torture and death by the Syrian king Antiochus IV over embracing the Hellenic culture and belief that celebrates worldly values and worship of many other gods. They refused to renounce their true faith and belief in the one true God whose commandments are the KEY to eternal life and salvation. In all probability, our personal faith will never be tested in this manner. But if our faith were ever tested, how far can we go before we give it up? How often do we give up Christ’s Truth in exchange for our physical and material comfort? How often do we deny Christ when we are confronted by laws of society that judge us if we do not conform to its values and norms of individualistic and selfish lifestyle? We must stand steadfast to the promise of resurrection, always remembering that life here on earth is but a moment...beyond death, life is eternal. This is Christ’s Promise: **“...But those who are deemed worthy to attain the coming of age and to resurrection of the dead ...are like angels; they are the children of God (Lk 20:35-36).**

November Calendar

Nov 02	Praise & Worship
03	ME8 Grand Reunion
09	Invocation Mass – YLSS2
10-11	YLSS2
16	Family P&W
17	Teachings: LSS5, 6, & 7
23	Thanksgiving Mass
24	BOC Reconciliation Mass
30	Praise & Worship

Love Offering

November 2, 2007	\$ 719.00
44 Week Average 2007	\$ 704.93
44 Week Average 2006	\$ 740.06