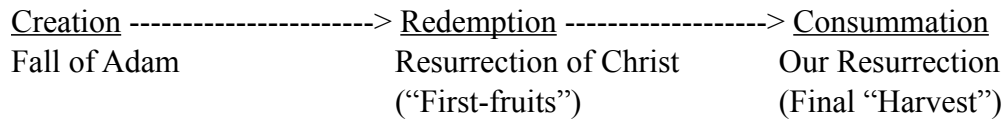


The Hope of the Resurrection
(6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20—How Can You Say There Is No Resurrection?

12 Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?...16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. 17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied. 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Cor 15:12, 16-20)

- 1. Resurrection: those who say "there is no resurrection of the dead" (1 Cor 15:12)
2. Implications: if there is no resurrection, then then "Christianity is only a lie."1
a. Christ himself has not been raised;
b. Paul's preaching was "in vain"—literally "empty" (1 Cor 15:10 NAB);
c. The apostles are lying about God;
d. The Corinthians faith is "futile";
e. They are still in their sins;
f. The dead in Christ have no hope but have "perished"
g. Believers are "of all men most to be pitied" (1 Cor 15:13-19)
3. First Fruits: "first fruits" of final harvest (1 Cor 15:23)



The Living Tradition

Catechism: The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross... The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event, with manifestations that were historically verified, as the New Testament bears witness. In about A.D. 56, St. Paul could already write to the Corinthians: "I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve ..." The Apostle speaks here of the living tradition of the Resurrection which he had learned after his conversion at the gates of Damascus. (CCC 638-39)

1 Ferdinand Prat, S.J., The Theology of Saint Paul (trans. John L. Stoddard; 2 vols.; repr. Eugene, Or.: Wipf & Stock, 2007 [orig. 1926]),

## Questions for Discussion and Reflection (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)

1. Why is the Resurrection of Christ the “crowning truth” of the Christian faith? Why might people not believe in it, and what are the implications if it is not truth?

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## For Further Reading

1. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Letters of Saint Paul to the Corinthians* (trans. F. R. Larcher, O.P.; eds. J. Mortensen and E. Alarcón; Lander, WY: Aquinas Institute, 2012).
2. Gerald Bray, ed. *1-2 Corinthians* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament VI; Downers Grove, IL.: IVP, 1999).
3. George T. Montague, SM, *First Corinthians* (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010).