



# The Parish of Saint Vincent Ferrer & Saint Catherine of Siena

July 31, 2016  
Weekly Bulletin  
Eighteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Dominican Friars – 869 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10065  
411 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10065  
Call 212.744.2080 or visit [www.svsc.info](http://www.svsc.info)

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Saint Vincent Ferrer

#### Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6:00 PM Vigil  
Sunday: 8:00 AM, NOON  
(solemn), 6:00 PM (sung)

#### Daily Masses

M – F: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM,  
6:00 PM  
Saturday: 8:00 AM

#### CONFESSION TIMES

M – F: 5:20 PM – 5:50 PM  
Wednesday: 7:45 PM – 8:30 PM  
Saturday: 5:00 PM – 5:50 PM

#### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

### Saint Catherine of Siena

#### Sunday Masses

Saturday: 4:00 PM Vigil  
Sunday: 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM

#### Daily Masses

Monday – Friday:  
7:00 AM, 5:15 PM  
Saturday: 9:00 AM

#### CONFESSION TIMES

Monday– Friday:  
4:40 PM – 5:05 PM  
Saturday:  
3:30 PM – 3:50 PM

#### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursday: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

## Parish Contacts and Office Hours

Parish office address:  
869 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

Parish office hours:  
Monday through Friday:  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

## SECOND COLLECTION

Next week, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. In Peru, the 14 villages of Chazuta, in Moyobamba, are all located away from the city center, with the most remote only accessible by boat. The faithful in these communities do not have access to catechetical formation, and members often feel separated from the life of the universal Church. Through a grant from the Collection for the Church in Latin America, the religious congregation of the Missionaries of Jesus was able to provide faith formation, spiritual retreats, and workshops to nearly 250 people. Upon completion, participants were better equipped to help others deepen their faith and answer questions. The program also renewed their sense of commitment to their parishes and created stronger bonds within their own families. Through this program, members of the Chazuta villages felt the love and support of the universal Church. Please support programs like these and give generously in next week's collection. For more information, please visit [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america).

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal will take place next week. One way this appeal works to support home mission dioceses in the United States is by supporting seminarian formation in poor dioceses. The blessing of seminarians places a financial burden on these dioceses, because educating each seminarian costs \$35-40K per year. Your support is needed for these young men so that they might go back and serve their parishes. Please strengthen the Church at home by making a generous gift to next week's appeal.

## MISSA CANTATA FOR

### ST. DOMINIC (AUGUST 4)

A Dominican Rite Missa Cantata will be celebrated on Thursday, August 4 at 7 PM, celebrating the feast of St. Dominic in the ancient Dominican rite.

## SUNG MASS FOR ST. DOMINIC (AUGUST 8)

The 12:10 PM Mass on Monday, August 8 will be celebrated as a Sung Mass for the Solemnity of St. Dominic.

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a program for adults who wish to become Catholic. Our parish RCIA program will begin in mid-September 2016. Those who are considering enrolling should contact the parish office to set up an appointment with Fr. Innocent Smith, O.P.

## PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

Each Friday, the 7 AM Mass at St. Catherine of Siena is offered for the deceased enrolled in the St. Catherine's Purgatorial Society. Enrollment of a deceased family member or friend is available in the church office for \$35.

## LOVE & RESPONSIBILITY SERIES

The Young Adult Outreach Program is excited to announce Love and Responsibility in NYC is back at Immaculate Conception's Outdoor Garden (414 East 14th Street, New York, NY)! Join world-renowned speakers who are flying in from across the country to discuss all things "relationship". We are hosting a live concert EACH WEEK following the discussion with wine! EVENT IS FREE! For more information, visit our website at [www.catholicnyc.com](http://www.catholicnyc.com).

# PARISH DIRECTORY AND INFORMATION

## DIRECTORY

Parish Office: 212.744.2080

Fax: 212.327.3011

Parish Website:

[www.svsc.info](http://www.svsc.info)

Parish E-mail:

[parish@svsc.info](mailto:parish@svsc.info)

V. Rev. Walter Wagner, O.P.  
Pastor

Rev. Joseph Allen, O.P.  
Vicar

Rev. Albert Paretsky, O.P.  
Vicar

Rev. Jonah Pollock, O.P.  
Vicar & Associate Director  
of DFHCMNY

Rev. Innocent Smith, O.P.  
Vicar

Bro. Damian McCarthy, O.P.  
Sacristan

Deacon John M. Powers

Lee Ann Rubino  
Business Manager

James D. Wetzel  
Director of Music

Lisa Harrelson  
Director of Catechesis and  
Youth Ministry  
St. Catherine of Siena

Dolores Getcher  
Child Education  
St. Vincent Ferrer

Rachel Miller  
Administrative Coordinator  
& Assistant to the Pastor

Dominican Shrine of  
Saint Jude Office:  
212.249.6067

Dominican Shrine of Saint  
Jude website:  
[www.dominicanshrineofsaintjude.org](http://www.dominicanshrineofsaintjude.org)

DFHCMNY office: 212.988.8303

St. Vincent Ferrer High  
School: 212.535.4680

Sr. Gail Morgan, O.P.

## WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF SAINT VINCENT FERRER AND SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

### REGISTRATION

Please register as a member of our parish if this is where you regularly attend Mass. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or online at [www.svsc.info/register](http://www.svsc.info/register).

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To arrange for the baptism of a child, call the Parish Office. Baptisms are usually celebrated on Saturdays, but other arrangements may be made depending upon the circumstances. A baptism preparation class is held at St. Vincent Ferrer on the second Saturday of the month at 12 pm. Please call the Parish Office to register.

### SACRAMENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson ([lharrelson@svsc.info](mailto:lharrelson@svsc.info)).

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson ([lharrelson@svsc.info](mailto:lharrelson@svsc.info)). Adults who have not been confirmed should inquire with the Parish Office about preparing for confirmation.

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

To begin making arrangements for a wedding at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact the Parish Office to arrange a meeting with a priest. More information is available at [www.svsc.info/weddings](http://www.svsc.info/weddings).

### SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office if you or a loved one would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick at the parish, at a nearby hospital, or at home (for those who are homebound).

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is a class for adults interested in becoming Catholic. To learn more, contact Fr. Innocent Smith, OP, at the Parish Office.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

For information and/or registration for classes held at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact Lisa Harrelson ([lharrelson@svsc.info](mailto:lharrelson@svsc.info)).

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

Parish Study is a program for adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. It meets on Tuesday evenings in the Fall and Spring. To learn more, contact the Parish Office or check our website at [www.svsc.info](http://www.svsc.info).

### YOUNG ADULTS

St. Vincent Ferrer often hosts events of the New York Frassati Fellowship. For more information, visit [www.frassatiny.com](http://www.frassatiny.com).

# FROM FATHER WALTER, O.P., PASTOR

*Brothers*

Summer brings the joy of the young. Our two Priors of St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena have together received ten young Friars this season. Their presence encourages us on several levels.

First, they share with us the bright excitement of learners. Their seminary summers figure as part of their training, and ideally they feature a progression of experiences leading up to the final deacon summer before ordination. A typical first summer will mean "direct service." Some of the Brothers assigned to New York have worked with Mother Theresa's Sisters, the Missionaries of Charity, in the Bronx. Their second summer might find them working in a hospital. This year three of the Brothers took part in the internship program sponsored by the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York. Two of the seminarians from St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie joined them in this work. Work in hospitals ranks high among formation experiences because it demands that the minister enter into situations that carry emotional significance and defy pat answers. Other summers might be more intellectual in nature. One of the Brothers usually has an internship with the journal, *First Things*, another works with our Dominican Foundation, and yet another studies Spanish. We hope that these assignments work together to foster well rounded priests or solemnly professed Brothers. Of course the man himself has to put all these pieces together, and that takes time.

The younger Brothers also share our life. Their company enlivens our routine for two months each year, and their singing enhances our worship. We, meanwhile share with them our pattern of Dominican life. I write "our pattern" rather than "the pattern" because each of our houses has the responsibility of structuring a life according to our Rule and Constitutions, but also congruent with its size and circumstances. Each group lives Dominican life. But when 80 men are living it in a seminary setting, it looks and feels quite different from the way seven men live it in a setting with multiple ministerial demands, as is the case at St. Catherine of Siena Priory, where I live. How important it is for the young to have a concrete perception of this truth, so that they can prepare for a lifetime of adaptation.

During these summer months our communities are entrusted with the formation of the young. Such a charge serves to renew our own focus, and our commitment to sustaining a coherent and credible way of life in the situation Providence has handed us.

In a quiet moment I can also perceive a deeper gift of the young Friars to me. Their commitment shows me God at work leading us into a future, and this allows me comfortably to take my own place in the procession of life. When I sit at dinner at St. Catherine's, at the table with me are Fr. John Farren, and Fr. Joseph Allen who were both part of my training. Also with me is Fr. Jonah Pollack whose formation I oversaw during the year of his Novitiate. There also are Br. Timothy Danaher and Br. Joseph Hagan, whom Fr. Jonah supervises for the summer in the hospitals. Here are four generations of fraternal care that make the Order a living thing. Such continuity manifests to me God's fidelity in time to the gifts He inaugurated in a founder like St. Dominic. To look at life in this way puts a whole new spin on middle age.

By the time you read this, most of these Friars will have left to visit their families and then to resume the round of their academic life. I will have sent them off with thanks for their great preaching at the Wednesday evening Holy Hour. Passages from the Book of Revelation challenge the most seasoned preacher and they met the task with alacrity. They have also served and read at Mass with serene generosity.

It has been a pleasure indeed to have the diaconal ministry of Br. Edmund McCullough this summer. He has served both in the hospitals and in our two pulpits, and has brought to this process a real confidence and ease.

Remaining with us through August is Fr. John Sica. Newly ordained, Fr. Sica serves in the hospitals and in the parish so that the regulars can get a summer break. His generous and talented presence comes as a blessing in an extraordinary time. Please make Father welcome among us.

Now for us, life gets very quiet. May these weeks give all of us the recollection that is summer's special offering.

Peace.



Fr. Walter, O.P.

# JOIN *us* IN PRAYER

SAINT VINCENT FERRER  
MASS *Intentions*

**SUNDAY, JULY 31**

Eighteenth Sunday of  
Ordinary time

6:00 pm (Vigil) † *Claudette Colbert*

8:00 am † *Adele Sereno*

NOON † *Aida Villanueva*

6:00 pm † *Livia Andreotti*

**MONDAY, AUGUST 1**

Weekday

8:00 am † *Deceased members of the  
Kirby Family*

12:10 pm *For the People of the Parish*

6:00 pm † *Marijana Bego*

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 2**

Weekday

8:00 am † *William & Rose Marotti*

12:10 pm † *Special Intention*

6:00 pm † *Marge Heslin*

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3**

Weekday

8:00 am *For the intention of the*

*Christians in the Middle East*

12:10 pm † *Thomas & Paula Macioce*

6:00 pm † *Carl Tiedmann, II*

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 4**

Weekday

8:00 am † *Deceased members of the Parish  
& the Order*

12:10 pm † *Richard & Garrett Keegan*

6:00 pm † *Jean Dalton*

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 5**

Weekday

8:00 am † *Bart & Bridget McGovern*

12:10 pm † *Mary Sughrue*

6:00 pm † *Mary O'Hara*

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6**

Transfiguration of the Lord

8:00 am † *James & Irene M. Clarke*

6:00 pm † *Lucille Murena*

SAINT CATHERINE OF  
SIENA MASS *Intentions*

**SUNDAY, JULY 31**

Eighteenth Sunday of  
Ordinary time

4:00 pm (Vigil) † *Anna Musico*

10:00 am *For the patrons of the Shrine  
of Saint Jude*

5:00 pm † *Amelia Humm*

**MONDAY, AUGUST 1**

Weekday

7:00 am *For the Province of St. Joseph*

5:15 pm *For Peace throughout the World*

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 2**

Weekday

7:00 am *For the Novices to be Professed*

5:15 pm † *Donna & Cindy DiMarzo*

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3**

Weekday

7:00 am *For the Novices to receive  
the habit*

5:15 pm *Henry Haffner*

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 4**

Weekday

7:00 am *For the Victims of Terrorism*

5:15 pm *For the Patients in the Hospitals  
around us*

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 5**

Weekday

7:00 am † *St. Catherine of Siena  
Purgatorial Society*

5:15 pm *For the Residents of Mary  
Manning Walsh Nursing Home*

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6**

Transfiguration of the Lord

9:00 am *For the Homeless on the streets*

4:00 pm † *Alfonso Martin del Campo*

PARISH PRAYER *Requests*

Contact the Parish Office at 212.744.2080  
or e-mail parish@svsc.info to add a name  
to this list.

*Arsev Eraslan, Henrietta Eraslan, Suzan  
Eraslan, Monica Farren, Christopher Heath,  
Rev. Chris Johnson, O.P., Helen Johnson, John  
Kelly, Tony King, Sarah McDermott,  
RoseMarie Morace, Stephen Osso, Neel  
Stallings, Joel Thorpe & Family, William  
White, & Shizuko Yoshida.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE of  
the souls of Sr. Ann Bailie, O.P., Nicholas  
Demasi, Tommy Gimbel, Wayne Rudolph, &  
Donna Zapalla, and the souls of all our  
recently deceased.

As is our mission, we continue to pray  
for the sick, the dying, and their  
families in Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center, NewYork-Presbyterian  
Hospital, the Hospital for Special Surgery,  
and Rockefeller University Hospital.

CANDLE *Intentions*

The seven-day candles, which burn in  
the lamps before the tabernacle and the  
Madonna at the entrance of the  
sanctuary, and at the Pieta in St.  
Vincent Ferrer are available for an  
offering of \$15 each. These lamps are  
both an act of devotion and a source of  
beauty in our church.

SANCTUARY LAMPS -  
ST. VINCENT FERRER

Elizabeth Donnelly (d)

Ramon & Fernando Gonzalez (l)

Anthony Morelliti (l)

Edward C. Perry (d)

Florence A. Schwede (d)

Margaret Williams (d)

Intention of Donor

SANCTUARY MADONNA

Jack Ryan Keegan (l)

PIETA LAMP

Well-being of Christians in the Middle  
East

SANCTUARY LAMPS -

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

The Sanctuary Lamp and the Blessed  
Virgin Mary Candle at St. Catherine of  
Siena burn for the intentions of any  
parishioner or in memory of any of our  
deceased. The offering is \$15.00 for one  
week, Sunday through Saturday. The  
Blessed Virgin Mary Candle is lit for  
Priscila Ventigan.

MASS INTENTIONS CAN BE RESERVED IN THE PARISH OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH  
FRIDAY, 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM, AND IN THE CHURCH OFFICE OF ST. CATHERINE OF  
SIENA MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM.



#### WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

On Saturday, August 13, Juliette Jeanfreau and Steven Picciano will be married at St. Catherine of Siena at 12:00 NOON. Juliette and Steven met at Saint Catherine's, and they are particularly grateful for the support of our parish community. They cordially invite all parishioners and friends of the Parish to join them in prayer at their marriage and Nuptial Mass.

Juliette and Steven will be married according to the rituals of the extraordinary form of the Roman Rite, which means that their exchange of vows will precede the Nuptial Mass, and that the Mass will be offered in Latin from the high altar. The Schola Dominicana will also be present to sing the Mass. All are welcome!

#### TODDLER PLAY GROUP

Registration is now in progress for the September 2016 - June 2017 session of our St. Jean's Toddler Play Group. Space is available in the Monday - Wednesday 10:45 AM Group and the Tuesday - Thursday 10:45 AM Group. Children from 18 months to 4 years are welcome.

We offer a loving atmosphere where the little ones can come and have their first school experience, making new friends and learning how nice it can be to go to school. Call the Director, Pauline Rednock, at 212-472-2853, ext 2 for more information and to arrange a visit.

#### ST. JOSEPH HILL ACADEMY PRINCIPAL

Founded by the Daughters of Divine Charity, St. Joseph Hill Academy, an all girls High School of approximately 400 students on Staten Island, is seeking a Principal to uphold its mission of preparing its students, academically and spiritually, to become confident young women ready to meet society's challenges. The ideal candidate will be a practicing Roman Catholic with prior relevant experience with school administration, fiscal and strategic planning, and will possess excellent communication skills necessary to interact with the Board of Trustees, faculty, the student body, and the Staten Island community. Candidates should hold a Master's Degree. Please send resumes and cover letters to [sisterwilliam@gmail.com](mailto:sisterwilliam@gmail.com)

#### CHILD PROTECTION

Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious, or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212-371-1000, ext. 2949 or Deacon George J. Coppola at 917-861-1762. Both may also be reached via e-mail at [victimassistance@archny.org](mailto:victimassistance@archny.org). Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, [www.archny.org](http://www.archny.org). In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

#### LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?

The Ladies of Charity are a diverse group of Catholic women who volunteer to meet the critical needs of those in challenging situations through:

- Engaging in Ministries with flexible time commitments in parishes, nursing homes, child care agencies, and other institutions that care for the marginalized.

- The creation and donation of handmade items for those we serve.

- Providing spiritual and social support for our volunteers.

For more information, or to become a Lady of Charity, please contact us.

Ladies of Charity of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York

1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022

212-371-1000, ext 2542 or [loc@archny.org](mailto:loc@archny.org)

#### ARCHCARE CARE NAVIGATION CENTER: RESOURCES FOR SENIORS

Need help caring for yourself or someone else but not sure where to turn? ArchCare, the healthcare system of the Archdiocese of New York has a Care Navigation Center staffed by health and social service professionals dedicated to helping people better understand and access the services for which they are eligible. Call 855-951-2273 between 8 AM and 8 PM seven days a week.

THANK YOU  
*for your continued support of  
Saint Vincent Ferrer and  
St. Catherine of Siena!*

JULY 24, 2016

ST. VINCENT FERRER

*Regular Offertory: \$6,341*

*Mission Appeal: \$2,779*

*Attendance: 543*

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

*Regular Offertory: \$3,099*

*Mission Appeal: \$2,036*

*Attendance: 370*

# DOMINICAN PROVINCE OF SAINT JOSEPH

*800th Jubilee ~ Order of Preachers ~ 1216-2016*



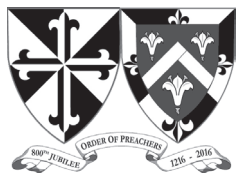
## Dominican Contemplation

What does it mean to contemplate? Ultimately it means to intellectually gaze at an aspect of truth, whether it be in mathematics, physics or a doctrine of faith. Often natural truths can become integrated with truths of faith and at the same time cause wonderment and delight, the fruits of thinking or meditation. While there is such a reality as sinful contemplation as often happens when someone is plotting a crime or a sin, religious contemplation is meant to stimulate a particular virtue of the spiritual life. This virtue is called by St. Thomas Aquinas, “devotion.” Often many think this means a feeling of delight in prayer, but it is more substantial than this. He teaches it leads one “to do what pertains to the worship or service of God, belongs properly to religion...Wherefore it belongs to that virtue to have the will ready to do such things, and this is to be devout.” This is primarily a matter of the will but may also cascade down into the feelings but not necessarily.

Further, Thomas asks the question: what causes devotion? He answers that it comes from God’s grace but we mortals have to think about the goodness of God to stimulate this virtue into action. As he says, “Through meditation man conceives the thought of surrendering himself to God’s service. Indeed a twofold consideration leads him thereto. The one is the consideration of God’s goodness and loving kindness.” However, there is another route also, namely, the “consideration...of man’s own shortcomings, on account of which he needs to lean on God.”

One of the difficulties most people have is thinking about the Triune God since our thoughts are abstract and we have not experience of “infinite love,” “all powerful,” “omnipresent,” or God the Father generating God the Son. If someone studies the science of theology, one can get a handle on these concepts. Thomas knows this and so explains that there is another way of contemplating: “Yet such is the weakness of the human mind that it needs a guiding hand, not only to the knowledge, but also to the love of Divine things by means of certain sensible objects known to us. Chief among these is the humanity of Christ, according to the words of the Preface [for Christmastide], “that through knowing God visibly, we may be caught up to the love of things invisible.” Wherefore matters relating to Christ’s humanity are the chief incentive to devotion, leading us there as a guiding hand, although devotion itself has for its object matters concerning the Godhead.” So, there we have Dominican contemplation.

*~ Fr. Basil Cole, OP · Professor of Moral and Spiritual Theology · Dominican House of Studies, Washington*



On December 22, 1216, Pope Honorius III formally approved the Order of Preachers (Dominican Order) as a religious order with the mandate to preach for the salvation of souls.

From November 7, 2015 until January 21, 2017, the Dominican Order is celebrating the 800th Jubilee of its founding. Please join us in this wonderful celebration.

For more information, go to: [jubilee.opeast.org](http://jubilee.opeast.org).



DFHCM of NY

DOMINICAN FRIARS HEALTH CARE  
MINISTRY OF NEW YORK

## *Reflections on Ethics, Faith & Health Care*

EDITOR: FR. JONAH POLLOCK, O.P., S.T.L.

### *The EUCHARIST as a SACRAMENT of HEALING*

*By Fr. Jonah Pollock, O.P., S.T.L., Associate Director, Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York*

**THE EUCHARIST**, the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, is “the source and summit of the Christian life” (Lumen Gentium 11). It is at the very heart of our Catholic faith and the depth of its mystery is without limit. Let us reflect on the great mystery on the Eucharist from the perspective of health care, considering how Our Lord’s body and blood in the Eucharist is effective in the healing of our brothers and sisters who suffer illness.

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST** is one among the seven sacraments of the Church. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it is grouped with Baptism and Confirmation as one of the sacraments of Christian initiation by which the faithful “receive in increasing measure the treasures of divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity” (CCC 1212). While there is no question that the sacrament of the Eucharist belongs in this category, it is also evident that the sacrament of the Eucharist fits the Catechism’s description of the sacraments of healing. “The Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies, who forgave the sins of the paralytic and restored him to bodily health, has willed that his Church continue, in the power of the Holy Spirit, his work of healing and salvation, even among her own members. This,” the Catechism says, “is the purpose of the two sacraments of healing: the sacrament of Penance and the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick” (CCC 1421). Penance and Anointing are grouped in the Catechism as the sacraments of healing. Nevertheless, the Catechism also affirms the healing purpose of the Eucharist.

**THE EUCHARIST** brings about spiritual healing by cleansing us from sin and restoring us in charity. In the Catechism, this effect of the Eucharist is compared to the effect of natural food. “As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens our charity, which tends to be weakened in daily life; and this living charity wipes away venial sins” (CCC 1394). The Catechism goes on to quote St. Ambrose, who speaks of the Eucharist as a remedy for sin and concludes, “Because I always sin, I should always have a remedy.” The Catechism also teaches that “the Eucharist preserves us from future mortal sins” though “it is not ordered to the forgiveness of mortal sins [which] is proper to the sacrament of Reconciliation” (CCC 1395). The Eucharist does not have the same healing purpose as the sacrament of Reconciliation, but it does have a

healing purpose.

**THE COMPARISON** between bodily nourishment and the Eucharist gives us a clear illustration of the Eucharist’s healing effects. The provision of bodily nourishment is essential to the practice of health care. While food and water are not, properly speaking, medicine, they are necessary to the maintenance and restoration of bodily health. The Eucharist has a similar purpose. It nourishes, maintains and restores charity to a person’s soul. The sacrament of Reconciliation may be the necessary medicine for a soul that is sick. But the Eucharist is needed to maintain the soul’s health, to strengthen its “immune system” to fend off minor ailments and to prevent serious illness in the first place.

**THE CATECHISM GIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION** to the Eucharist’s healing purpose when it is received as viaticum. The Latin word ‘viaticum’ literally means “provision for a journey.” In the tradition of the Church, viaticum has come to refer to Eucharist when it is received in the moments preceding death, the final journey to God. The Catechism calls the Eucharist as viaticum “the seed of eternal life and the power of the resurrection... the Eucharist is here the sacrament of passing over from death to life, from this world to the Father” (CCC 1524). It explicitly groups the Eucharist as viaticum with the sacraments of healing in a way that mirrors the sacraments of initiation. “Thus, just as the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist form a unity called ‘the sacraments of Christian initiation,’ so too it can be said that Penance, the Anointing of the Sick and the Eucharist as viaticum constitute at the end of Christian life ‘the sacraments that prepare for our heavenly homeland’ or the sacraments that complete the earthly pilgrimage” (CCC 1525).

**THIS, OF COURSE, IS THE ULTIMATE HEALING.** The divine life that is received through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist is brought to its fulfillment in Penance, Anointing of the Sick, and Eucharist as viaticum. For those who are involved in health care, this final healing of the soul can be a great consolation and source of hope. When the healing of the body becomes futile, the healing of the spirit can be brought to completion in the Eucharist, the most holy Body and Blood of Christ, by which we make the ultimate Passover journey from death to life.