



# THE PARISH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER AND ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER: 869 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10065

CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA: 411 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10065

www.svsc.info | (212) 744-2080 | parish@svsc.info

## January 29, 2017 — 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### PARISH STUDY: PRAY WITH UNDERSTANDING

Our Spring Parish Study program continues this Tuesday at 6:45 PM in the Parish Hall at St. Vincent Ferrer. Fr. Innocent Smith, O.P. will speak on the Ordinary of the Mass - History and Texts.

### SUNG MASS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

On Thursday, February 2nd, a Solemn Mass will take place at St. Catherine of Siena at 6:30 PM for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas). The Mass will include a candlelight procession. The Schola Cantorum will sing music of Spanish Renaissance composer Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611): *Missa Alma Redemptoris Mater*; *Alma Redemptoris Mater á 8*; and *Sancta Maria, succurre miseris*.

### FEAST OF ST. BLAISE

On Friday, February 3rd, the blessing of throats for the feast of St. Blaise will take place at the end of all the Masses.

### SECOND COLLECTION

Next week, our second collection will be for Peter's Pence, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please be generous. For more information, visit [www.usccb.org/peters-pence](http://www.usccb.org/peters-pence).

### PARISH COFFEE

Join us for coffee (tea), cake, and conversation on Sunday, February 5 after the 12:00 Noon Mass in the St. Vincent Ferrer Priory Parlors.

### VISITATION CIRCLE

Visitation Circle cordially invites single, widowed and divorced women of our parish to our next meeting and fellowship on Saturday, February 4th. We will begin our program at the Rosary Altar of St. Vincent Ferrer Church at 11:40 AM with the recitation of the Rosary, followed by Mass at 12 noon. Our coffee gathering with light lunch and meeting immediately follow in the priory parlors. Free will offering.

We look forward to meeting you then.

### MARDI GRAS - SAVE THE DATE

Please save the date for our Parish Mardi Gras Party, with buffet dinner, music, and raffles, which will be held on Saturday, February 25th in St. Dominic Hall at St. Catherine's. Please stay tuned for more details!

### PURGATORIAL CANDLES

St. Catherine's remembers our deceased with a weekly Mass celebrated at 7 AM on Friday for those who have been enrolled in the Purgatorial Society. In conjunction with these remembrances, we have restored 6 Requiem candlesticks, which allows the burning of memorial candles for our beloved dead. These candles are now available for \$10 each, and can be arranged through the parish office.

## MASS AND CONFESSIONS ST. VINCENT FERRER

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6:00 PM

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM,  
6:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM,  
6:00 PM

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM

### Confessions

SATURDAY: 5:00–5:50 PM

WEEKDAYS: 5:20–5:50 PM

### Parish Vespers

SUNDAY: 5:30 PM

## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 7:00 AM, 5:15 PM

SATURDAY: 9:00 AM

### Confessions

SATURDAY: 3:00–3:50 PM

WEEKDAYS: 4:40–5:05 PM

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS & OTHER PRAYER ST. VINCENT FERRER

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

7:40 AM (MORNING PRAYER)

5:30 PM (OFFICE OF READINGS  
AND EVENING PRAYER)

WEDNESDAY:

6:30 PM (ROSARY)

7:30 PM (HOLY HOUR)

## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

THURSDAY:

4:00 PM (HOLY HOUR)

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

5:00 PM (ROSARY)

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP  
PRAYER GROUP

WEDNESDAY: 6:30 PM

QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP

SATURDAY: 9:30 AM

## PARISH OFFICE

St. Vincent Ferrer  
869 Lexington Ave, NY, NY 10065  
(212) 744-2080 | parish@svsc.info  
Office Hours: Monday–Friday:  
9 am–1 pm, 2–5 pm

St. Catherine of Siena  
411 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY 10065  
Office Hours:  
Monday – Friday: 10 am–3 pm

## PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Walter Wagner, OP  
Pastor

Rev. Joseph Allen, OP  
Vicar

Rev. Innocent Smith, OP  
Vicar for Formation

Bro. Damian McCarthy, OP  
Sacristan

Deacon John M. Powers

Lee Ann Rubino  
Business Manager

James D. Wetzel  
Director of Music and Organist

Lisa Harrelson  
Director of Catechesis and  
Youth Ministry

Rachel Miller  
Administrative Assistant

Sr. Padraic Mary McGuinness, OP  
Receptionist

Tony Hicks  
Church Custodian

Tracey Hicks  
Church Custodian

## ST. VINCENT FERRER

### HIGH SCHOOL

(212) 535-4680  
Sr. Gail Morgan, OP  
Principal

## DOMINICAN SHRINE OF

### ST. JUDE

(212) 249-6067  
www.dominicanshrineofsaintjude.org

## PARISH INFORMATION

### 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. Please call the Parish Office to schedule a meeting with a priest.

### 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.frassati.nyc](http://www.frassati.nyc).

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**ST. VINCENT FERRER**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29  
6:00 pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish  
8:00 am Norbert Lutowski (D)  
12 pm Jolene Marie Kehoe (D)  
6:00 pm Catherine & Patrick Gannon (D)

MONDAY, JANUARY 30  
8:00 am For the Deceased members of the Parish & the Order (D)  
12:10 pm Elaine Healey (D)  
6:00 pm Christopher Heath

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31  
8:00 am Marianne T. Bogunovich (D)  
12:10 pm Omar Adame (D)  
6:00 pm Marianne T. Bogunovich (D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1  
8:00 am James J. & Irene M. Clarke (D)  
12:10 pm Marianne T. Bogunovich (D)  
6:00 pm Mariette Nottidge (D)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2  
8:00 am Marianne T. Bogunovich (D)  
12:10 pm Robert J. & William Schwede, Jr. (D)  
6:00 pm Marianne T. Bogunovich (D)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3  
8:00 am Dr. Paul Russo  
12:10 pm Zygmunt Gorski (D)  
6:00 pm Marianne T. Bogunovich (D)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4  
8:00 am For the Deceased Parents of the Members of the Order

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29  
4:00 pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish  
10:00 am For the patrons of the Shrine of Saint Jude  
5:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Jackoski (D)

MONDAY, JANUARY 30  
7:00 am For the Province of St. Joseph  
5:15 pm Robert Deacon (D)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31  
7:00 am Harry Ryan (D)  
5:15 pm Carmela Lee (D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1  
7:00 am Giovanni Paolilli (D)  
5:15 pm Myrna Donodeo (D)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2  
7:00 am DJ Carey (D)  
5:15 pm Margaret M. O'Connor (D)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3  
7:00 am St. Catherine of Siena Purgatorial Society (D)  
5:15 pm James Joseph Bell (D)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4  
9:00 am Nellie Lucido

**PARISH PRAYER**  
**INTENTIONS**

*Contact the Parish Office to add a name to this list*

Len Bencivenga, Rev. Chris Johnson, O.P., Helen Johnson, James Keegan, Carolyn Kelly, John Kelly, Lillian Krasnow, Anthony Mendola, Maria Guillen de Ribone, & Aquila Zacharilla.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Hank Fins, Peter Gimmel, Fr. John McGuire, O.P., Bradford Charles Meckel, Dr. Leslie Wise, & Teerapol Yodsi, and the souls of all our recently deceased.

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 are available for an offering of \$15 each.

*St. Vincent - Sanctuary Lamps*  
Ramon & Fernando Gonzalez (I); Edward C. Perry (d); Marylid Rojas (d); Robert J. Schwede (d); For the People of the Parish; Intention of Donor; Special Intention

*St. Vincent - Sanctuary Madonna*  
Jack Ryan Keegan

*St. Vincent - Pieta Lamp*  
Well-being of Christians in the Middle East

*St. Catherine - Mary Candle*  
Priscilla Ventigan

*Mass Intentions may 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.*

## TAKING STOCK

The liturgical cycle seems to give gifts and challenges appropriate to each year. This year's consolation took the form of a wonderfully long Advent, and a Sunday Christmas. A second gift comes in a long liturgical winter, the quiet days between the Epiphany and Ash Wednesday. Lent does not begin until March 1, which affords time to sit down in the back room for another round of behind-the-scenes work.

We need to get cozy with plans for the governance of the Parish. Governance refers to those structures by which the Pastor and his staff hold themselves accountable and also receive feedback and advice. Our former parishes of St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena differed in their patterns of governance, and we can take that divergence as a chance to benefit from two sets of insights. I will be meeting with a number of committed parishioners to apply the Canon Law of the Universal Church and Archdiocesan Law to our situation.

When this process is done we will be able to delineate for you the duties of the Parish Trustees, the Finance Council, the Pastoral Council, and the various committees of the Parish. Our year and a half of experience as a parish will, I hope, enhance the effectiveness of our work.

I will update you in these pages as this plan takes place.

We have mental and emotional space to focus on this work, because at this time finances do not cause worry. This peace of mind is thanks to you. As of this writing our Christmas and end-of-year donations look to total about \$210,000.00. The hidden good news here is that we received this amount even without some of extraordinary gifts that came our way last year.

For this support I cannot express enough my gratitude and that of those I work with.

In recent weeks we have taken time to assess our first Christmas with a unified music program and schedule of services. We registered a great response to the times of Mass and confessions. We also had very appreciative comments about the music for Christmas and associated days. In particular, the service of Lessons and Carols in honor of the Blessed Virgin on December 7, and the service of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 17 garnered high praise of content and execution.

If we could do it over again we would have been louder and clearer about the nature of the Dominican Rite Mass at Midnight. We caught some people unaware and were certainly sorry to do that.

Another Christmas success came in the form of our Christmas Fair. In addition to being beautifully decorated and arranged, the fair was excellent community time. For all of this, let me thank the many parishioners who frequented the Fair, both to work and to shop. On an encouraging note the Christmas Fair continues to grow as a parish fundraiser. In 2014 it raised about \$4,000, in 2015 about \$6,000, and this year about \$8,000.

Alongside the fair were drives for women's clothing for the Park Avenue Shelter, and Toys for the New York Common Pantry. These also yielded excellent results and the generosity of those who work and those who give surely preaches the Gospel.

Two events will punctuate the Winter weeks ahead. First, on Thursday, February 2, we will celebrate the beautiful feast of the Presentation. At a bleak turn of the year we light candles on this day and present ourselves in faith. The act of making oneself available to God challenges lethargy and lightens one's steps toward this spring and the eternal spring. We will celebrate the Feast with a Solemn Mass at St. Catherine's at 6:30 PM. Just to jog memories, those who were at the Mass last year found it to be wonderfully beautiful.

Later in the Month, Saturday, February 25 will bring us to the annual Mardi Gras Party, to be held at St. Catherine's after the 4 PM Mass. Details will follow, but please save room for a repetition of last year's elegant and fun interlude before Lent.

You will find a new Friar on the roster of celebrants and preachers. Please welcome Fr. Thomas More Garrett, O.P. to our Parish. Fr. Thomas More is a classmate of Fr. Innocent and Fr. John Devaney. A lawyer by training, he will be assisting Fr. Gabriel Gillen in the work of the Dominican Foundation. I have no doubt that we will all benefit by his presence.

Finally, we want to mourn the loss of Fr. Thaddeus Murphy, O.P. who ministered for many years at St. Catherine of Siena Priory and Parish. Fr. Thaddeus served in all the ministries of the parish and the hospital chaplaincy, but he was especially devoted to the apostolate of prayer, and founded the Queen of Peace Prayer Group which still meets at St. Catherine's each Saturday morning. What a marvelous tribute that members of the parish travelled all the way to Columbus, Ohio for the funeral! May he rest in peace.

May your winter be swift.



Fr. Walter



### FRASSATI MISSION TRIP

Join the Frassati Fellowship of NYC for an 11-day mission trip to Lima, Peru, August 3 -13, 2017. The cost of the trip is \$2000. We will serve the community of Laderas de Chillon where we will build homes, visit the sick and homebound, celebrate Mass with the people and share in the lives of the community. After our time in Laderas, we will spend a day visiting and serving at Hogar Francisco de Asis, a home for sick and destitute children. Our last day will be spent with a city tour of Lima with Mass at the national cathedral and visits to the convents of St. Dominic and St. Francis where relics of St. Martin de Porres and St. Rose of Lima are housed.

Trip Includes:

- Round-trip airfare from JFK, in-land transportation, meals and accommodations
- Mass and Holy Hour each day
- Priests for Confession and spiritual direction

Non-refundable deposit of \$450 is due February 9. Second payment of \$775 is due April 6. Remaining balance of \$775 is due May 18.

For more information, contact us at [missions@frassati.nyc](mailto:missions@frassati.nyc).

### LAY FRATERNITY OF ST. DOMINIC

Our Lady of the Assumption Chapter of the LFSM meets on the third Thursday of each month for approximately two hours, directly after attending the 6:00 PM parish Mass in St. Vincent Ferrer Church (meeting in Parish Center, street level left of Priory stairs). Dominican Laity share deeply the spiritual charisms of the Dominican Order while remaining in the lay state. More information is available at <http://www.laydominicans.com>.

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA 100TH ANNIVERSARY

This year is the 100th Anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima Portugal. On May 13, 2017, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, there will be a special Mass, Holy Hour and Eucharistic Procession at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Please save the date! For more information visit: <https://archny.org/events/100th-anniversary-of-our-lady-of-fatima>

## COLLECTION

JANUARY 15, 2017

Regular Offertory: \$14,573

Attendance: 1024

### 63<sup>RD</sup> U.S. NATIONAL ROSARY PILGRIMAGE LOURDES, FRANCE

Father Joseph Allen, o.p. invites you to join him on the 63<sup>rd</sup> U.S. National Pilgrimage to Lourdes: June 22 - July 1, 2017. Accompanied by a medical staff, clergy, and volunteers to assist the needs of the pilgrims. For details contact Fr. Joseph Allen, o.p., email: [Joseph.Allen@opeast.org](mailto:Joseph.Allen@opeast.org) or the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: Toll Free: 1-877-276-7279, email: [lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net](mailto:lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net), website: [www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com](http://www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com). The deadline for reservations is March 15, 2017.

### THE EMMAUS MINISTRY FOR GRIEVING PARENTS

To meet the spiritual needs of Catholic parents whose children of any age have died by any cause - no matter how long ago - the Family Life Respect Life Office offers the Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents. A unique, faith-based program providing spiritual retreats for grieving parents offered by grieving parents, the Emmaus Ministry offers a safe place where you can find peace, comfort, and hope. Join us at one of the following Emmaus Ministry Catholic retreats now being offered in the Archdiocese of New York.

One-day retreats offered twice at

#### St. Joseph's Seminary

201 Seminary Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704

Saturday, February 11, 2017 &

Saturday, February 25, 2017

One-day retreats offered at the

#### CHURCH OF THE MAGDALENE

525 Bedford Road, Pocantico Hills, Tarrytown, NY 10591

Saturday, April 1, 2017

**Cost: \$25 per person, \$40 per couple**

Scholarships are available

To register online: [www.emfgp.org/archny](http://www.emfgp.org/archny)

Or, contact Sue DiSisto, Coordinator, Parenting and Family Life Education at [susan.disisto@archny.org](mailto:susan.disisto@archny.org) or (646) 794-3191.

### SIGN UP NOW!

#### ONLINE FAITH FORMATION COURSES

The Archdiocese of New York and Fordham University have partnered to offer new online courses for those in parish ministry and those who simply wish to learn more about their faith. Courses which are: **Relevant** to contemporary people, **Convenient** for busy schedules, and **Faithful** to the Church.

For a limited time, these courses are being offered for FREE! To learn more and sign up visit [www.nycatholicfaith.org/learn](http://www.nycatholicfaith.org/learn).



the  
**CARDINAL'S**  
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

*Sharing God's Gifts*

## The 2017 *Cardinal's Appeal* has begun!



Photo Credit: St. Joseph's Parish, Somers

“  
*So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith*

— Galatians 6:10

As disciples of Christ, we are called to help one another and be merciful, as Jesus taught us. It is only with **your help** that the *Cardinal's Appeal* continues its good work in our communities. Through our ministries and charities the *Cardinal's Appeal* continues to be a beacon of hope for our brothers and sisters in faith.

**MAKE AN ONLINE GIFT TODAY!**

[www.cardinalsappeal.org](http://www.cardinalsappeal.org)

AW



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.

### WHAT *it* MEANS *to* HOPE

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

“HOPE” IS A WORD that can mean different things. It can mean looking forward to something good that might happen in the future. One might hope for good weather on the day of an upcoming picnic. It can mean thinking that something good is likely to happen. One might be hopeful that the Mets will win the World Series next year. “Hope” is also a word that we use in our speech about God. We hope that God will do good things in our future. This kind of hope goes hand in hand with prayer and is usually about something important. We might pray for good weather or Mets victories, but we’re more likely to pray for a sick loved one. Our hope for the weather or the Mets is based mostly on natural, this-worldly causes. Our hope for the healing of those we love can also be based on natural causes, but very often it is also based on the help we seek from God.

HOPE IN GOD can also mean something more.

“Hope” is one of the three “theological virtues” by which we relate directly to God. In this sense, “hope” means confident reliance on God to faithfully fulfill His promises to us. It is in this way that we hope for our salvation, meaning that we look forward with confident expectation to the fulfillment of God’s promise to save us. That doesn’t mean our salvation is assured or guaranteed, because we remain capable, by virtue of our free will, of rejecting God’s saving grace. But though we must “work out [our] salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil 2:12), we have certain hope that God will do His part, giving to us every saving grace that we need.

SO HOPE IN GOD CAN MEAN TWO THINGS. It can mean hoping that God will bring about a natural good, like the healing of a loved one. Or it can mean hoping that God will give us supernatural gifts, like saving grace and eternal life. The first kind of hope concerns good things that God has not promised. For example, God has not promised to give each and every person the bodily healing they desire. The second kind of hope – theological hope – concerns things that God has promised and can therefore be hoped for with certainty.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US? In particular, what does this mean for someone who prays to God for healing from an illness or for the survival of a sick loved one? What it means is that we can and we should hope in God in both the ways I have described. We can and should

hope and pray that God will grant bodily healing to us and our loved ones. And we can and should hope and pray that God will fulfill His promise to bring us and our loved ones to everlasting life in His Kingdom.

MOREOVER, WE CAN AND SHOULD hope in God in both these ways at the same time. We don’t have to give up hoping for a cure before we can begin hoping for eternal life. It is right and good to desire both the good things of this life and the good things of the life to come. Saint Paul shows this when he says,

*To me life is Christ, and death is gain . . . and I do not know which to choose . . . I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit (Phil 1:21-24)*

SAINT PAUL HAD GOOD REASONS to want to go on living, as do so many who are sick and in danger of dying. But Saint Paul also longed for the fullness of life in Christ that would be his after death. And this should be our desire too. Both the goods of this life and the goods of the life to come can and should be objects of our hope.

WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, hope for these things in the same way. Our hopes for the natural goods of this life are conditional upon the will of God. In His unfathomable wisdom, God may not want for us the good things we pray for. That was the case for Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane when he prayed, “Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will” (Matt 26:39). He hoped for the preservation of his mortal life, but that hope was conditional upon his Father’s will, which he desired even more than life. Our hopes for the supernatural gifts God has promised us are unconditional. We know that God “wills everyone to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:4). So we have sure and certain hope that God will grant us His saving grace. This “theological” hope is not only more certain; it is also directed to what is greater. As Saint Paul said, “To depart this life and be with Christ . . . is far better.”

SO LET US HOPE IN GOD for the goods of this mortal life and – at the same time and with even greater longing – let us hope in God for eternal goods and for the life that is to come.