

Belief in the Resurrection

Q. 104. What does the Church teach about the Resurrection?

The Catholic Church teaches that Jesus was raised bodily from the dead by the power of the Father and by His own power.

Sacred Scripture

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father. *John 10:17-18*

Catechism of the Catholic Church

648 Christ's Resurrection is an object of faith in that it is a transcendent intervention of God himself in creation and history. In it the three divine persons act together as one, and manifest their own proper characteristics. The Father's power "raised up" Christ his Son and by doing so perfectly introduced his Son's humanity, including his body, into the Trinity. Jesus is conclusively revealed as "Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his Resurrection from the dead."¹ St. Paul insists on the manifestation of God's power² through the working of the Spirit who gave life to Jesus' dead humanity and called it to the glorious state of Lordship.

Q. 105. What does it mean to believe in the bodily Resurrection of Jesus from the dead?

To believe in the bodily Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is to believe that God, Who became man, has conquered sin and death. We must also believe that this victory is made available to us through His Church.

Sacred Scripture

"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Corinthians 15:54-57*

Catechism of the Catholic Church

654 The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life. This new life is above all justification that reinstates us in God's grace, "so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."¹ Justification consists in both victory over the death caused by sin and a new participation in grace.² It brings about filial adoption so that men become Christ's brethren, as Jesus himself called his disciples after his Resurrection: "Go and tell my brethren."³ We are brethren not by nature, but by the gift of grace, because that adoptive filiation gains us a real share in the life of the only Son, which was fully revealed in his Resurrection.

For commentaries on each question with Cardinal Arinze, Sr. John Vianney and Fr. Straub (in Spanish), see Appendix E.

Sacred Scripture

Q. 104. Acts 2:22-36.

Q. 105. Eph 2:4-7; Rom 6:3-11.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Q. 104. Paragraph 649.

Q. 105. Paragraphs 651-655.



Vatican Council II

When Jesus, having died on the cross for men, rose again from the dead, he was seen to be constituted as Lord, the Christ, and as Priest for ever (cf. Acts 2:36; Heb. 5:6; 7:17-21), and he poured out on his disciples the Spirit promised by the Father (cf. Acts 2:23). Henceforward the Church, endowed with the gifts of her founder and faithfully observing his precepts of charity, humility and self-denial, receives the mission of proclaiming and establishing among all peoples the kingdom of Christ and of God, and she is, on earth, the seed and the beginning of that kingdom. *The Church*, 5

Doctrine • Moral • Worship Exercise (see Appendix B for answer key)

1. What did Jesus conquer by His Resurrection?
2. How can this triumph of Jesus at His Resurrection help you in facing life's trials and struggles?
3. Ask Jesus to give you the strength to conquer sin and death through His Resurrection.

Chapter Summary Prayer

Jesus, hitherto Peter had only received the promise of the primacy (cf. Matthew 16:15-19), but after that morning meal, You finally conferred it upon him in all its fullness and majesty, in the presence of the other Apostles. We firmly believe that this primacy is a divinely bestowed office, divine in its origin and nature, for it represents You; divine in its extent, for it embraces the whole Church, the learning body (lay faithful) as well as the teaching body (hierarchical). It also includes the entire and supreme power; divine in its operation and significance, since the whole Church—its

being, attributes, stability, life, growth, and work—stands or falls with the primacy.

Jesus, after having conferred upon Peter the highest dignity in Your Church, You predicted to him that he would be taken prisoner in his old age, bound, and led to the martyrdom of the cross. All this is a proof of his love for You and for his flock, as the good shepherd he was.

We thank You for the graces and privileges You have bestowed upon us as Catholics. Help us to use these graces well and to be grateful for each token of Your tender love. Give us a generous love like Peter's for You. Help us to love You when we have to suffer, as well as when we are able to rejoice. We ask this in Your most holy and powerful Name. Amen.

Family Wisdom Library: Chapter 28

See Appendix A for more references.

Q. 104. What does the Church teach about the Resurrection?

Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), Vatican II, sect. 11, 48; Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy), Vatican II, sect. 5; On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World, John Paul II, sect. 24.

Q. 105. What does it mean to believe in the bodily Resurrection of Jesus from the dead?

Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), Vatican II, sect. 48; Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy), Vatican II, sect. 5; Gospel of Life, John Paul II, sect. 28.



Thought Provokers

Please see Appendix C for the answers.

- Q. 104: The Second Ecumenical Council of Lyons in 1274, for instance, definitively taught: “The third day He rose from the dead by a true resurrection of the body. With the body of His resurrection and with His soul, He ascended into Heaven on the fortieth day after the Resurrection.”
- Q. 105: What connection is there between Jesus’ Resurrection and our resurrection which will take place at the time of the Final Judgment?