

RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

- In the Apostles' Creed, we profess: "I believe... in the resurrection of the body." We say that we believe our physical body will be reunited with our souls in eternity.
- We are well aware of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning. But from its earliest years, the Church has taught that our mortal bodies, which grow stiff and cold in death and become corrupt will, like Jesus' body, be brought again to life.
- Even before Jesus' coming, there was a growing understanding that, because we are both body and soul, our bodies must eventually share eternity with the soul:
- "Jesus often spoke of his own Resurrection (see Matt. 12:39-40; Mk. 8:31; Mk. 9:31) and promised resurrection for us as well. "I am the resurrection and the life" (Jn. 11:25), Jesus tells us, "for this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day" (Jn. 6:40).
- Our souls, at the moment of death, are taken into eternity at the Particular Judgment.
- We must await our bodily resurrection until Jesus' Second Coming. Christ "will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body" (Phil. 3:21; see also 1 Cor. 15:44).
- Yet not only the just will be resurrected; for "all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment" (Jn. 5:28-29).
- By her Assumption into Heaven, the Mother of God has already been glorified in body and soul (see Rev. 12:1). This is indeed for us a sign of hope that we, too, can look forward to our own bodily resurrection, to enjoy forever the sight and company of God as the complete human beings he created us to be.