

**UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS
DECEMBER 19, 2017**

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US Catechism for Adults p. 139, 195-197

NEXT CLASS: JANUARY 9, 2018

Why are you here? What gives life meaning?

We are here because God created us and wishes to be in relationship with us.

At Baptism, we are (will be) sealed in relationship with God through Christ.

Matthew 3:17 (NT 19) Jesus is baptized.

John 15: 9-17 (NT 167) Remain in my love.

Ephesians 1:3-5 (NT 285) Called to be holy.

What are our resources?

- **Scripture**
- **The Church and its teaching.**
 - Dogmatic Constitution, Ch 5, "Universal Call to Holiness."**
 - Vatican II (1962-65)**
 - Pope John XXIII**
 - 16 documents**
 - We are all called to holiness, not only for our own sanctification, but also for the world.**
 - "Go forth, proclaiming the Gospel with your life."**
- **Prayer**

DISCUSS briefly

1. Is holiness a goal in my life? Do I read the Bible? Do I pray? Am I actively participating in the life of the Church?

2. What is the difference between looking holy and being holy?

This process of making God the center of our lives is what it means to grow in holiness. And Jesus says, "Follow me."

- Holiness is for everyone.
- Holiness is the goal of placing God at the center of one's life.
- Holiness shapes our response to loving others.

(Cursillo)

Holiness requires
WORSHIP & PRAYER LIFE
GROWTH in UNDERSTANDING (Formation) LK 2:52 (NT 104)
ACT OF LOVE

DISCUSSION

1. Growing in holiness requires a prayer life, seeking understanding & growth (formation), a response of worship, and acts of love (charity). What does this look like in your life?
2. What things in life make growing in holiness difficult?
3. What things can make growing in holiness easier?

OBSTACLES TO HOLINESS (#2)

Sin

Excuses

Near occasion of sin

Unforgiveness

Devil

REMEDIES to Obstacles (#3)

Reconciliation/Penance

Prayer

Spiritual director

Christian Community - Surround yourself with other Christians including the saints.

RESOURCES

Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium)

<http://www.ewtn.com/library/councils/v2church.htm>

SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 11:45 (OT 122)

Matthew 5:48 (NT 23)

Matthew 6:10 (NT 23)

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NT 266)

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NT 289)

Colossians 1:9-14 (NT 300)

BOOKS

Called to be Holy by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan.

Heaven Starts Now: Becoming a Saint Day by Day by Fr. John Riccardo.

All Saints by Robert Ellsberg.

My Life with the Saints by James Martin.

Resisting Happiness by Matthew Kelly

My Sisters; The Saints: A Spiritual Memoir by Colleen Carroll Campbell