

## Group Time Sharing Questions

### QUESTION 1:

- (a) The beast from the sea represented corrupt Gentile (especially political) power. What are some of the ways in which the Church confronts (or fails to confront) politics today?
- (b) The beast from the land represents corrupt power in the Holy Land. What are some of the ways in which the Church confronts (or fails to confront) corruption in the Body of Christ today?

### QUESTION 2:

Read CCC#1138. This view of worship is extremely global in contrast to the common American notion of worship as being a “private thing between a person and God”. How does the enormous emphasis on a community that encompasses “all creation” affect the way you approach mass?

CCC #1138	"Recapitulated in Christ," these are the ones who take part in the service of the praise of God and the fulfillment of his plan: the heavenly powers, all creation (the four living beings), the servants of the Old and New Covenants (the twenty-four elders), the new People of God (the one hundred and forty-four thousand),[4] especially the martyrs "slain for the word of God," and the all-holy Mother of God (the Woman), the Bride of the Lamb,[5] and finally "a great multitude which no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes, and peoples and tongues."[6]	「總歸」於基督的萬有，參與讚頌天主的職務，也參與天主計畫的完成：他們是天上的掌權者，所有的受造物(四個活物)，新舊約的僕人(二十四位長老)，天主的新子民(十四萬四千人)尤其是「爲了天主的聖言而被殺」的殉道者(默6:9-11)，天主聖母(女人)；羔羊的淨配4，最後是「一大夥群眾，沒有人能夠數清，是來自各邦國、各支派、各民族、各語言的」(默7:9)。
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### QUESTION 3:

Revelation 12 and 13 describe the earthly lot of the Church. Persecution by dragon and beasts, suffering and endurance of pain in witnessing the destruction of Jerusalem, poverty, hardship and death are the lot of the saints. But in Revelation 14, we are suddenly shown the saints in glory on Mt. Zion. What does this stark contrast between the earthly lot and the heavenly dignity of the Church do to our perspective on life?

#### Web links

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/\\_INDEX.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM)  
<http://www.catholic.org.tw/bible/index.htm>  
<http://www.cathlinks.org/ccc-toc.htm>  
<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/ccc.html>

### ANSWER FOR QUESTION 1:

- (a) This question should trigger some discussions on current issues such as:
- Same-sex marriage
  - War in Iraq
  - Separation of church and state
  - Equalization of all religions, etc.
- (b) This question is expected to trigger some discussions on the sex scandals within the Church, particularly those in Boston in the last couple of years.

### ANSWER FOR QUESTION 2:

Many people erroneously believe that what truly matters is not so much the Church but one's personal relationship with God. This view is particularly prevalent amongst many Protestant denominations. We often hear people say, "It really doesn't matter what church (denomination) I go to as long as I accept Jesus as my personal savior."

The Catholic perspective, on the other hand, is that we must worship God through the true Church that Jesus established. "Outside of the Church, there is no salvation." For the Church is the Body of Christ. The heavenly scenes of Revelation as outlined in CCC #1138 underscore the importance of the Church as an ecclesial community. As a result, when we worship God at mass, we worship not only as individuals but more significantly also as members of the community of the faithful on earth under the leadership of the Pope and of the bishops, in communion with Mary and all the saints, and with all brothers and sisters in the collective Body of Christ. This is also why we believe in communion of saints and the Protestants don't.

### ANSWER FOR QUESTION 3:

This question pinpoints the difference between the Christian and secular ways of life. While the Christian way of life often causes us to suffer here on earth, we continue to cling fast to our faith and to love one another for the HOPE of our future glory in heaven.