

TOWARD THE ETERNAL COMMENCEMENT

Our Quest for Happiness High School Religion, Book Four

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INTRODUCTION

This year, we finish the series entitled *Our Quest for Happiness*. Each of us desires happiness; God created the human heart that way. This strong desire is described in the text as a craving, and it is really a craving for God. Unfortunately, we frequently confuse material happiness and attachment to creatures with true happiness. In this last year of the *Our Quest for Happiness* religion series, the Four Last Things bring up the question of the future, of the sacraments of Extreme Unction, of Holy Orders, and of Matrimony, and of the Apocalypse. Moreover, the life of the Blessed Mother (Unit I) fits in here most admirably as the perfect example of those who wish to succeed in the quest for happiness, and the perfect model in the practice of all the virtues. Unit II helps our juniors look into the future, while Unit III deals beautifully with “The Great Choice,” as our teen-aged children prepare, with Our Lord’s illumination, to discover their state in life which God has pre-ordained for them. Unit IV gives our young Catholics the principles they need to build a better world, and Unit V is a survey of apologetics, a subject which will be covered in greater detail in the twelfth grade.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The *Our Quest for Happiness* series is, overall, the finest, the most thorough, and the most doctrinally sound high school religion series that Our Lady of Victory was able to find. Roman Catholic priests who have perused the books have pronounced them essentially equivalent in content and presentation to the Theology courses which they have studied at traditional seminaries. It is truly an excellent four-year course in the theology of the Catholic Faith. The series was written and published originally in the 1940s, with the content being slightly rearranged and the books re-published with fresh *Nihil Obstat*’s and *Imprimatur*’s in the late 1950s. As a result of the intervening four decades, with their manifest changes in the world in general and in the Church in particular, there are some points about certain wording in the text that require clarification.

It is important, when discussing the virtue of Obedience, to point out some aspects of this great virtue which must be underscored in light of the situation of the crisis in the Church today. Obedience is always subordinate to the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Therefore, it is never permissible to hide behind the excuse of obedience when the Faith is endangered in yourself or those around you in accordance with the priorities of Charity. Since the 1960’s, **Blind Obedience**, which is not a virtue but a tool of Satan, has led us into places previously forbidden by Popes and the Magisterial Teaching of Holy Mother Church. *Lex Primas Salus Anima Est* means “The Prime Law is the Salvation of the Soul.” Accordingly, no Canon Law, no prudential pronouncement from the Vatican, and no threat of censure from your local ordinary can **ever** cause you to place obedience to these authorities above the salvation of your soul (or the souls of your children), when the two conflict. “I was only obeying my bishop/pastor/priest” will **not** be an excuse on Judgement Day.

In Unit IV, “Building a Better World,” the textbook cites two types of socialism as an “extreme” socialism (or atheistic communism), and a more “moderate” socialism, which our text says, rather cavalierly, has “ceased to be a serious problem.” This was surely hopeful (or even wishful) thinking in 1958, when this book was published, but not very realistic and critical thinking. The book’s authors correctly point out that this “more moderate brand of socialism” was condemned by Pope Pius XI as promoting a concept of society contrary to Christian truth, by ignoring man’s eternal goal and sacrificing man’s dignity to the demands of production. Then, they abruptly tell us it is no longer “a serious problem.” In light of the events in the socialist countries of formerly

Catholic Europe in the intervening forty years, we can say that the authors of the text were well off the mark on this point. Witness the current situations in Italy, France, Portugal, and Spain -- once so strongly Catholic, but now infested with every possible evil and error the twentieth century has revived.

Finally, the publishers or editors of the textbook were ill-advised in their choice of inclusion of the symbol of the One World Order, the United Nations, in the illustration on p. 337. No organization is more opposed to the Social Kingship of Christ, nor more opposed to true justice, than this nefarious supernatural "government." The editors could hardly have chosen a worse symbol, unless they had inserted the logo of Freemasonry, which itself is embodied in the U.N., and which is in a constant tug-of-war with the other "philosophy" espoused at U.N. headquarters in New York -- Marxism. In fairness to the editors, however, it must be remembered that the idea of a place where nations can come together to debate their differences rather than fight is, in itself, good, and most likely traces its origin to the Pax Romana, and later to the Round Table of King Arthur. It is therefore attractive to Catholics -- and to all men of good will. Furthermore, when these books were published, there was still hope, albeit very little and perhaps even naive, that the U.N. would be the apparatus for furthering peace among nations. But let us be very clear: **Until the world accepts the Reign of Christ the King, there can never be true peace.** If the text errs in presenting the case for social justice, it is because the authors do not drive this point home hard and frequently enough. Students should always bear this truism in mind, especially when reading about or discussing the ills of the world and how to solve them: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the true Giver of Peace, not peace "as the world gives," but genuine and abiding peace under His Kingship. Still, if the world, at this late date, has not converted, where does the fault lie? Is it the hardening of their hearts, or are we, who call ourselves Catholics, to blame, for not truly practicing our Faith, for not providing a demonstration to the world that is so necessary to precipitate conversions?

ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS

As in the three previous years, assignments will consist of reading from the text, as well as both written and oral responses to selected review questions. Even though not all questions are assigned, students must ensure that they understand all the material. Some graded assigned questions will be sent to the school, as indicated in this lesson plan, so that the students' tutors can review their performance and provide helpful feedback. **Assignments which are to be sent to school are in bold print and clearly marked "Send to School".**

The *Answer Key*, which conforms only to the 1958 edition, contains more detailed responses than the student's need be. As long as the student's response agrees substantially with the *Answer Key*, it can be graded favorably. **Please remember to answer all questions in complete sentences.** Also, be sure to calculate a percentage grade for all required assignments. You can use the EZ Grader to assist with the calculation.

The student will also be asked to write either paragraphs or short papers on various topics covered in the textbook. If asked to write a paragraph, the length should be a **minimum of 75 words**; a short paper should be a **minimum of 200 words**, but not more than 300, unless otherwise specified. If possible, these assignments should be typed and double spaced. If this is not an option, the student may hand-write the assignment, using their neatest handwriting and double spacing.

When instructed to write a paper covering several questions in the textbook, the student should not provide separate answers to each question, but should organize the information into a single essay, showing the logical progression of ideas.

Tests will be given at the end of each quarter. The first quarter, mid-term, and third quarter tests cover material from those respective quarters only, while the final test is *comprehensive*, that is, based on the material covered during the entire year. It is highly recommended that students save all written assignments and tests, so that these may be used for study aides in preparation for the tests. Familiarity with the major reviews at the end of each unit is an excellent preparation for the quarter exams. You will also find study guides included in the lesson plan.

All papers submitted to the school for review and/or grading will be returned at the end of each quarter.

THEOLOGY IV - 2020

Student Name _____ Grade Level _____

Text – *Toward the Eternal Commencement, Our Quest for Happiness: Book Four* by the Right Rev. Msgr. Clarence E. Elwell, PhD., Lepanto Press.

Week 1

Grade

Text Read and study pp. 9-16, pp. 20-23 and pp. 27-35.

Write a 200+ word essay answering question #5 on p. 16. Use examples as necessary.

Send UNGRADED assignment to school.

Answer review questions #1-15 on p. 35 orally.

Time _____

Week 2

Text Read and study pp. 35-56.

Answer review questions #3-4 on p. 44 in a well-formed paragraph. Combine all the answers in a logical manner to make a fluid paper. Use examples as necessary.

Answer review questions #12-13 on p. 44 in a well-formed paragraph. Combine all the answers in a logical manner to make a fluid paper. Use examples as necessary.

Send GRADED assignments to school.

Answer review questions #1-10 on p. 56 orally.

Time _____

Comments: _____

For use by OLVS tutor only: Theology IV Week 1 _____ Week 2 _____