



# APOSTLES CREED

ARTICLES 10-11-12

# THE CHURCH'S ROLE

- ▶ Christ came to the world in order to save mankind from sin. Belief in the forgiveness of sins is absolutely essential to Christian faith. Catholics believe that sins are forgiven in the sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, also called **confession**.

# THE CHURCH'S ROLE

- ▶ Catholicism acknowledges that every person on earth is a sinner, and all require God's mercy and forgiveness. Religion and the Church do not exist for perfect people (not that there are any, anyway), but for sinners who require the help that the two provide.

# THE CHURCH'S ROLE

- ▶ The Church's role is viewed as a continuation of the three parts of Christ's ministry when he was on earth: teach, sanctify, and govern, which continues Jesus's simultaneous roles as prophet, priest, and king. The Church continues Jesus's prophetic method of teaching through the Magisterium, the Church's teaching authority.

# THE CHURCH'S ROLE

- ▶ The Church also continues the priestly ministry of **sanctification** by celebrating the seven sacraments. Finally, the Church carries on Jesus's role as shephard and pastor by way of its hierarchy. The phrase **communion of saints** means that the Church doesn't just consist of the living on earth, but the saints of heaven and the souls of purgatory, as well.

## Article 10

- ▶ **I believe in) the forgiveness of sins.**
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## Article 10:

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## Article 11

- ▶ **I believe in the resurrection of the body.**
- ▶ From the Catholic perspective, a human being is a union of body and soul. Under this line of thinking, death is only temporary until the end of time when all the dead are resurrected. The just will go, body and soul, into heaven, while the damned go, body and soul, into hell.

## Article 11

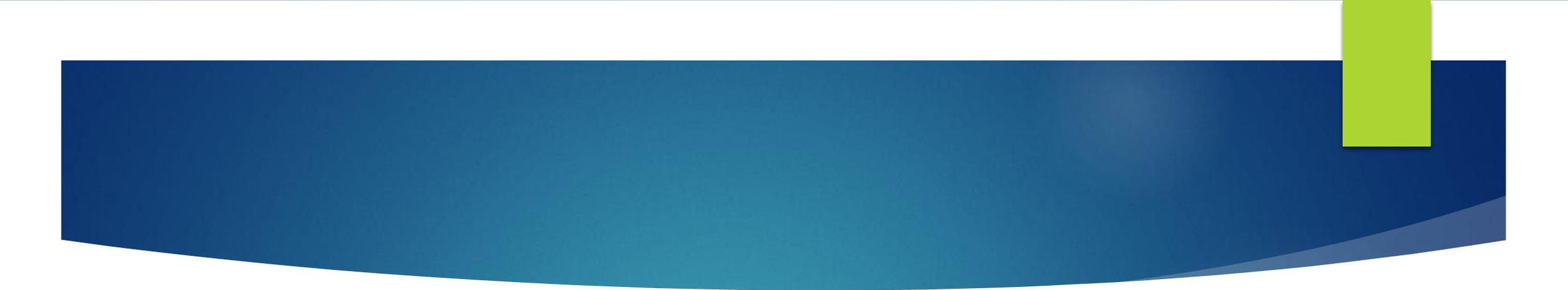
- ▶ **I believe in the resurrection of the body.**
- ▶ So no reincarnation or past lives. Catholics believe that each person is a unique blending of body and soul that cannot be duplicated. This is why Christians don't view death as the final chapter of a person's life.

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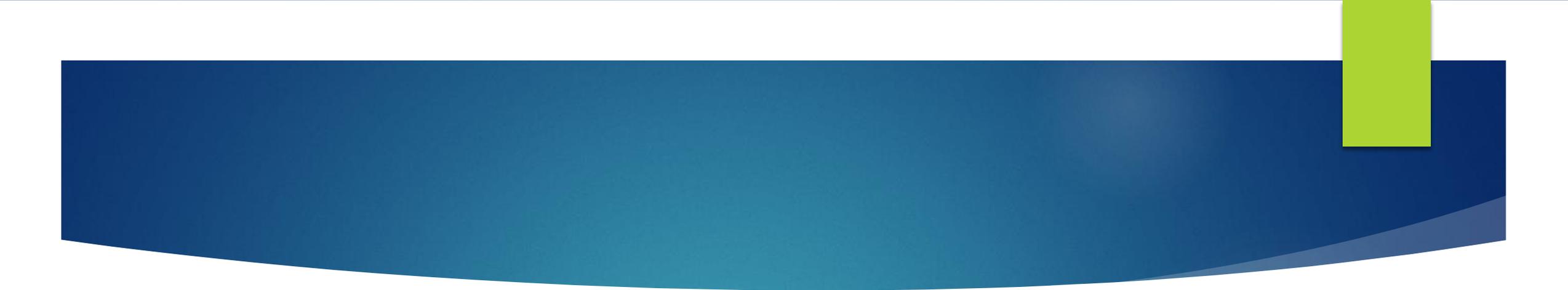
- ▶ **I believe in the resurrection of the body.**
- ▶ The body and soul will eventually team up again, because the body participated in the good actions that the soul may have performed, or the evil it committed. For this reason, the body is also rewarded or punished, depending on what it did during its existence.

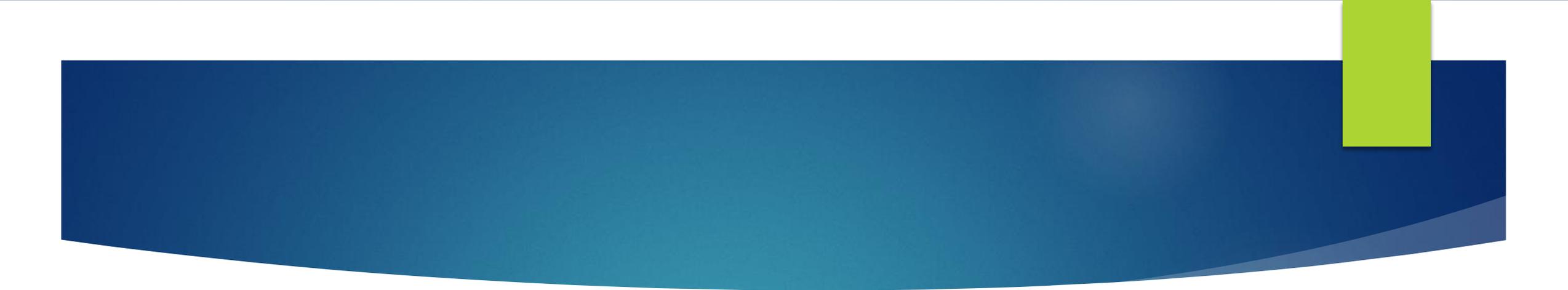
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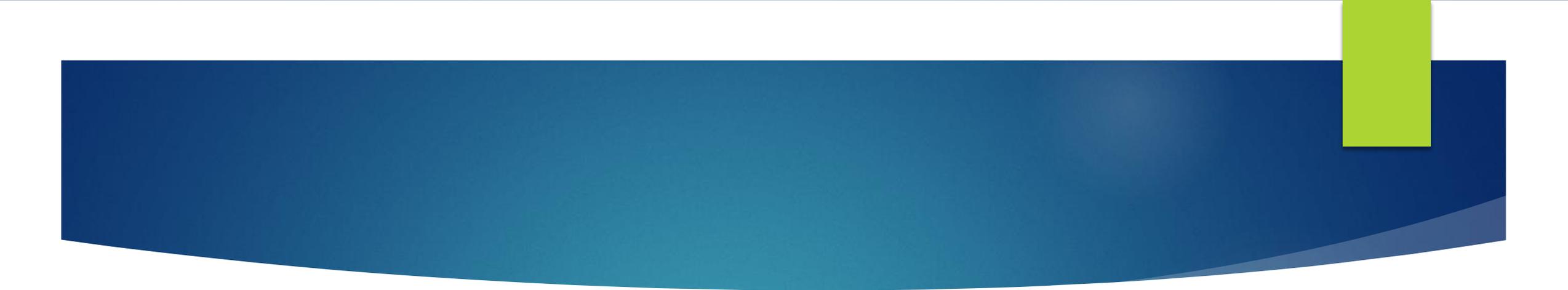
- ▶ **I believe in the resurrection of the body.**
- ▶ This is why funerals, though sad for humans, are viewed as celebrations. Christians believe that, since humans were made in the likeness of God, their destiny lies in the next world. St. Augustine wrote that humans were not created for this world, but the next.

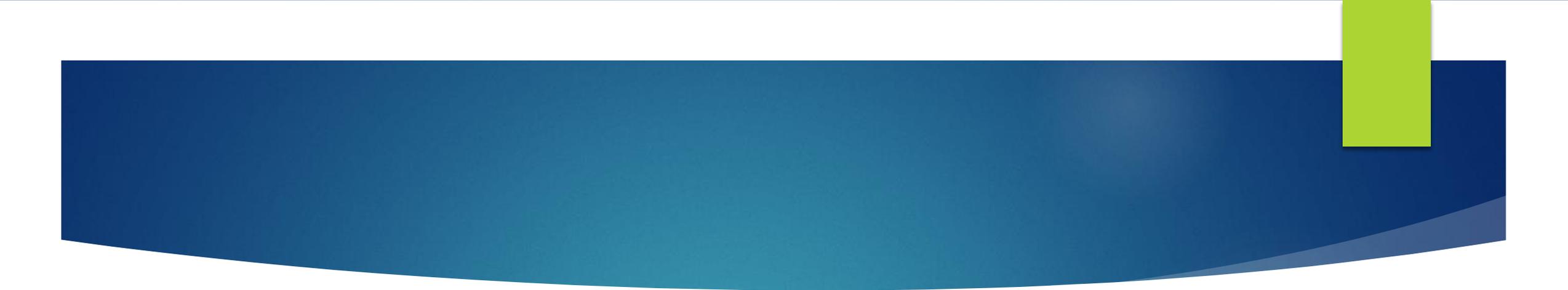
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- ▶ We not only believe that the human soul is immortal, but that the human body is destined to rise immortal from the grave. Unlike our souls, which as spiritual substances are naturally immortal, our bodies are mortal by nature. They were not created subject to death, according to God's original plan for mankind. But the sin of our first parents deprived them and their descendants of the gift of bodily immortality. All of us must die because we are all sinners.

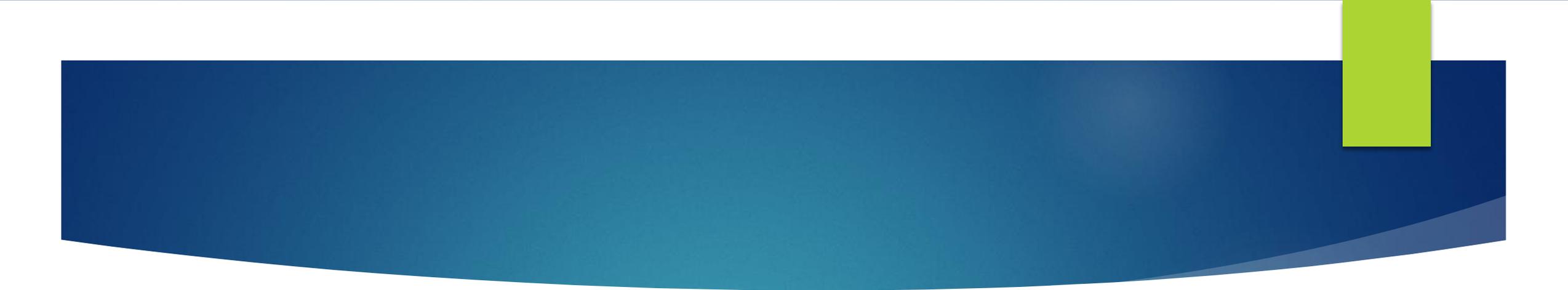
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- ▶ One of the great benefits of Christianity to human wisdom is its clear teaching about both spiritual and bodily immortality.
  - ▶ In the Old Testament

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- ▶ In the Old Testament, the clearest revelation about the immortality of the soul is found in the Book of Wisdom. We are told:
  - ▶ “The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them. In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die, their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us like annihilation; but they are in peace. If they experienced punishment as men see it, their hope was rich with immortality; slight was their affliction, great will their blessing be (Wisdom 3:1-4). “

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- ▶ The New Testament simply confirms the teaching of the Old on the immortality of the soul. Our Lord could not have been more clear than when He told us, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

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- ▶ Christ's raising several people from the dead shows that God is willing to have the human body reunited with the soul. And His own resurrection on Easter Sunday is the crowning proof that we, too, are destined by His power to rise one day from the grave.
  - ▶ On two dramatic occasions, Christ foretold that He would raise the dead back to life. When promising the Holy Eucharist, Jesus declared that, "Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day" (John 6:54). Before raising Lazarus, Martha complained to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died." The Savior assured her, "Your brother will rise again." To which Martha replied, "I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day." Then Jesus said: "I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies, he will live" (John 11:21, 23-25).

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- ▶ The longest and most explicit teaching in Scripture on the bodily resurrection is in St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. The entire fifteenth chapter of fifty-eight verses is on the final resurrection of the body on the last day. It is the climax to the apostle's discourse on the practice of selfless love, which is to be rewarded in eternity, not only in the soul but also in the body.
  - ▶ But there is more here than merely comparisons with nature. Our souls are immortal. They have a natural tendency to be united to the body. Their permanent separation from the body would be contrary to our human nature. It seems only proper, therefore, that our souls should be rejoined with our bodies. The Savior Himself appealed to this argument in His conversation with the Sadducees who denied the resurrection of the body (Matthew 22:23-33).

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- ▶ There is further logic in our faith in the resurrection of the body. During life on earth, we serve God not only in our souls but also in our bodies. It is only right that our reward in eternity should be not only spiritual but also bodily. No wonder St. Paul says that, “If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied” (I Corinthians 15:19). What the apostle means here is that *even if* the soul could rise without the body, it would still enjoy happiness in the next life. But his exclamation must refer to the whole man. Why? Because unless the body receives the rewards for its earthly labors, those who have endured so many trials and affliction – in body and soul – would indeed be “of all men most to be pitied.”

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- ▶ Finally, we are not angels, but human beings. We form one whole, body and soul. The soul cannot be perfectly happy unless the whole of us, body and soul, enjoys the rewards that God has promised to those who love Him.









## Article 12

- ▶ **I believe in life everlasting.**
- ▶ As Christ died, so too will mere mortals. However, as he rose, so will all humans. Death is seen as the only means of transit between this world and the next. When one dies, private judgment occurs; Christ judges the soul

# Article 12

- ▶ **I believe in life everlasting.**
- ▶ If a person was particularly virtuous or holy while on earth, that soul has the privilege of going directly to heaven. If an individual was particularly evil and dies in the state of moral sin, then that person is condemned straight to hell.

# Article 12

- ▶ **I believe in life everlasting.**
- ▶ But there is also a third group of souls- those who were not bad enough to go to hell, but not holy enough to make it straight into heaven. Catholics believe that there is a middle ground between the two, called **purgatory**, where souls are cleansed until they can properly enter heaven.







