

# Do You Have Your Life in Order If You Moved on to the Other Side?

**Headline:** Most men spend significant time preparing for retirement, protecting their families, growing careers, and even preparing wills. Yet the most important question remains: **If God called you home today, would your spiritual affairs be in order?**

**Objective:** How often do we take inventory of our spiritual lives? When we die, we will be judged face-to-face by Christ. Our eternal destination will be decided based on our faith and good works—our holiness and service. Are we ready for this judgment?

This discussion is intended to create an awareness of the need to balance our worldly and spiritual priorities. The goal is not to cause anxiety about death but to renew our commitment to holy living. In the words of St. Augustine, "Take Care of Your Body as If You Were Going to Live Forever; and Take Care of Your Soul as If You Were Going to Die Tomorrow."

**Song Suggestion:** "Christ in me Arise"

## Bible and Catechism Readings

**Luke 12:35-40**

*"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit... You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."*

**Matthew 25:30-45**

*...He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'*

**Catechism of the Catholic Church 1021**

*Death puts an end to human life as the time open to either accepting or rejecting the divine grace manifested in Christ.*

**Saint:** St. Joseph, Patron Saint of a Happy Death. A "happy death" is peaceful, and full of Faith and hope in Jesus Christ.

## Vignette

Tom is 62 years old and successful by nearly every worldly measure. He has had a great career, paid off his mortgage, and accumulated substantial retirement savings. He has an estate plan and pre-paid funeral arrangements. His children are grown and doing well.

One evening, while attending the funeral of a close friend who died unexpectedly, Tom begins to ask himself some difficult questions. When was his last confession? Does he have a meaningful prayer life? Has he reconciled with his estranged brother? Has he managed his wealth as an owner, or as a steward? Most importantly, if Christ called him home tonight, how would he fare in the judgment of his life?

Driving home, he realizes that he has neglected to truly prepare himself for his earthly end. He needs to make some changes.

## Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion

1. If you died unexpectedly this week, what unfinished spiritual business would concern you most?
2. Are you investing more effort into preparing for retirement than preparing for eternity? What are examples that support your answer?
3. What would your wife, children, and closest friends say is the most important thing in your life? Would their answer match what you hope it would be?
4. Which of the “Four Last Things”—Death, Judgment, Heaven, or Hell—do you think about least? Why?

## Action Plan

Over the next 30 days:

1. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and attend Mass frequently.
2. Identify one relationship requiring forgiveness or reconciliation and take the first step.
3. Commit to praying daily for the grace of a holy death through the intercession of St. Joseph, patron of a happy death.
4. Re-assess how well you are practicing the Corporal Works of Mercy. Plan to make improvements if they are needed.

## Resources

1. Balancing the Temporal and the Eternal: St. Augustine's Wisdom for Catholic Living  
<https://www.catholic365.com/article/42175>
2. St. Joseph, Patron of a Happy Death  
<https://catholiclife.diolc.org/2020/10/26/st-joseph-patron-of-a-happy-death/>

## Seek Holiness. Serve.

Remember that our spiritual well-being depends on our holiness and our service.

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