TROM THE BALTIMORE CATECHISM:

Study Lesson Number: 40

HELL IS THE LOSS OF GOD:

In committing mortal sin, sinners turn their wills AWAY from God to love themselves more than Him. (Note how MAN-CENTERED is today's society and cultural point of view. Not longer does a Divine Being fit into general activities of Modern Man. NOTE ALSO, that only while Man is LIVING IS HE ABLE TO CHANGE HIS MIND AND HIS WILL - THIS IS MOST IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER) After death it is no longer possible for one to CHANGE HIS MIND OR HIS WILL!! Death SETS one in a state of either LOVING God, or of HATING GOD. In Hell sinners see their hatred of God that sin had put into their souls. Hatred, depression, frustration and HOPELESSNESS are among the greatest punishments of Hell. There is no love in hell and those there hate and torment one another. The fire imprisons them and prevents them from ever satisfying any of their torturing desires, while they know that those in Heaven have EVERY DESIRE STAISFIED. After the final resurrection, their bodies will also be tormented.

Who are rewarded in Heaven?

Those are rewarded in heaven who have died in the state of grace and have been purified in Purgatory, if necessary, from all venial sin and all debt of temporal punishment; they see God face to face and share forever in His glory and happiness.

HEAVEN IS THE HOME OF GOD AND OF THE BLESSED:

Heaven is the place, or state, of perfect happiness. Happiness comes from complete union with the one we love. In heaven the saints share fully in God's life and love. They are prefectly united with Him and can never lose Him. Now at last they are perfectly free to love Him as they have desired. All their desires are satisfied, since these desires are all for the things of God.

They have the companionship with Christ as man, with our Blessed Mother and all the angels and saints. Everyone loves one another perfectly and all are completely and everlastingly happy in God.

What is meant by the word "AMEN" with which we end the Apostles' Creed?

By the word "AMEN" with which we end the Apostles Creed, is meant "So it is," or "So be it"; the word expresses our FIRM BELIEF in all the doctrines that the Creed contains.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What makes Heaven so different from this earth?

Is it possible for the Souls in Purgatory to go to Hell?

When will the resurrection of the body take place?

Why is there no love in Hell?

Why does the thought of Purgatory help us to accept trials now?

DESCRIBE ETERNITY. Give example descriptions.