

The Rosary for Children: A Guide and Activity Book

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History

The Rosary has been a common prayer for centuries. The "Hail Mary" and other prayers that form part of the Rosary have been used even longer.

The tradition of using strings of beads as a way to count prayers has also been used for centuries by both Christian and non-Christian traditions.

We do not know for sure exactly when the Rosary as we know it today began. One commonly accepted story is that Our Lady gave the Rosary to St. Dominic in the early 1200s, and that he played an important role in teaching the Rosary to others and encouraging them to pray it.

Whether or not this story about St. Dominic is true, the Rosary as we know it did start in the 1200s.

The mysteries of the Rosary evolved during the 1300 and 1400s.

Most recently, John Paul II added an additional set of mysteries, the Luminous Mysteries, in 2002.

Prayers

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He arose again; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name: Thy kingdom come: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation: but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,

Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Fatima Prayer

"O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your Mercy."

The Hail Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley, of tears. Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lord have mercy. *Lord have mercy.*

Christ have mercy. *Christ have mercy.*

Lord have mercy. *Lord have mercy.*

Christ hear us. *Christ graciously hear us.*

God, the Father of heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Mary, *pray for us.*
Holy Mother of God, *pray for us.*
Holy Virgin of virgins, *pray for us.*
Mother of Christ, *pray for us.*
Mother of the Church, *pray for us.*
Mother of divine grace, *pray for us.*
Mother most pure, *pray for us.*
Mother most chaste, *pray for us.*
Mother inviolate, *pray for us.*
Mother undefiled, *pray for us.*
Mother most amiable, *pray for us.*
Mother admirable, *pray for us.*
Mother of good counsel, *pray for us.*
Mother of our Creator, *pray for us.*
Mother of our Savior, *pray for us.*
Mother of mercy, *pray for us.*
Virgin most prudent, *pray for us.*
Virgin most venerable, *pray for us.*
Virgin most renowned, *pray for us.*
Virgin most powerful, *pray for us.*
Virgin most merciful, *pray for us.*
Virgin most faithful, *pray for us.*
Mirror of justice, *pray for us.*
Seat of wisdom, *pray for us.*
Cause of our joy, *pray for us.*
Spiritual vessel, *pray for us.*
Vessel of honor, *pray for us.*
Singular vessel of devotion, *pray for us.*
Mystical rose, *pray for us.*
Tower of David, *pray for us.*
Tower of ivory, *pray for us.*

House of gold, *pray for us.*
Ark of the covenant, *pray for us.*
Gate of heaven, *pray for us.*
Morning star, *pray for us.*
Health of the sick, *pray for us.*
Refuge of sinners, *pray for us.*
Comfort of the afflicted, *pray for us.*
Help of Christians, *pray for us.*
Queen of Angels, *pray for us.*
Queen of Patriarchs, *pray for us.*
Queen of Prophets, *pray for us.*
Queen of Apostles, *pray for us.*
Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*
Queen of Confessors, *pray for us.*
Queen of Virgins, *pray for us.*
Queen of all Saints, *pray for us.*
Queen conceived without original sin, *pray for us.*
Queen assumed into heaven, *pray for us.*
Queen of the most holy Rosary, *pray for us.*
Queen of families, *pray for us.*
Queen of peace, *pray for us.*

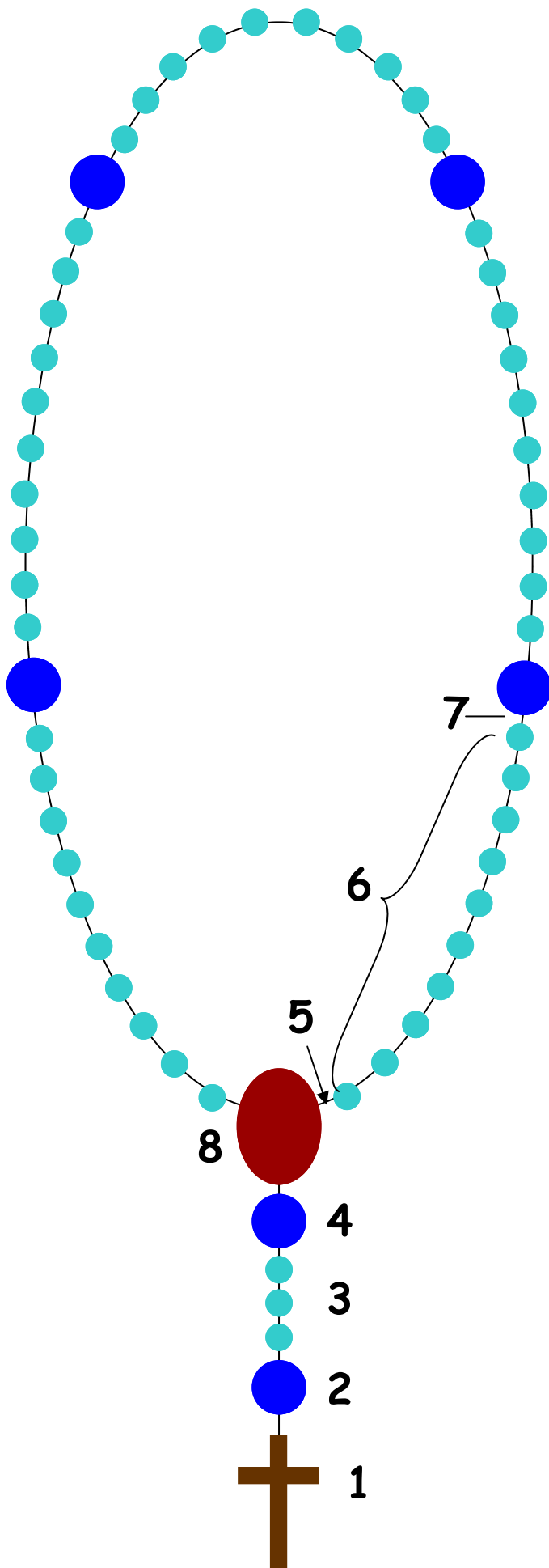
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.* (Repeat 3 times)

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation. Grant, we beseech Thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that we may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

How to Say the Rosary



1— Say the Sign of the Cross

2— Say the Our Father

3— Say 3 Hail Marys for faith, hope and charity

4— Say the *Glory Be*, followed by the Fatima Prayer

5— Announce the first mystery. Say an Our Father

6— Say 10 Hail Marys

7— Say the *Glory Be*, followed by the Fatima Prayer

(Repeat 5-7 for each of the mysteries)

8— Say the Hail Holy Queen, followed by any other concluding prayers (like the Litany).

The Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful Mysteries

- *Mondays and Saturdays*

- 1— The Annunciation
- 2— The Visitation
- 3— The Birth of Jesus
- 4— The Presentation
- 5— The Finding in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries

- *Tuesdays and Fridays*

- 1— The Agony in the Garden
- 2— The Scourging at the Pillar
- 3— The Crowning with Thorns
- 4— The Carrying of the Cross
- 5— The Crucifixion

Glorious Mysteries

- *Wednesdays and Sundays*

- 1— The Resurrection
- 2— The Ascension
- 3— The Descent of the Holy Spirit
- 4— The Assumption
- 5— The Coronation

Luminous Mysteries

- *Thursdays*

- 1— The Baptism of Jesus
- 2— The Wedding at Cana
- 3— The Proclamation of the Kingdom
- 4— The Transfiguration
- 5— The Last Supper

Understanding the Mysteries of the Rosary

The Annunciation

From Scripture:

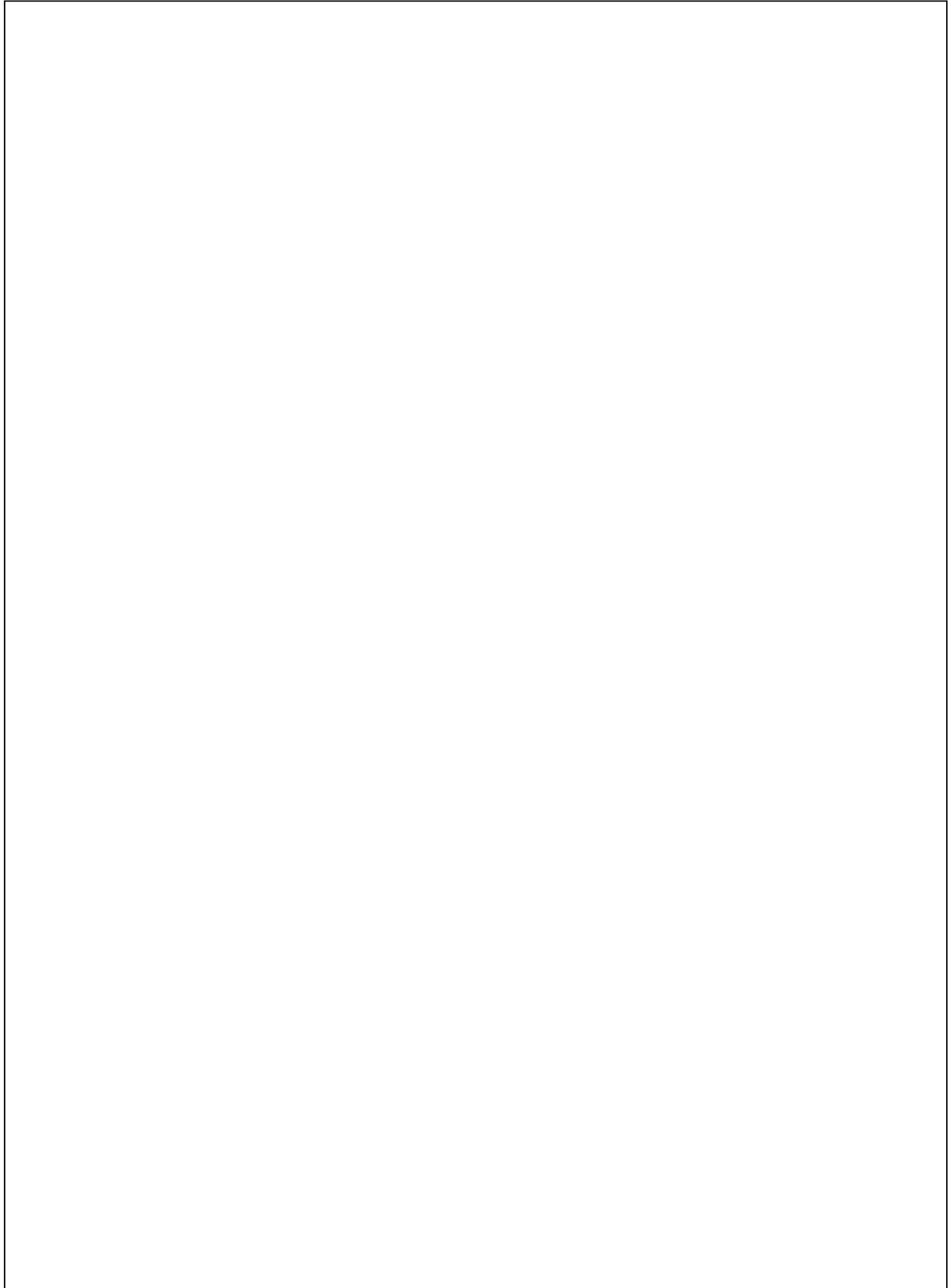
"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary" (*Lk1:26-27*) .

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"The Annunciation to Mary inaugurates the 'fullness of time' (*Gal4:4*), the time of the fulfillment of God's promises and preparations" (*CCC, 484*).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Visitation

From Scripture:

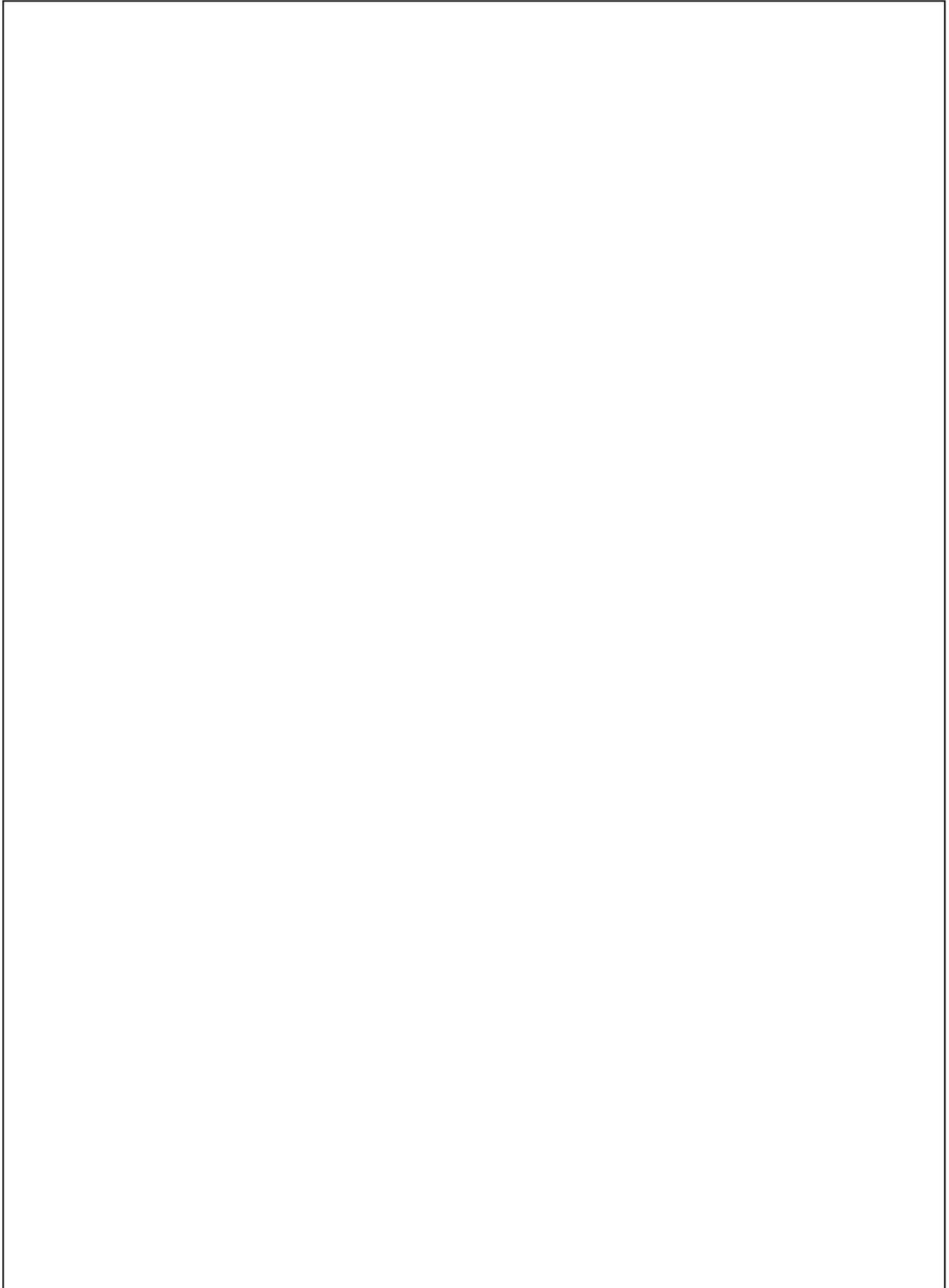
"In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!'" (Lk 1:39-42).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Mary's visitation to Elizabeth thus became a visit from God to his people" (CCC, 717).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Birth of Our Lord

From Scripture:

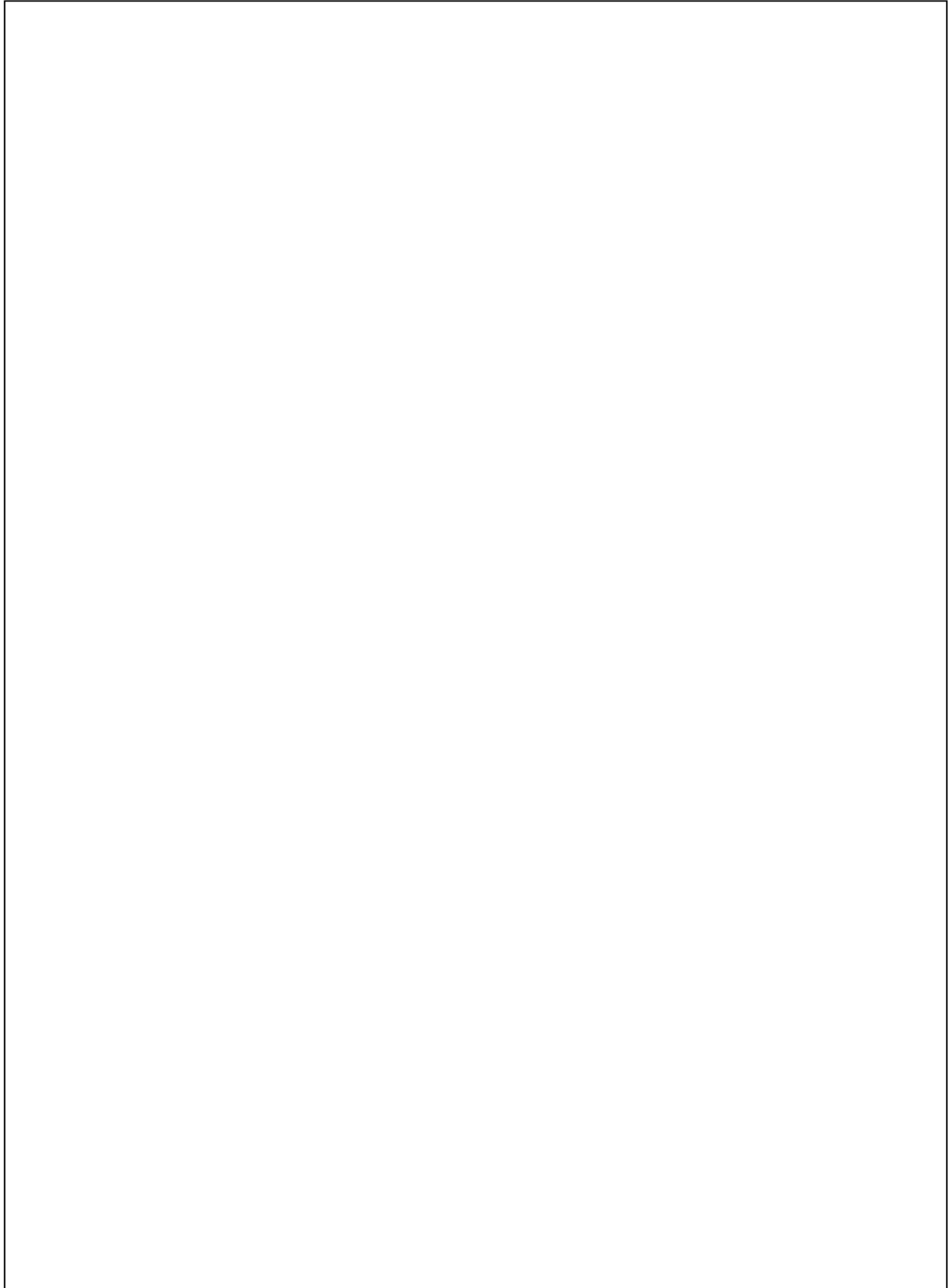
"And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (*Lk 2:6-7*).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven's glory was made manifest" (*CCC, 525*).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Presentation

From Scripture:

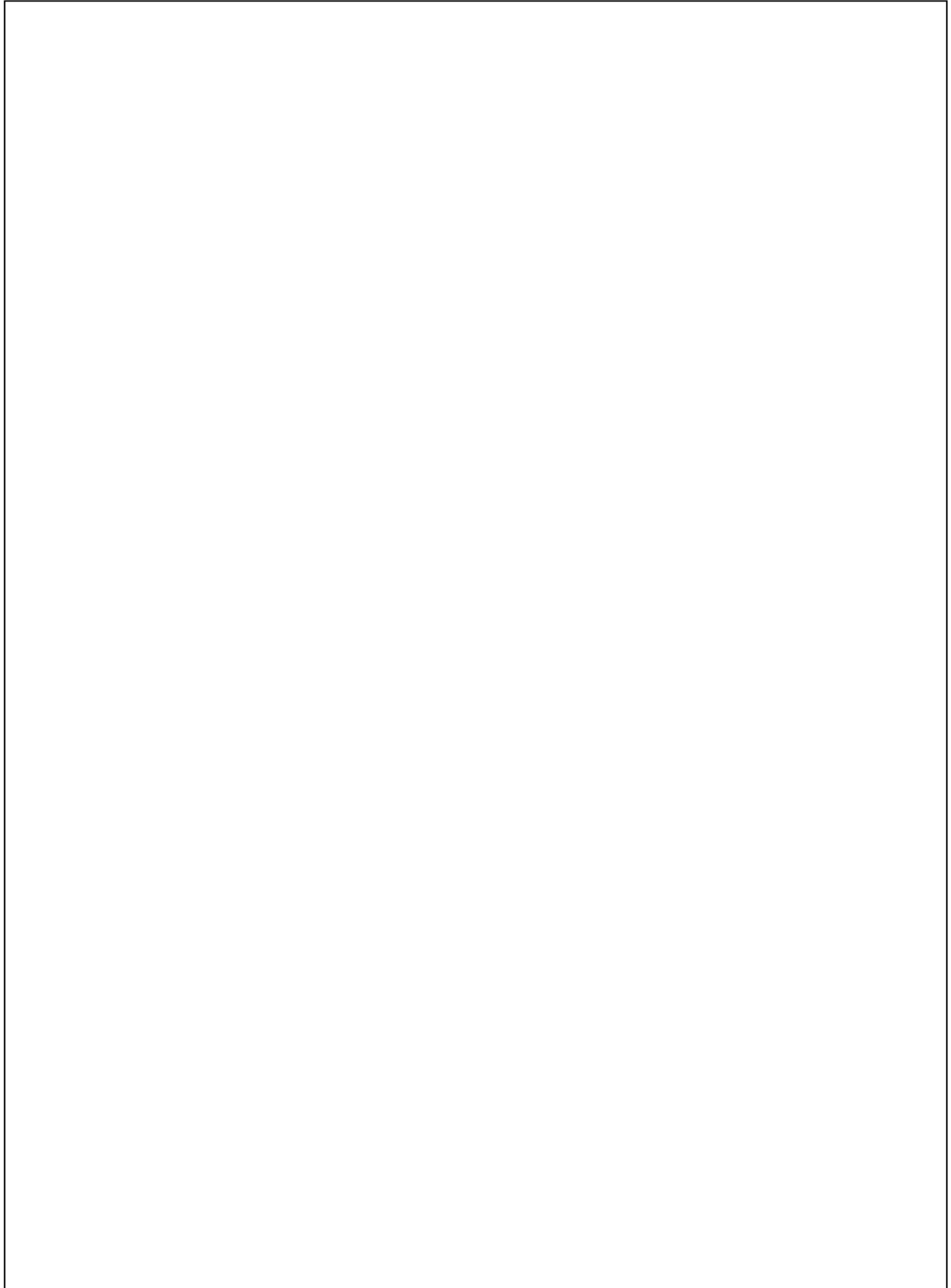
"And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, *'Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord'*) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, *'a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons'*" (Lk 2:22-24).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Jesus' circumcision, on the eighth day after his birth, is the sign of his incorporation into Abraham's descendants, into the people of the covenant. It is the sign of his submission to the Law" (CCC, 527).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Finding in the Temple

From Scripture:

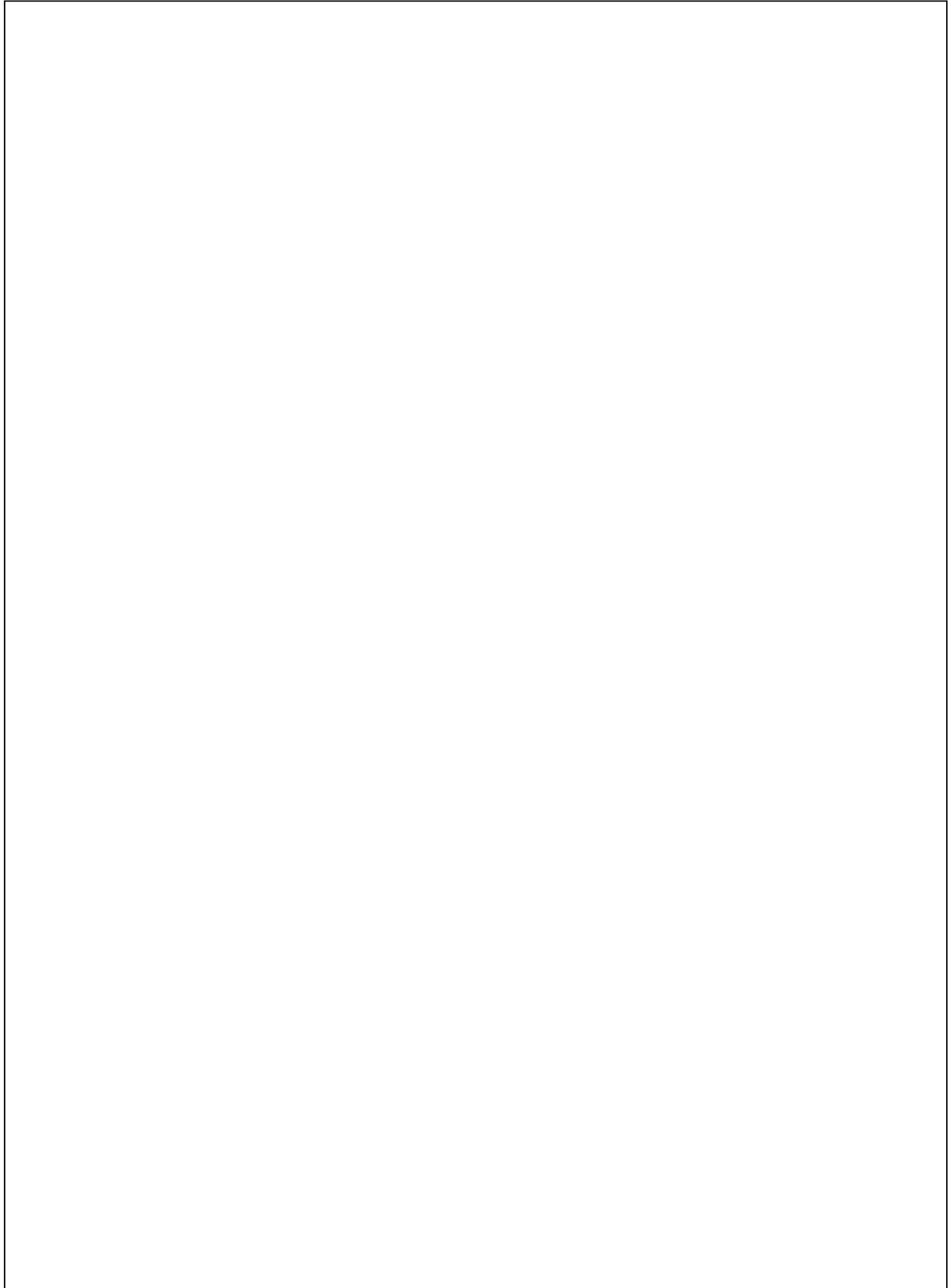
"Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it ...After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers" (Lk 2:41-47).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"The *finding of Jesus in the temple* is the only event that breaks the silence of the Gospels about the hidden years of Jesus. Here Jesus lets us catch a glimpse of the mystery of his total consecration to a mission that flows from his divine sonship: 'Did you not know that I must be about my Father`s work?' (Lk 2:49)" (CCC, 534) .

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Agony in the Garden

From Scripture:

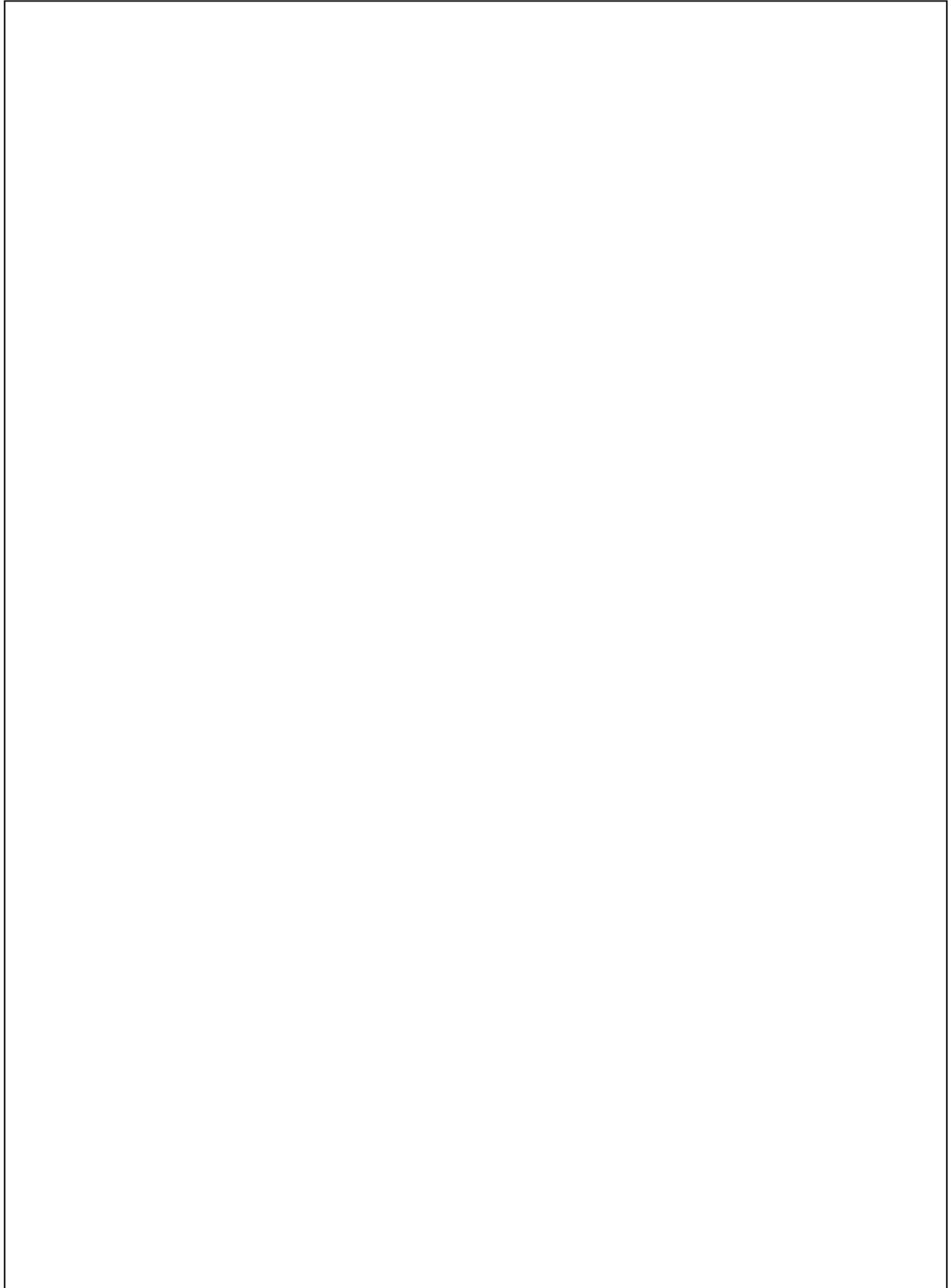
"Then Jesus went with them to a place called *Gethsemane*, and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here, while I go yonder and pray.' And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.' And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will'" (*Mt 26:36-39*).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Such a battle and such a victory become possible only through prayer. It is by his prayer that Jesus vanquishes the Tempter, both at the outset of his public mission and in the ultimate struggle of his agony" (*CCC, 2849*).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Scourging at the Pillar

From Scripture:

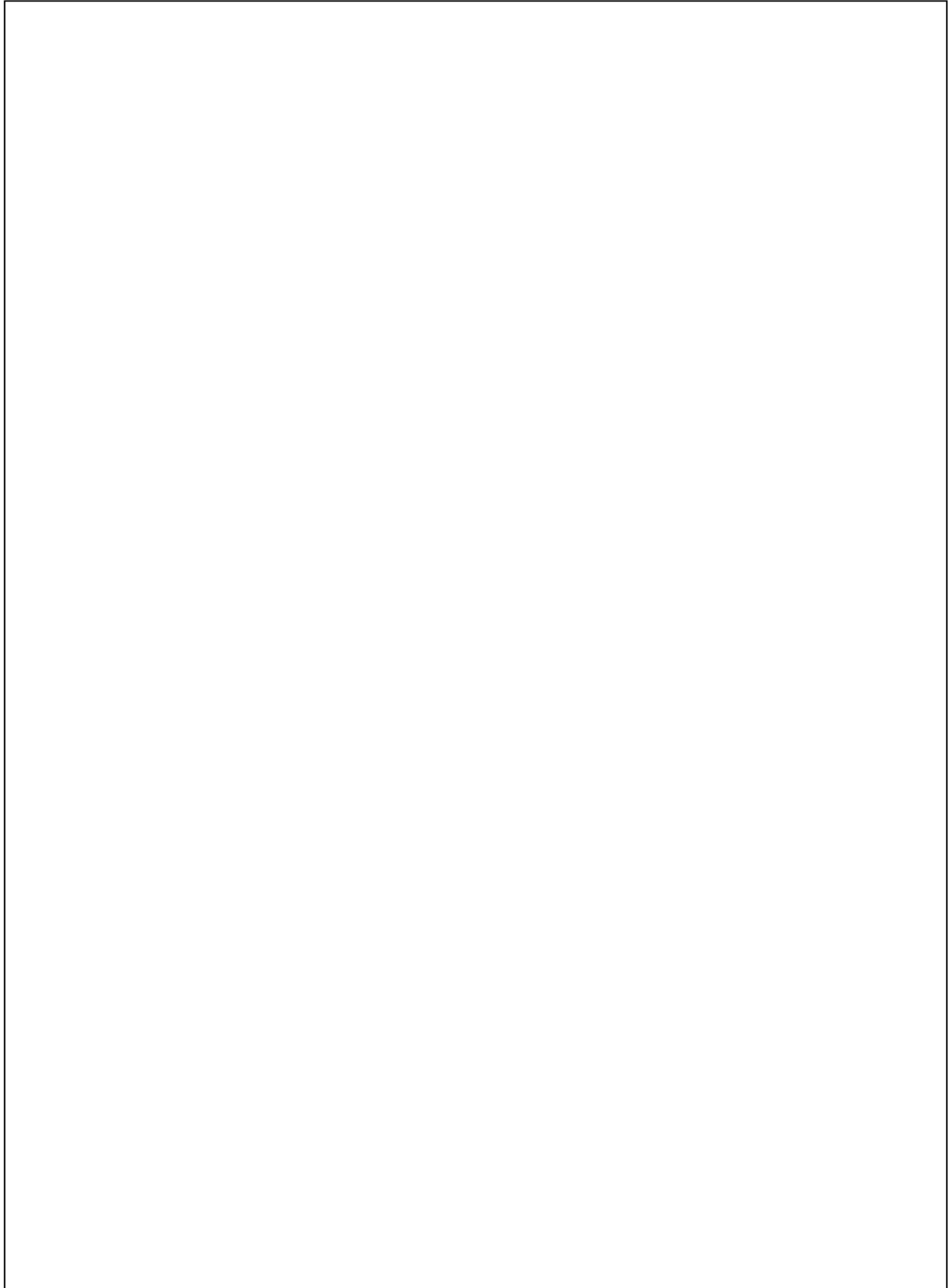
"Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; they came up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and struck him with their hands" (Jn 19:1-3).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Jesus' sufferings took their historical, concrete form from the fact that he was 'rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes' (Mk 8:31), who 'handed him to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified' (Mt 20:19)" (CCC, 572).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Crowning with Thorns

From Scripture:

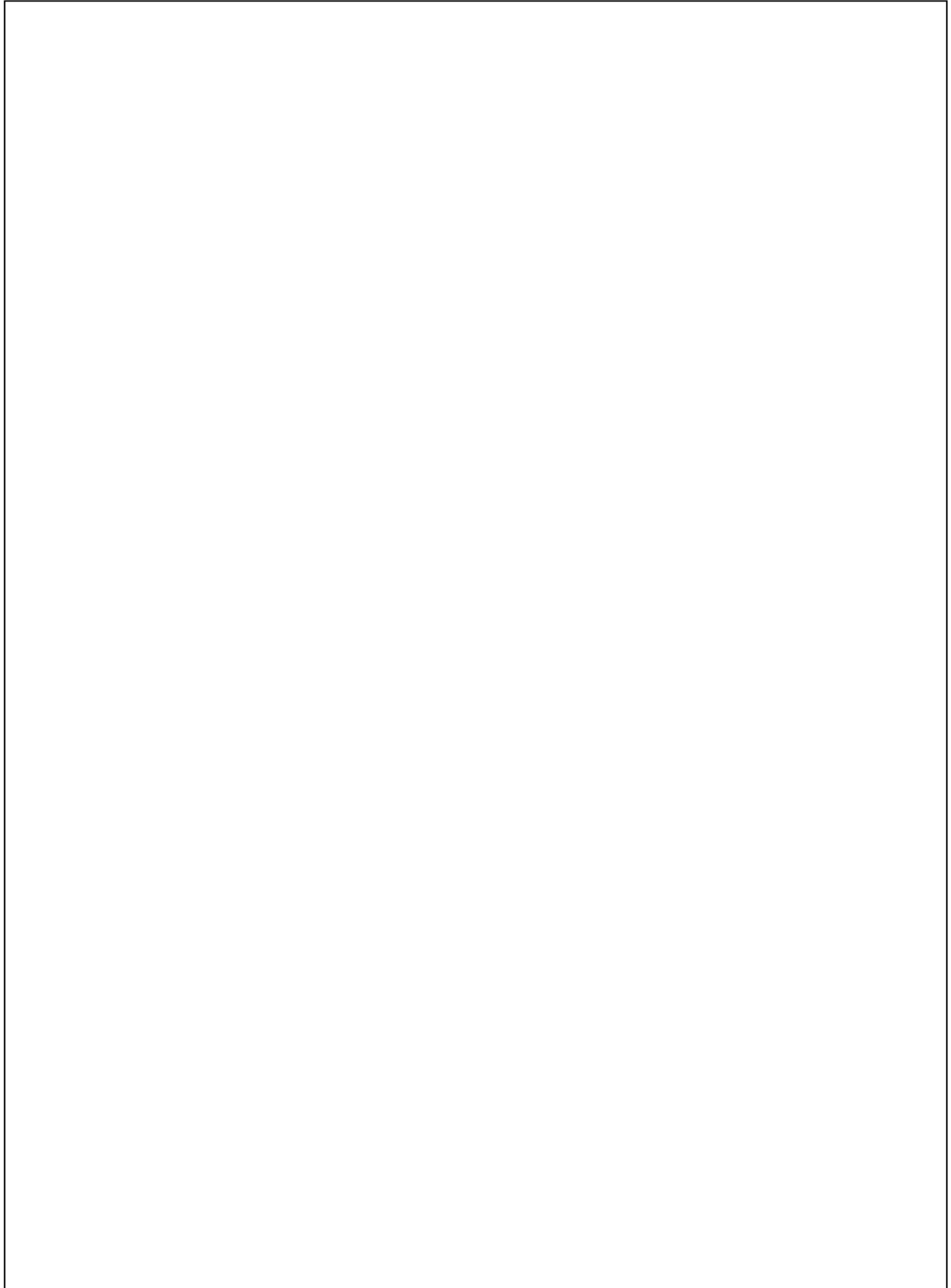
"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'" (Mt 27:27-29).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"It is love 'to the end' (Jn 13:1) that confers on Christ's sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction. He knew and loved us all when he offered his life" (CCC, 616).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Carrying of the Cross

From Scripture:

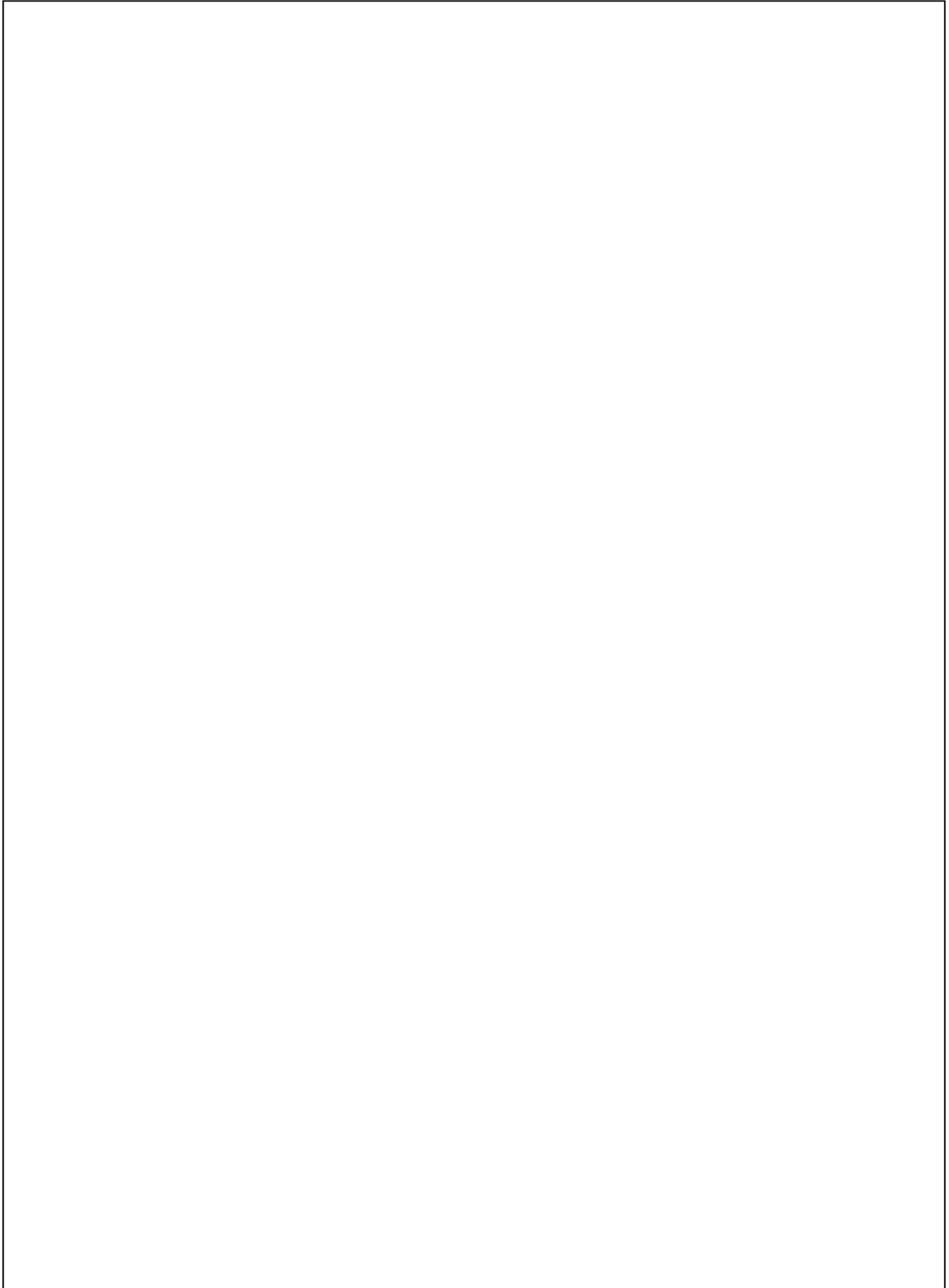
"And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull)" (Mk 15:21-22).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"By accepting in his human will that the Father's will be done, he accepts his death as redemptive, for 'he himself bore our sins in his body on the tree (1 Pt 2:24)" (CCC, 612).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Crucifixion

From Scripture:

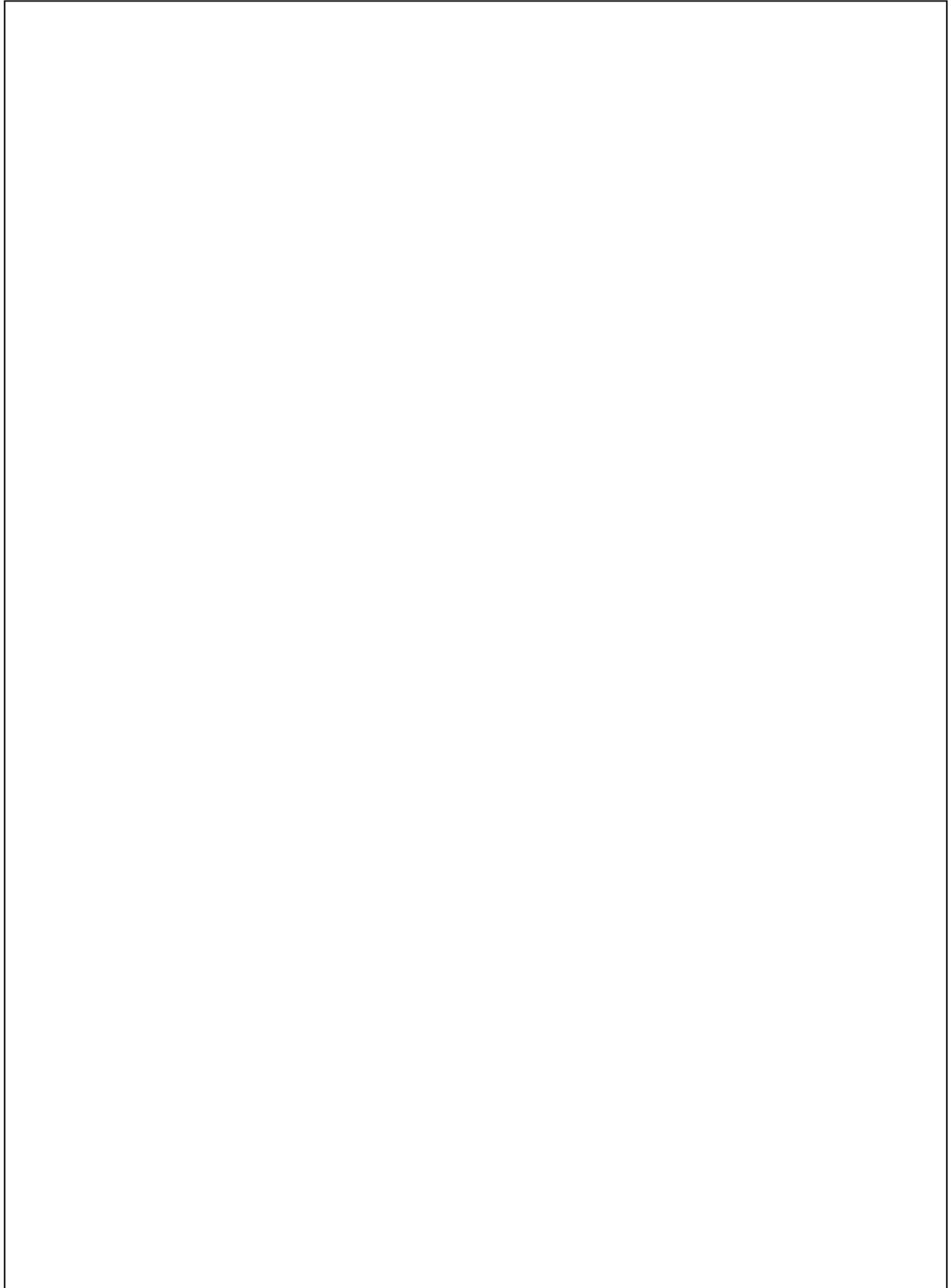
"And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do' ... It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!' And having said this he breathed his last" (*Lk 23:33-46*).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"'Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures' (*1 Cor 15:3*)" (*CCC, 619*).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Resurrection

From Scripture:

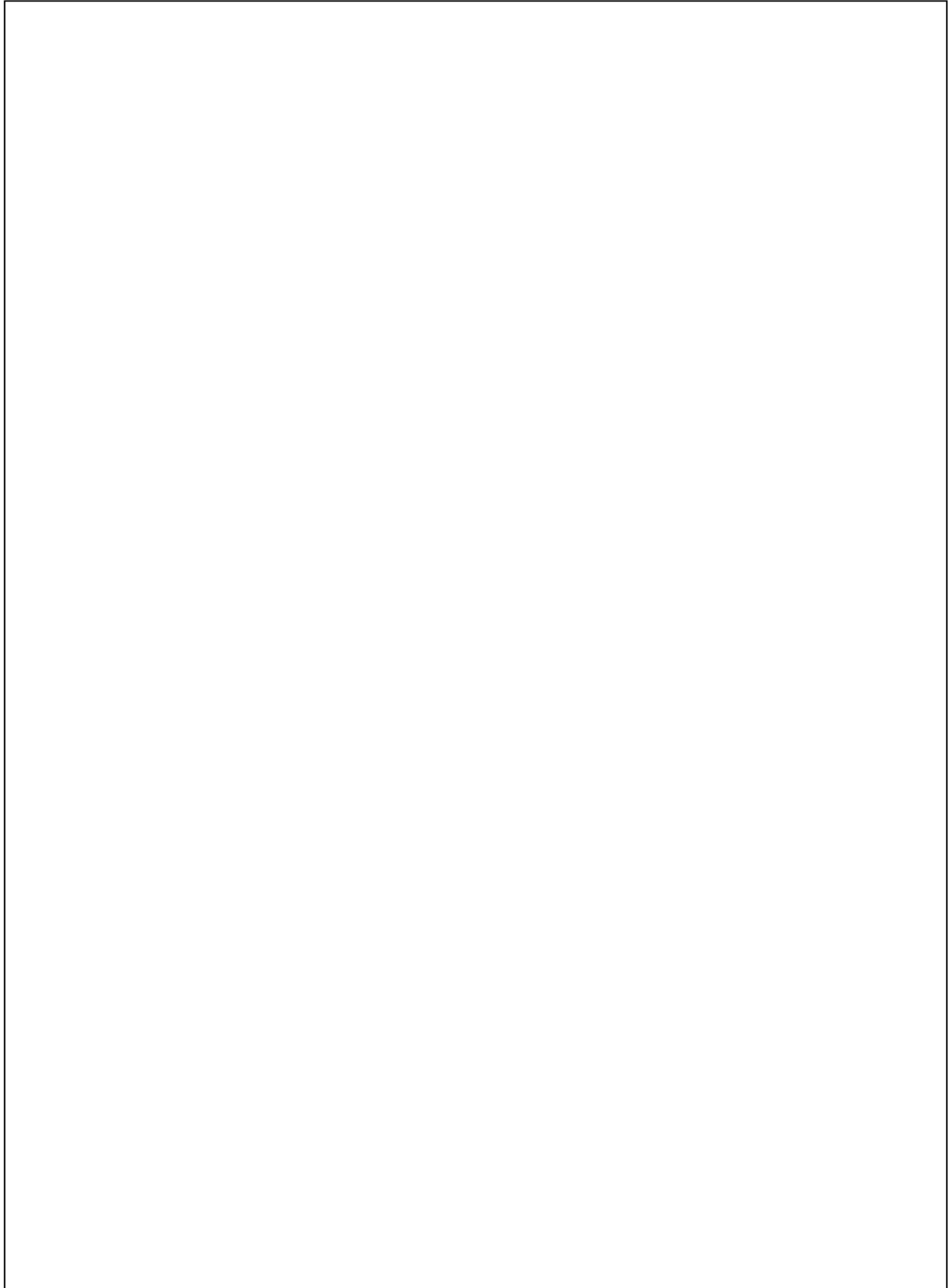
"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen'" (Lk 24:1-5).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"'If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain' (1 Cor 15:14). The Resurrection above all constitutes the confirmation of all Christ's works and teachings" (CCC, 651).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Ascension

From Scripture:

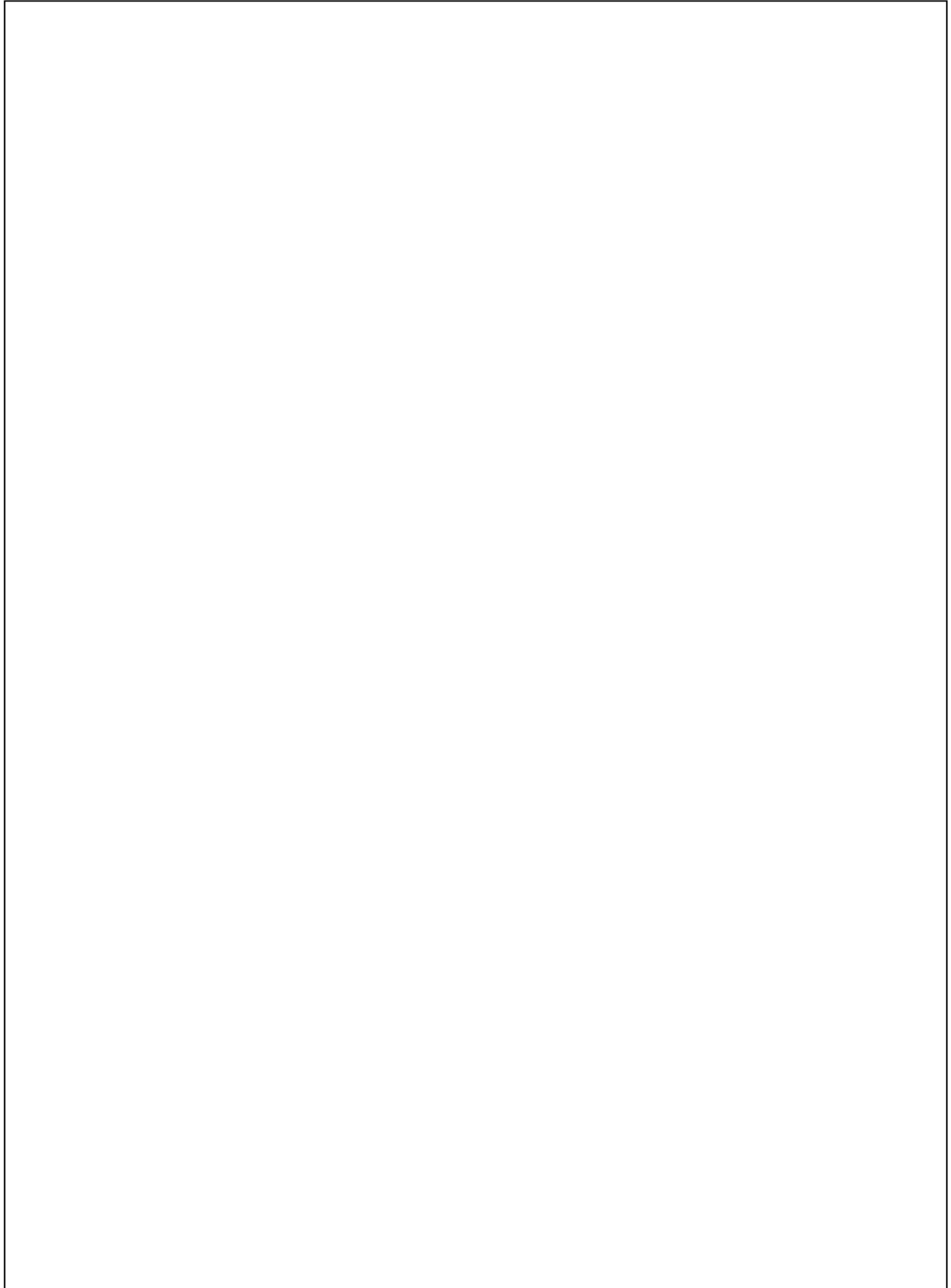
"So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God" (Mk 16:19).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"This final stage stays closely linked to the first, that is, to his descent from heaven in the Incarnation. Only the one who 'came from the Father' can return to the Father: Christ Jesus" (CCC, 661).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Descent of the Holy Spirit

From Scripture:

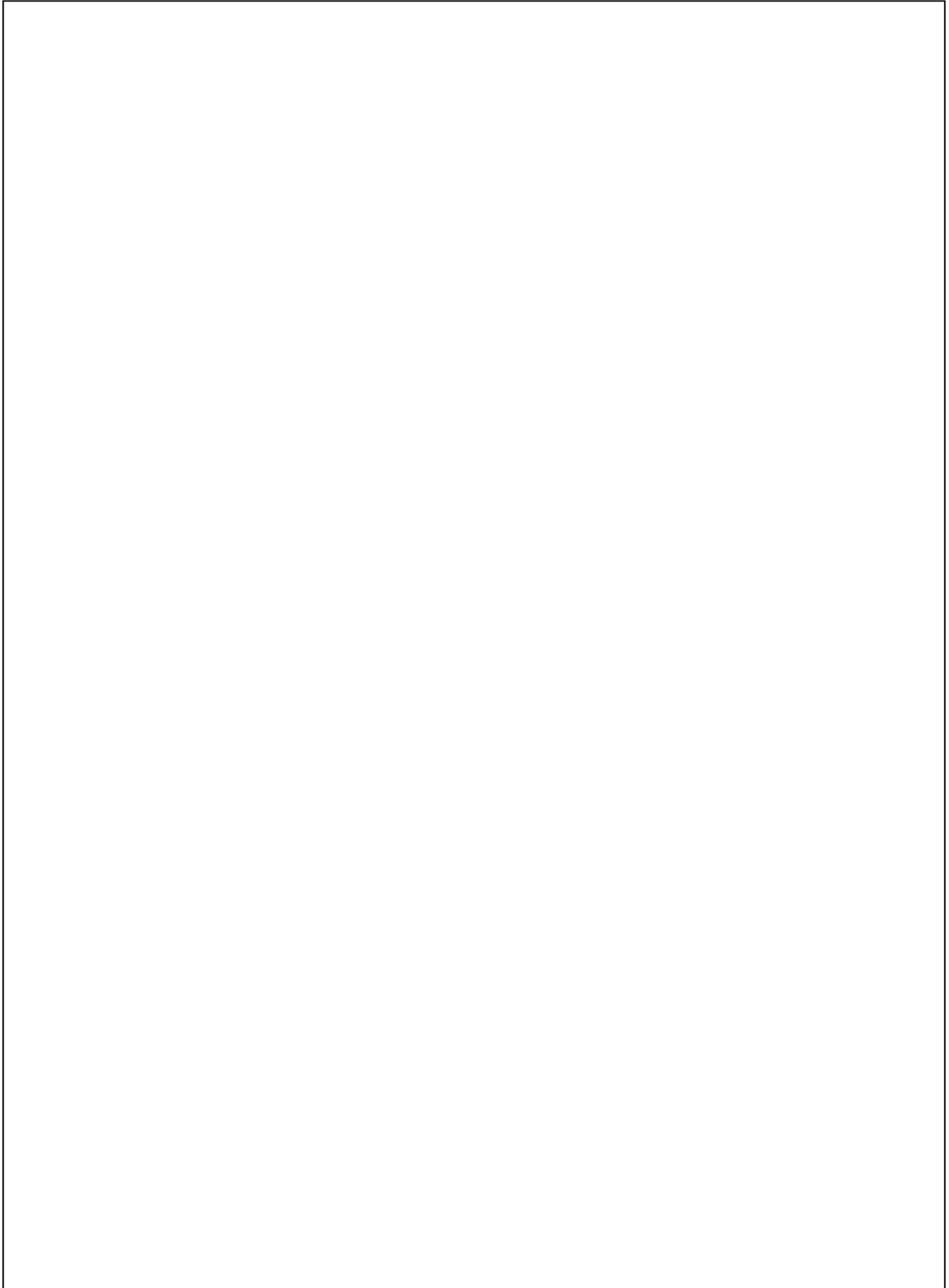
"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

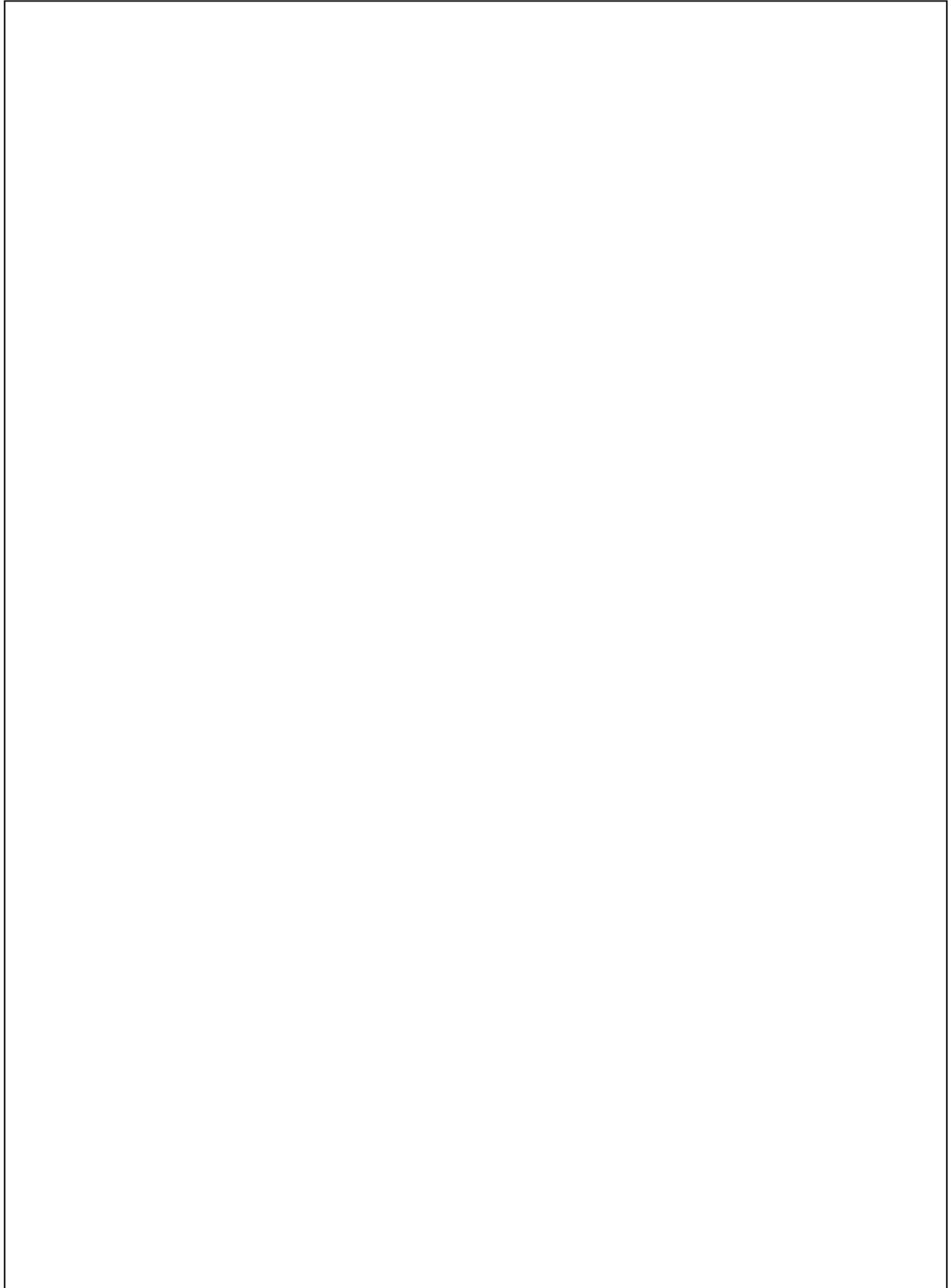
"Holy Spirit' is the proper name of the one whom we adore and glorify with the Father and the Son. The Church has received this name from the Lord and professes it in the Baptism of her new children" (CCC, 691).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



My Picture:



The Coronation

From Scripture:

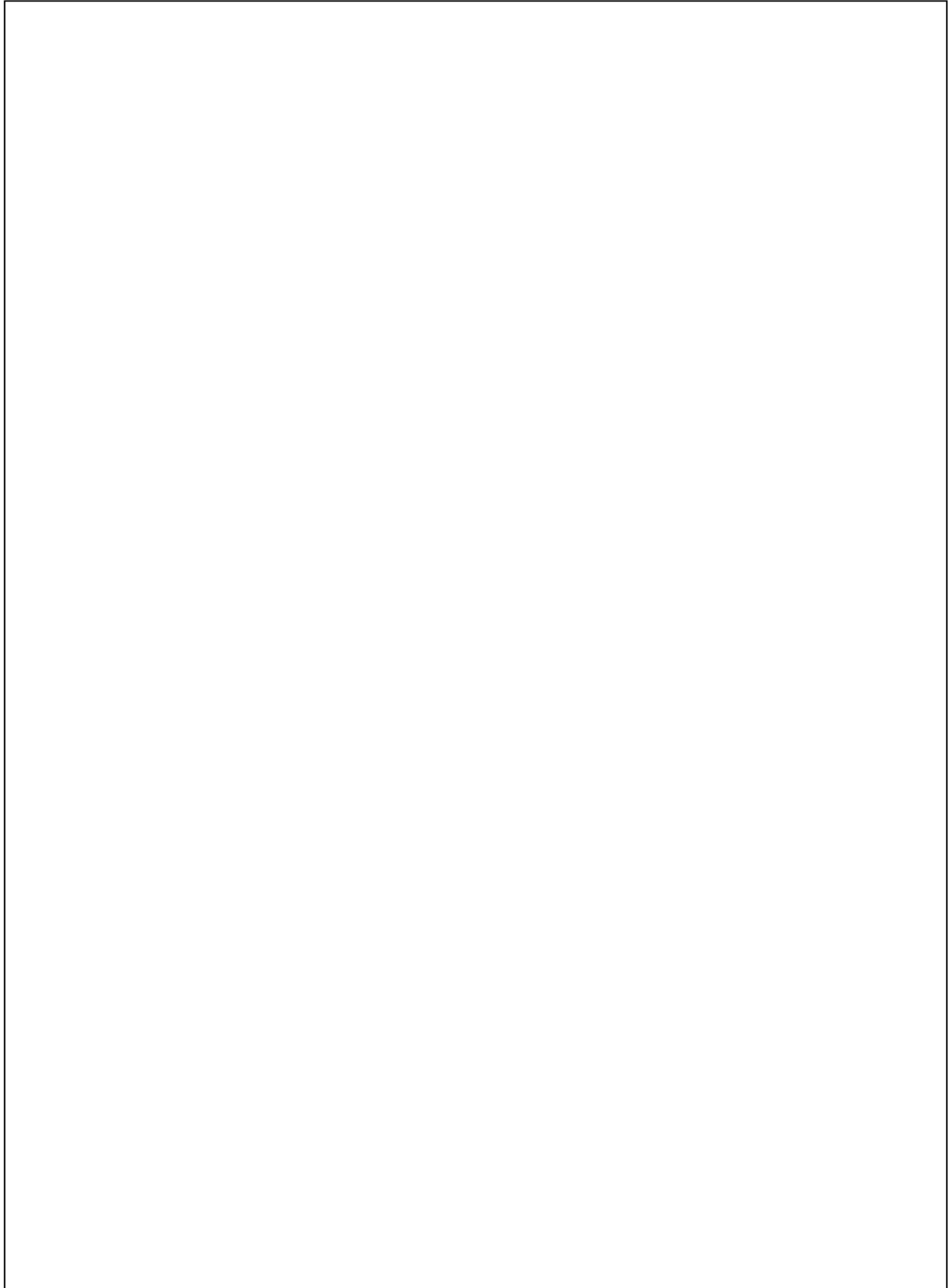
"And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (*Rev* 12:1).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death" (*CCC*, 966).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Baptism in the Jordan

From Scripture:

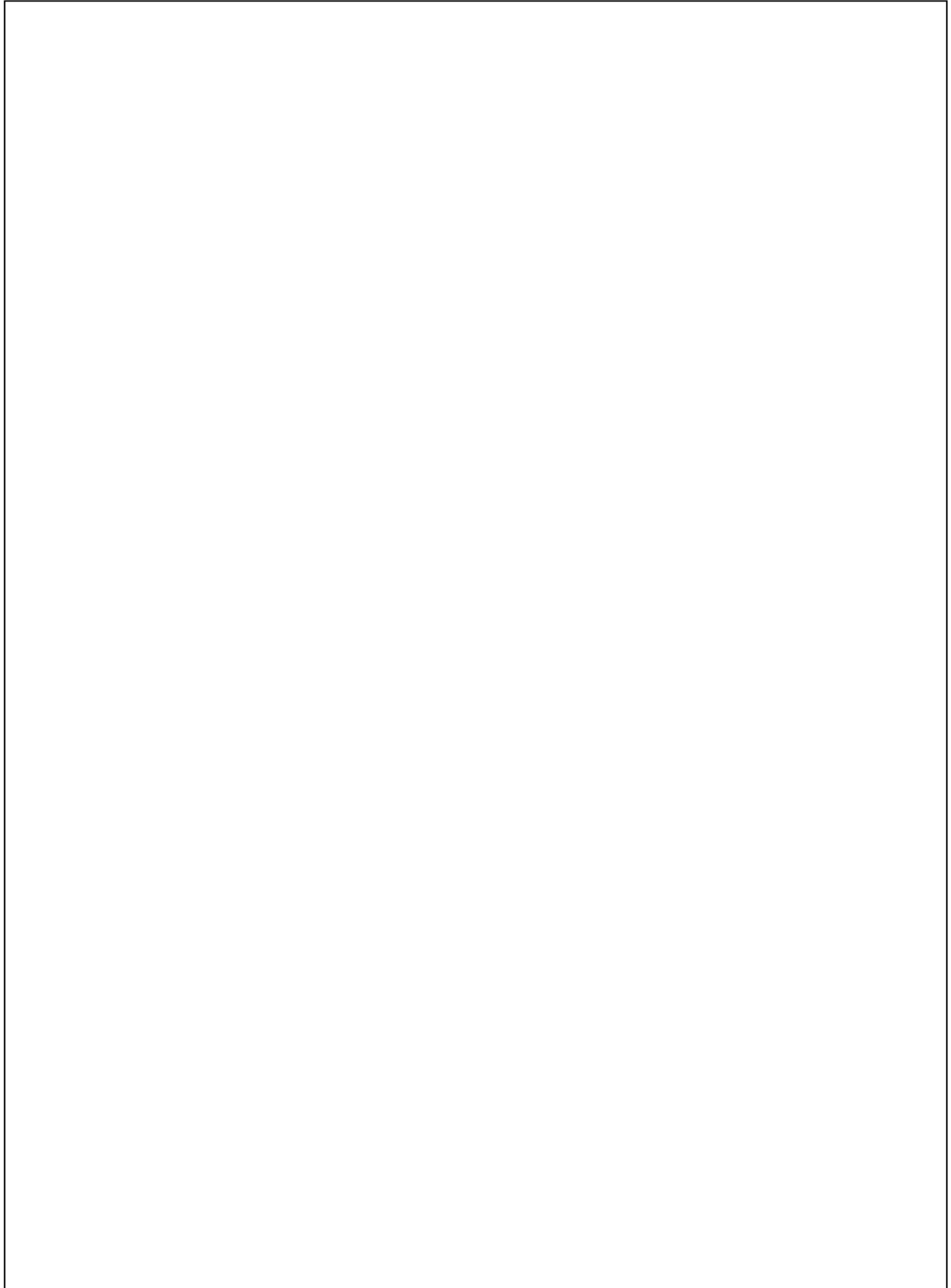
"And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased'" (Mt 3:16-17).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Jesus' public life begins with his baptism by John in the Jordan. John preaches 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins' (Lk 3:3)" (CCC, 535).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Wedding of Cana

From Scripture:

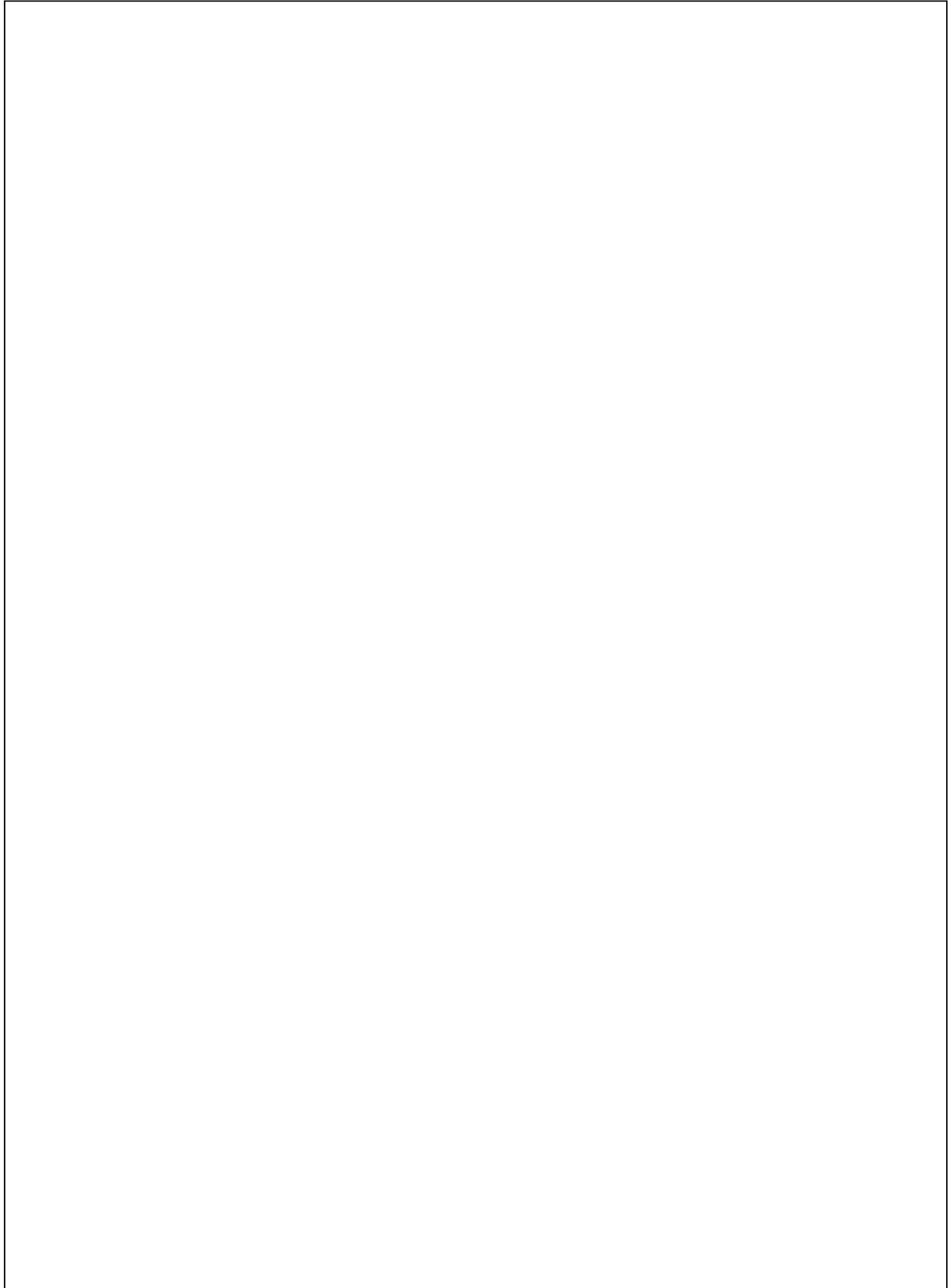
"On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you'" (Jn 2:1-5).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

On the threshold of his public life Jesus performs his first sign -at his mother's request - during a wedding feast: The Church attaches great importance to Jesus' presence at the wedding at Cana. She sees in it the confirmation of the goodness of marriage and the proclamation that thenceforth marriage will be an efficacious sign of Christ's presence" (CCC, 1613).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

From Scripture:

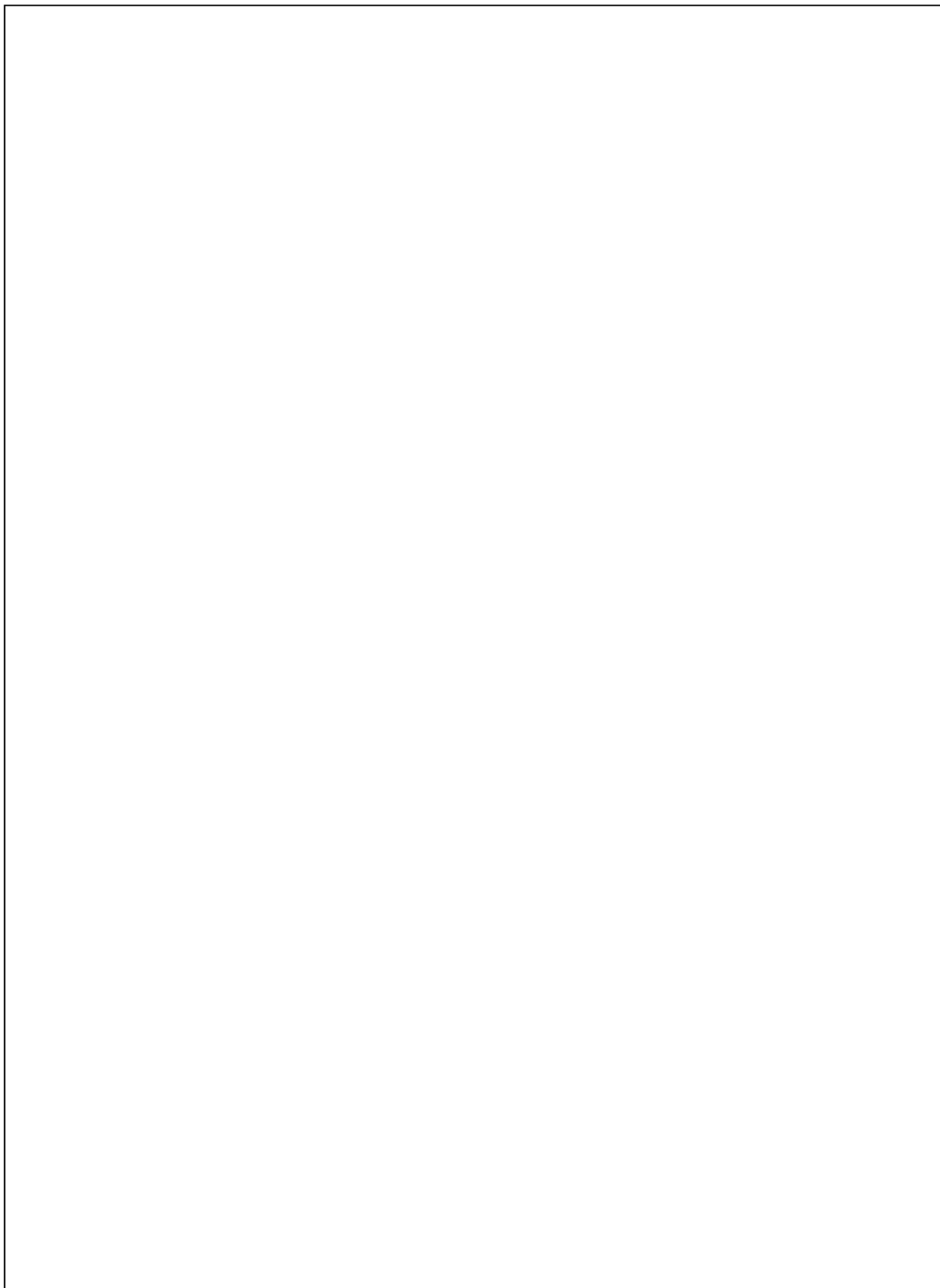
"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mk 1:15).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"*Everyone* is called to enter the Kingdom. First announced to the children of Israel, this messianic kingdom is intended to accept men of all nations" (CCC, 543).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



The Transfiguration

From Scripture:

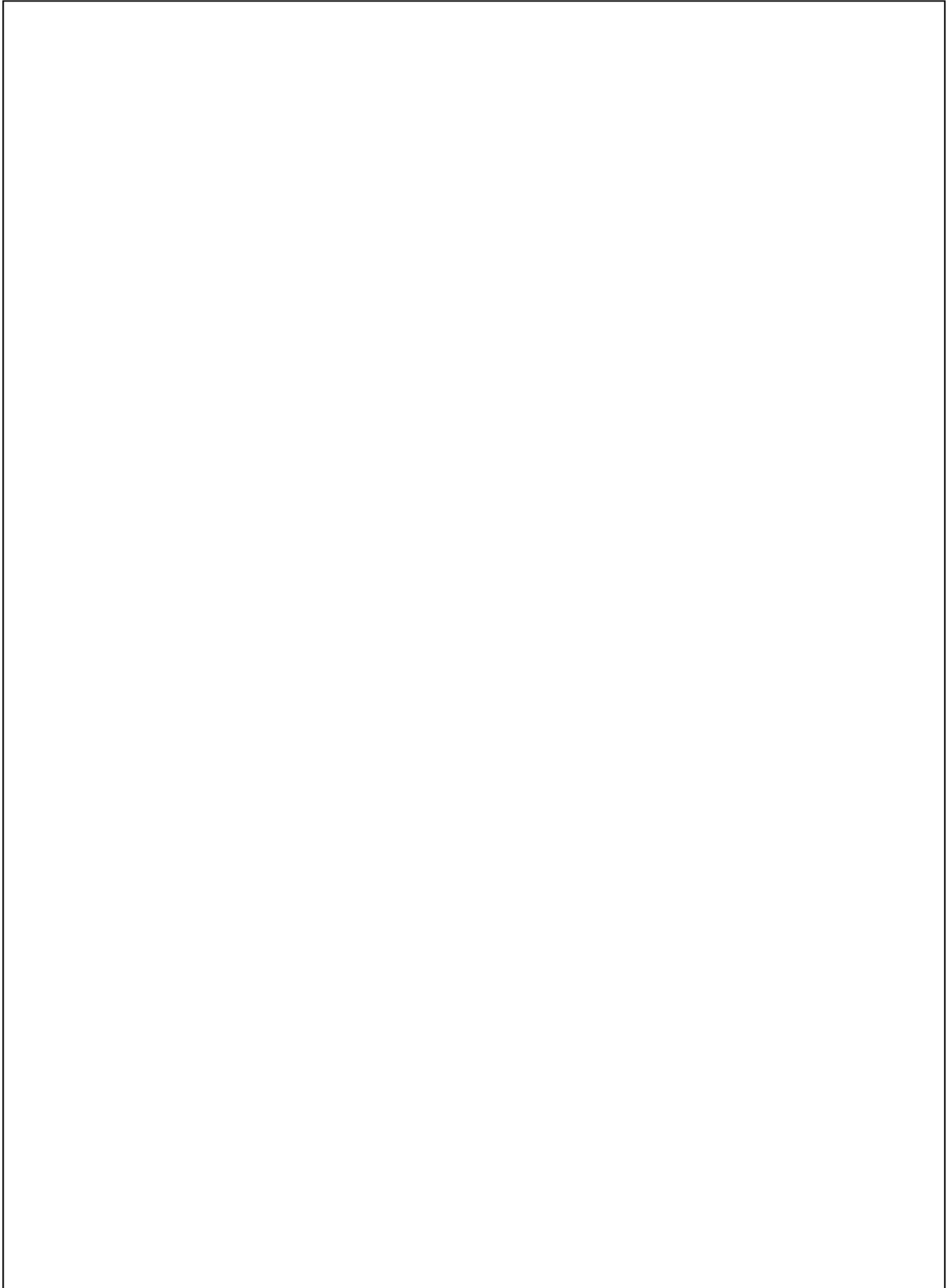
"And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light" (*Mt 17:1-2*).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

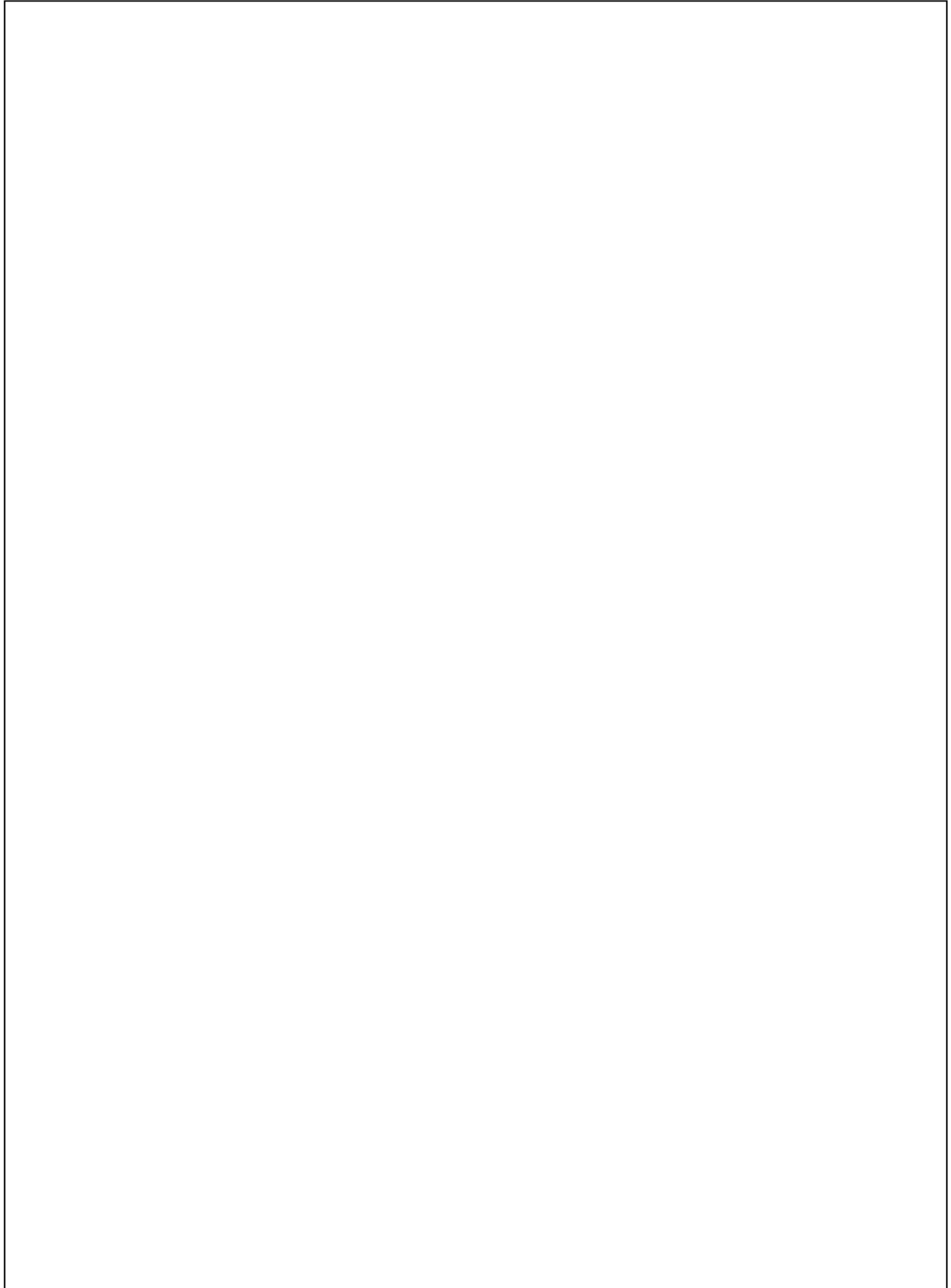
"For a moment Jesus discloses his divine glory, confirming Peter's confession. He also reveals that he will have to go by the way of the cross at Jerusalem in order to 'enter into his glory' (*Lk 24:26*)" (*CCC, 555*).

From My Heart: (My Prayer)

My Picture:



My Picture:



Writing Prompts

Other Activities

Family Activity Ideas

1. Say the Rosary together as a family each evening. If you don't have time for the full Rosary each night, say one decade (mystery). Before or after praying, talk about your day together and share any intentions you would like to offer the rosary for.
2. Make your own rosary! Use any type of beads, or make a string rosary, using knots to represent each bead.
3. Go to a nearby Marian shrine and say the Rosary while you are there. Some Marian shrines even have large outdoor Rosary paths so you can walk from bead to bead as you pray, or sculptures representing each mystery.
4. Learn 5 Marina songs and sing one after each mystery of the Rosary.
5. Teach the Rosary to a friend or relative that doesn't know how to say it but wants to learn.

Unscramble the words to find out what different Saints say about the rosary!

1. "oen ady, trohguh het orsayr nda eht casrulap, uor dyal liwl vaes eth rowdl." St. Dominic

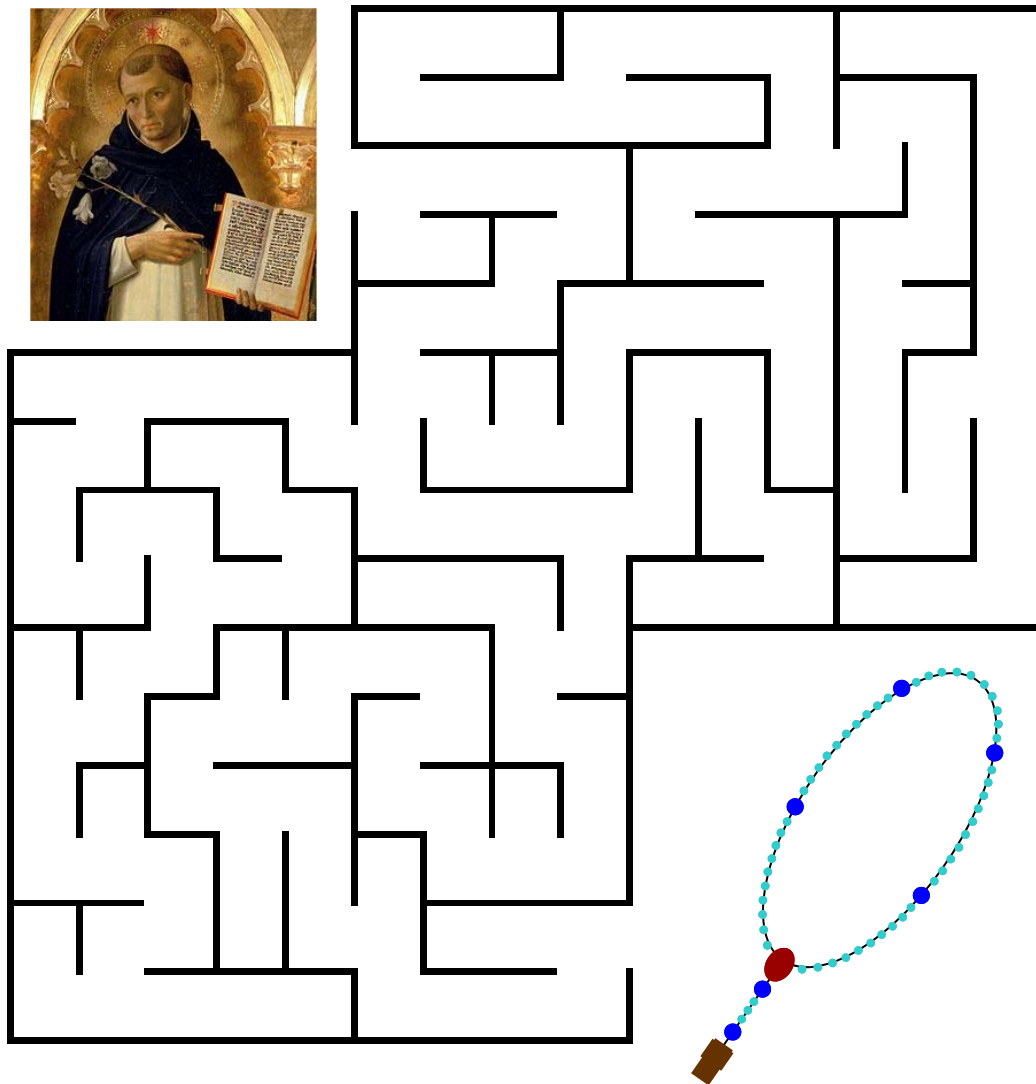
2. "teh ratetges edothm fo rypagni si ot rpya het syrrao." St. Francis de Sales

3. "nocetmiu ot aryp hte sryaor ryeev ayd." Our Lady of Fatima to Sister Lucia

4. "uoy hllas anitob lal uyo kas fo em yb eht ctreitnoai fo eth ysroar." Our Lady to Blessed Alan de la Roche.

Maze

Help St. Dominic find his rosary!



* Maze generated by puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com

Rosary Word Search

S A L P Y R E C I T E I F M L
T D Z B A P T I S M V N P R U
D W V K R O S A R Y H T C N M
O Q I U P B D E C A D E A O I
M Y S T E R Y M A R Y R S I N
I G I T Y I G H J L N C C T O
N L T K I N G D O M A E E P U
I O A J O Y F U L K T S N M S
C R T Z C B N W M R I S S U T
O I I U P R A Y E R S I I S Y
L O O K P J H F G D S O O S A
X U N O I T A I C N U N N A Z
C S O R R O W F U L V N B M P
I W O C R U C I F I X I O N Q
B L E S S E E V I R G I N R T

Word List

ANNUNCIATION
ASCENSION
ASSUMPTION
BAPTISM
BLESSED VIRGIN
CRUCIFIXION
DECADE

GLORIOUS
INTERCESSION
JOYFUL
KINGDOM
LITANY
LUMINOUS
MARY

MYSTERY
PRAY
RECITE
ROSARY
SORROWFUL
ST DOMINIC
VISITATION



The Rosary for Children: A Guide and Activity Book