

Thirty Third Sunday 2018

My beloved brothers and sisters, there is much talk today, of the “End Times”, especially with all of the apocalyptic events that seem to be playing out before our very eyes. For many people, this generates fear; and yet, all of these things don’t seem to call people back to active faith. In fact, atheism and paganism and apostasy, leaving the faith, are growing at significant rates, (so too is satanic influence). What are we to make of all of this? Should we be fearful?

Some modern theologians and Scripture Scholars don’t like these Gospel passages, because, (they say) Jesus was too gentle and forgiving to say such harsh things. But the fact is, Jesus did say these things, and He said them precisely because He loves us. In the same way, the warnings from Our Blessed Mother at Fatima and Akita in Japan are frightening; but they are said with love for us, to call us back into sanity from the insanity of the post-Christian world.

The Lord Jesus tells us that the battle between good and evil will continue throughout human history; however, the Good News is this: there will be a providential and definitive end of the evil one and his evil influence. God wins, Jesus Christ wins; and He provides the opportunity for His Divine Grace to call each of us back to conversion, even in the difficult things that we must endure. He gives the opportunities for His Grace to spread throughout the world, even in the midst of the great evils that are now at work in the world and in the Church! This Gospel is His promise that once the expansion of His Grace has reached its fulfilled time; then, He will come again to establish the universal and everlasting victory of His Kingdom forever. This is His plan for us, and His plan will be fulfilled in all of those who are surrendering their lives to the influence of His Grace!

It is His Grace and His call to us to warn us. Like a loving parent tells a beloved child: “don’t play with fire! You’ll get burned!”, by warning us, He gives His beloved children an opportunity for conversion and to build our lives on the Rock of the Good News of Salvation; and so He also tells us: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away!” He does not tell us these things to scare us, but to motivate us to be always ready to stand before Him. He warns us so that we will not become caught up in the passing things of this world;

rather, to live always in anticipation of Eternal Life. These teachings are the reminders of his endless love for us! The final exam is coming, the final exam is coming; get ready!

Jesus tells us that the end of history will indeed come. Could this now be the season? He doesn't tell us when, but we have been warned, and He warns us and so does Our Blessed Mother, to live each day: actively faithful, prayerfully and in repentance, loving God with all our heart, mind and strength and loving our neighbor.

Our Blessed Mother at Fatima and Akita, has told us how to live in constant preparation for the end of the world and also the end of our lives: penance, penance, penance, pray, pray, pray. Pray the Rosary every day, wear the brown scapular and consecrate yourselves to Mary as her beloved children, brothers and sisters to her Son. Attend to frequent Confession, attend to the Eucharist frequently, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration, (every moment you spend before the Blessed Sacrament, you are already spending with Jesus in His Glory). If you are doing these things, then you will be ready at every moment for the end of the world and the end of your lives!