

First Sunday of Advent 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters, as many of you know, I am fascinated with physics, cosmology, and a subsequent mathematical system that is known as chaos theory. No doubt, you have heard of the first two; however, the last: Chaos theory is relatively unknown. It is, on the other hand, one of the most used mathematical systems ever created, and is used from everything from predicting the weather, to predicting human behavior. To sum up the theory, the old spin about the beating of a butterfly's wings can be the cause of a hurricane off the coast of China, gives some idea of the content. For our use, we can say that every one of our human choices makes a difference in the world, and affects, not only ourselves, but every human being around us. This is the reason why St. Paul in his letter tells us to put on the armor of light, and to be like bright stars!

More than ever, our society needs this bright light, in the midst of a terrible darkness! The first step is a supernatural knowledge of the faith; but that is only the first step! We are also called to throw off the works of darkness! By doing so, we can become, by God's infinite goodness and grace, beacons of light, and hope and goodness in the world, and our lives can be the impetus for change for others!

The Gospel for today is part of a long conversation that the Lord Jesus, God in the Flesh, has with His apostles and disciples. Jesus has been explaining what the age of the Church, the period of history that we have been in since the first Pentecost, and will come to an end when He comes again in His Glory, will look like. He teaches us that this age will be marked with wonderful growth, but it will also be marked with terrible persecutions. He goes on to teach us that there will indeed be an end to evil and darkness, and a new beginning in goodness like in the days of Noah and the great flood. Jesus spoke about what He knew, since He has the knowledge of God, and when the disciples heard Him, they knew the truth of what He was saying. Jesus also taught them and is teaching us, that we may not know the day or the hour when this will happen. In the same way, every one of us will experience the end, the end of our lives, and the end of time! Now is the time to use this time given to us wisely, living out the Gospel and the teachings of

the Church wisely, living as true Christians, arming ourselves with the light, so that we do not live in the darkness! Jesus knew how easy it is for us, even for the most faithful, to fall into the trap that this earthly existence is all that there is, and not merely a path. Many today, have fallen into the path, and spend their lives recklessly, lives of desperation. This life is the path, not the goal! All of our choices now make a difference, even though it may seem like we are caught up in the chaos of daily life; nonetheless, our lives will make a difference for the good or for darkness.

The Advent candle is a wonderful symbol for our preparation for that day, when our end and the end of time will arrive! The candles stand on the circular wreath, a reminder to us of eternity; we must ask: whereupon do I stand? The candles themselves expend themselves in giving off their light, but their fire and light must be lit up by another. Even the sun that shine so brightly, consumes fuel in order to give off its light and heat and energy. Our fuel must be Christ, prayer, and His sacraments: He is the way, the truth and the light! You may think your life is meaningless, like a butterfly's wings beating to lift it up; but each of us can point to people who have made a profound difference in our lives! So must you!