

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters, God could have chosen to make us immediately Saints after our Baptism; however, in most cases, that is not how God works. For most of us, we have to struggle against sin and selfishness and evil in our lives and in the world, most of our lives. For most of us, the struggle for sanctity, is a long, sometimes very difficult, winding and uphill road. Why? Because God wants Sanctity to be the very air we breathe. Most of the time, we are going to be tempted, again and again. We're going to wonder if anything is actually happening in our lives. The battle we are fighting is the very struggle against evil and sin in the world in our lives; of course it is difficult! But never give up!

In the Gospel for today, Jesus reminds us that only God will ultimately win out over evil and injustice. Every Sunday, in the Creed, we proclaim: "Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead...". We also proclaim: "I believe in one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen". In other words, we proclaim as a standard of our faith upon which we stand, that God has triumphed and will ultimately triumph against sin, evil and death.

Jesus teaches us that He will come in triumph, and evil will be done, death will be destroyed, forever; but, we do not know when. Jesus has forewarned us not to speculate when this will happen. It could be next week, or a 1000 years from now; but for those who have spent their lives battling against sin and injustice, who have spent their lives living in friendship with Christ, we will be completely freed from the last vestiges of sin and selfishness, and finally experience the fullness of life in our glorified bodies. Even now, most of the Saints must wait for that final day of God's great plan, although a few are already living with Jesus in their glorified Bodies, like Mary, and Joseph, Elijah, and a few others!

Nonetheless, if we are living in the Lord Jesus now, even as we struggle against sin and selfishness, when we die, we shall live in the Lord, absolved of sin, selfishness and death. Today, and everyday, ask Jesus for the grace of perseverance, and the grace to be a great saint; for a saint is a sinner who never, never gives up!