

Homily 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time, Year C

A young lector at Mass, his first time to read the Scriptures to a large congregation in church, was so nervous that he blurted out as he concluded: “This...this is the end of the world” And the congregation chorused: “Thanks be to God”!

We have reached the end of the Church calendar. As we do so, we reflect on the end of the world.

“Is the world about to end?” “And why should the end be near “The Bible says, ‘There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, plagues from place to place.’ Aren’t these happening now in our country and the world?”

During Christ’s time, people were gravely perturbed and asked the same question. But Christ tells us not to be frightened “for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon” (cf. Lk 21:9).

Let us not waste precious time speculating when the world will end. Jesus douses cold water on all predictions of the end, saying, “As for that day or hour, nobody knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father” (Mk 13:32).

What matters is NOW. The questions we ought to ask ourselves are: Are we holding on to our faith, living as a Christian should? Are we faithful in our vocation as parents, religious men or women, as just and honest worker?

**If you read carefully the parable of the LAST JUDGMENT, you will notice that our judgment will not depend on our intelligence, our good looks, our fame or fortune. Of course, all of these are important but they are insofar as they serve the needs of people, especially the less fortunate (Read Mt. 25, 31-46).**

**Let's sow more good deeds then. What we sow now, we will reap later.**

**Finally, although the gospel message this Sunday may sound terrifying with its apocalyptic images, it ends with a note of hope. "Your patient endurance will save you your lives," the Lord assures us.**

**There is a moving story about the world-famous ballerina Margot Fonteyn and her lawyer husband Roberto Arias.**

**Back in 1964, Roberto was paralyzed by a bullet wound. For two years, he was confined in a hospital 40 miles outside the city of London. Every day for those two years, Margot spent her mornings at her husband's side and her afternoons rehearsing in the theater.**

**The medical attention and Margot's loving care enabled Roberto to make an amazing recovery. He is still partially paralyzed, but able to practice law again. The story illustrates the persevering love and fidelity of a wife in caring for a husband seriously injured, going through a deep personal crisis.**

**Are you persevering to live your faith despite temptations and trials that you encounter in life?**

**Today's gospel invites us to reflect on the end of the world, not in an atmosphere of panic or fear but in an atmosphere of Christian commitment and Christian confidence by using our talents and resources not for selfish purposes but for the purpose of building God's kingdom on earth.**

**At the end let us reflect this one:**

**With each lack of kindness, I caused pains to my loved ones**

**With each lack of respect, I am not educated much less a Christian**

**With each look of contempt, someone suffers a blow**

**With each time I refuse to forgive a portion of my egoism grows**

**With each resentment I show, I reveal a part of my wounded pride**

**With each bitter word I say, I lose points for heaven**

**With each sin I commit, I tear a page of the gospel**

**With each time I fail to pray, I lose a word of graces**

**With every tear I wipe away, I make my brother happy**

**With each smile I give, I generate hope**