

Homily 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 15/16 2025

When our first daughter was born, I was the one who put her to bed at night. My wife went off to work the night shift at her job. I had some time alone with my daughter. And, I would press her against my chest and rock her to sleep in a big rocking chair. And, to help her to go to sleep I would sing this little tune.

When I was just a little boy
I asked my mother, what will I be?
Will I be handsome? Will I be rich?
Here's what she said to me.

Que sera sera
Whatever will be, will be
The future's not ours to see
Que sera, sera
What will be, will be

As we live our lives, as humans, we want to know about tomorrow all the time. This is especially true about the weather. Will tomorrow be rainy or cold? As we get older, we get a clearer sense that life is short and that each of us will face the moment of death. The question is how prepared are we for that moment.

As we approach the end of the church year, the Church fathers give us a reading today that focuses on the end times. We hear about the end of the world as we know it. Jesus tells his people that the temple will be destroyed. That is something that to them just cannot happen. He warns against deception and encourages that we persevere in faith, assuring that those who endure will be saved. And the people ask, when will this happen? Jesus says "No man knows the date, not even the Son, but only the Father."

He tells them that there will be wars, conflicts and earthquakes. Today's astronomers continue to look at the changes in our galaxy. The sun is cooling down, and at some point, very far in the future, our planet will be destroyed.

But we also know that much sooner than we expect, we will die. The moment of death will put an end, absolutely, to all our works, all our plans, all the seemingly vital concerns which motivate us day by day.

We must always live as though each day may be your last. Every action and non action must be looked at as a way to get us to or deter us from our goal. That goal is to be with God in heaven for all time.

Every human soul must cast off its earthly body and go into the unknown like a traveller into unexplored territory. We should be preparing for the next life. St. Paul tells us to go on quietly minding our own affairs. It is something that should not take over our lives.

Christ's message is to be ever watchful, to let the thought of what is to come be a reminder of the shortness of our present life. It is when our next life begins that we will clearly understand our present life. It will then be clear to us, to what extent we did our part in spreading God's kingdom.

But until the day when the Lord calls us, we go on preparing to meet him. But we also need to ask ourselves, how much are we helping one another in our mutual effort to be ready to meet God? We are not to be anxious. We find our center of calm in Jesus. Focused on him and on the love with which he longs to fill the world.

Jesus tells the people they will be saved. Because you have faith in God and not in men. You have a hope born in the promises of God to Abraham that one day the whole world would see His glory and the whole world would understand that He created man not for death but for eternal life.

Eternal life. That is what we receive in baptism. That's is what grows stronger as we live our lives as Christ wanted. But the end with God is never the end; the end with God is another beginning. We need to understand that Jesus was speaking of a new beginning.

That new beginning, and they would be part of it, would be to reach out to the whole world with the promise of faith, God's faith in people; of hope, God's gift to all of us; and of love, God's love shared with people. We say it every Sunday. I believe in "the resurrection of the body and life everlasting."

This month especially we remember those who passed away. But joy is there too in knowing that one day we will be with them for all eternity. Through this new hope is born.

In my ministry in grief support, this is my focus; to remind everyone that physical death is not the end. Through vigils prayers, funeral liturgies, burials and memorial services and grief

groups, I try to emphasize that the loved one's soul lives forever. We will see them again if we have done what Jesus asked.

God will ask us. Have our thoughts, our words. And our actions been loving enough? And Jesus puts special emphasis on rewarding those who have helped those in need. As we mark the World Day of the Poor, let us remember what Matthew tells us in his writings on the day of judgement.

"The King said "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'