

7 June 2017 - Wed of 9th Week of Ordinary Time / Sajnos, nincs magyar fordítás!

(Mk12:18-27) In our Lord's day, there was great expectation that the long awaited Messiah was about to appear on the scene. Many false Messiah's had already come and gone. So our Lord's contemporaries knew that the Messiah would be coming, but they were mistaken about the nature of His kingdom. People naturally assumed that the Kingdom of Heaven would resemble an earthly empire, which is promoted and sustained by recourse to armed force.

If our Lord's contemporaries had been told that 2000 years later the Kingdom of God would number 1.2 billion people worldwide, they would have been amazed. Yet, they would have considered it absurd to think that this same kingdom would not be promoted or sustained by armed forces. Today this apparent absurdity is a foregone conclusion. God's Kingdom on earth is the Roman Catholic Church. And although numbering 1.2 billion people, she has no standing armies. Like her divine founder, Jesus Christ, she advances her cause by suffering violence rather than inflicting it. If these facts about God's coming Kingdom had been foretold long ago, they might have been considered proof positive against the possibility of such a kingdom existing in the first place. Yet, exist it does!

In today's gospel, the Sadducees were skeptics who didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead. They were trying to prove their point by another *reduction ad absurdum* argument. As their hypothetical example, they conjectured a woman who had married seven husbands. Since it was impossible to decide whose wife she would be in the next life, they considered that life itself to be the real absurdity. There's only one problem with their reasoning, as the above example demonstrates: Just because we can't imagine it now, doesn't mean it can't ever exist. Let's thank God that we have our holy faith to stretch our minds! Faith tells us that heaven immeasurably surpasses any bliss that we can imagine here on earth. Therefore, heaven more than compensates us for anything that we patiently suffer here on earth – even a life that seems worse than death itself. Amen!