

33RD SUNDAY – ORD. TIME (B)

November 13/14, 2021

WILL MY NAME BE IN THE BOOK OF LIFE?

The liturgical year is coming to an end and the Church reminds her children of the end time as well. We are reminded that there will be a transition in our lives and many things will happen to the whole world.

The vision and prophecy of Daniel is to make known what will happen to every human being in this world. The end time will be full of distress and anguish. People will suffer terribly; there will be horror and disgrace, but not everyone will experience it. Those whose names are found written in the book will escape. Who are they? Those who are wise and those who lead many to justice. They will shine like the stars in the sky.

In the gospel, Jesus also told His disciples what will happen in those days. All the three powerful sources of light will be no more. What a terrible period that will be! One can imagine the thickness of darkness at that time. But again, not everybody will encounter the disaster. In that same period, the Son of Man will appear, and the angels will gather the elect from every corner of the earth. The elect are those who will persevere to the end.

Jesus will come one day 'to judge the living and the dead', and His enemies will be made His footstool. This means if I am not with Him and for Him, I am against Him, and His enemy. If I am an enemy then I will experience the horror that will take place. Do I want to be an enemy of Christ?

Jesus, therefore, teaches that the things we see around us should remind us of how things will happen in those days. The things we admire and attach ourselves to will all disappear one day. We may even disappear and leave the world before those things happen. What will remain forever is His word.

Is my being a priest a license to be among the elect? Is your being a Catholic Christian a license to have your name written in the book of life? The answer is NO. To have my name in the book of life and be among the chosen ones, I have to strive to enter the narrow gate (Lk.13:24). I have to live a good life that will be a shining example for others; not living hypocritically, but sincerely. My grey hair should remind me of the turning point in my life and a sign that things are coming to an end for me.

In this regard, the word of God should always guide me in my thoughts, words, and actions. His word should be “a lamp to my feet, and a light on my path,” (Ps119:105). I should do what the Word tells me and not just listen to it and deceive myself, (Jm.1:22). It is to direct me to know how to love and avoid sin and wrong-doing. To have my name with the elect, I should also learn to forgive and forget others their sins; therefore, I should write their faults in the sand, and their good deeds on the rock. My life should act like a magnet which attracts objects to itself. My life should encourage people to do good and turn to Jesus.

Some of the pieces of advice Jesus gave to His disciples about the end of time were to be vigilant and to pray at all times. Being watchful is to always remember that things can happen in my life without any notice. It is also to be conscious about what leads to sin. There should be no postponement of praying and doing what is good and right.

The young ones should always look at their parents and grandparents to remind themselves of what awaits them in the near future. If they are struggling now due to old age and body bodily weakness, they shall also reach that stage. That applies to our spiritual life as well. This should inform our minds to begin to live a good life and be serious in whatever we are doing. There is no shortcut in life.