

32ND SUNDAY – ORD. (C)

THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

October 5/6, 2022

Some people feel that we come from nowhere, and we shall vanish as if we had never existed. You can know that by how the body is treated when they die. But in many cultures, there is the belief that there is life after death. In Ghana, for example, some money was put in the coffin for the dead to buy water on the way to his or her final destination, among other rituals. Life after death and the resurrection of the dead were beliefs of the Jews long before Christ.

The decision people make to do or not to do something is based mostly on what they hope to achieve. The seven brothers with their mother refused to eat pork which was against their belief. They did not want to offend God and hoped to be in heaven. They considered everything they had, hands, tongue, as a gift from God and had faith that God would give them back one day.

The message of the fourth brother expressed his faith and hope of the resurrection: “It is my choice to die at the hands of men with the hope God gives of being raised up by Him”. He and his brothers were ready to die than to offend God.

Jesus explains further, in the gospel, what will happen at the resurrection of the dead. There will be transformation and a new life. He confirms His message that the righteous will live even when they die. They become like angels, and they will be the children of God. The Sadducees might have known the history of the seven brothers who were put to death for not eating pork. They wanted to challenge Jesus about the resurrection, hoping to show the absurdity of such belief. But He made them aware that God is a God of the living and not of the dead.

St. Paul knew what awaited him and all who believe in God, so he prayed for the Church in Thessalonica that the Lord Jesus and God the Father would encourage their hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word. He reminded them that the Lord would strengthen them and guard them from the evil one.

Every Sunday at Mass, I pray or say the Creed and at the very end, I express my faith in the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting. Our faith is based

on the resurrection of Christ. St. Paul told the Corinthians that if Christ has not been raised then Christians are the most pitiable people in the world, (1Cor.15:19). Do I believe in what I say, or am I just following what the Church has asked me to say? Does the hope of the resurrection guide my way of life as a Christian and all the decisions I take?

I cannot just hope to experience the resurrection of the dead; I have to think, talk and behave as a Christian. I should be reminded what I say every day during morning offering: "I will rather die than to offend God". I need courage to say no to what is evil and yes to what is good in difficult and trying moments.

I am reminded today that everything I have comes from God. Also, many things we cherish on earth are going to be no more when we die. What am I to reject in order to be faithful to God? Is the resurrection giving me hope to live out my vows or promises as a priest, faithfully? Is the resurrection giving you hope to live according to the promises you made to God as a Christian?

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32ND SUNDAY – ORD. (C)

THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

October 5/6, 2022

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Jesus explains further, in the gospel, what will happen at the resurrection of the dead. There will be transformation and a new life. He confirms His message that the righteous will live even when they die. They become like angels, and they will be the children of God. The Sadducees might have known the history of the seven brothers who were put to death for not eating pork. They wanted to challenge Jesus about the resurrection, hoping to show the absurdity of such belief. But He made them aware that God is a God of the living and not of the dead.

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32ND SUNDAY – ORD. (C)

THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

October 5/6, 2022

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There is a great amount of pressure all around us to force us to abandon our faith. Am I giving in to the pressure from those who do not want to hear anything about God and religion and life after death, and thus breaking the natural law written in our hearts? Am I giving in to the pressure to consider the teachings of the Church on salvation as outmoded and unimportant now? "If the dead are not going to be raised, then let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we shall be dead". But the dead will be raised, "so do not let anyone lead you astray, bad company corrupts good ways" (1Cor.15:33-34).

32ND SUNDAY – ORD. (C)

THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

October 5/6, 2022

Some people feel that we come from nowhere, and we shall vanish as if we had never existed. You can know that by how the body is treated when they die. But in many cultures, there is the belief that there is life after death. In Ghana, for example, some money was put in the coffin for the dead to buy water on the way to his or her final destination, among other rituals. Life after death and the resurrection of the dead were beliefs of the Jews long before Christ.

The decision people make to do or not to do something is based mostly on what they hope to achieve. The seven brothers with their mother refused to eat pork which was against their belief. They did not want to offend God and hoped to be in heaven. They considered everything they had, hands, tongue, as a gift from God and had faith that God would give them back one day.

The message of the fourth brother expressed his faith and hope of the resurrection: “It is my choice to die at the hands of men with the hope God gives of being raised up by Him”. He and his brothers were ready to die than to offend God.

Jesus explains further, in the gospel, what will happen at the resurrection of the dead. There will be transformation and a new life. He confirms His message that the righteous will live even when they die. They become like angels, and they will be the children of God. The Sadducees might have known the history of the seven brothers who were put to death for not eating pork. They wanted to challenge Jesus about the resurrection, hoping to show the absurdity of such belief. But He made them aware that God is a God of the living and not of the dead.

St. Paul knew what awaited him and all who believe in God, so he prayed for the Church in Thessalonica that the Lord Jesus and God the Father would encourage their hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word. He reminded them that the Lord would strengthen them and guard them from the evil one.

Every Sunday at Mass, I pray or say the Creed and at the very end, I express my faith in the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting. Our faith is based

on the resurrection of Christ. St. Paul told the Corinthians that if Christ has not been raised then Christians are the most pitiable people in the world, (1Cor.15:19). Do I believe in what I say, or am I just following what the Church has asked me to say? Does the hope of the resurrection guide my way of life as a Christian and all the decisions I take?

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