

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



This is the penultimate Sunday of the Liturgical Year, in which the readings of today's Mass speak to us of the Eschaton - the Last Things.

Just as the Liturgical Year ends, so too will there be an end, a finality, to all things.

And there will be an end to our life.

The readings today ask us a question.

It is the same question God asked of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, as he walked there in the evening, before sun down, before the close of day: he asked them "Where are you?"

Today the Church asks 'Where are you?' in relation to the word of the prophet Daniel which speaks to us of a "time of unsurpassed distress...many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever; others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace." (DN 12:1-3)

'Where are you?' in relation to the word of the Gospel:

"In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds." (MK 13:24-32)

Our life has an eschatological tension. We are catapulted towards the eschaton, towards eternity. All that we do, all that we say, each of our everyday acts, are eschatological.

How we live today determines how we live tomorrow. How we live our life now determines how we will live in the afterlife.

DEATH, JUDGEMENT, HEAVEN, HELL.

These are the four last things. They await all of us. 'Where are you?' in front of them.

This is not pessimistic. It is realistic. If there is one thing the Pandemic has taught us, it's a sense of our own mortality.

Imagine being on a bus. Everyone on the bus knows where they got on, and where they are going. One guy got on in Paramus, and he is going to into the city to work. Another woman got on in Englewood and is going to meet her sister for lunch. Another person is going to Radio City. If someone did not know where they got on, or where they were going, it would seem very odd. If we asked someone 'Where are you going?' and they replied 'I don't know, I'm just on the bus. I do not know where the bus is going, and I don't know where I am getting off' we would think they were crazy.

All of us are on the bus. The Liturgy today asks us: Where did you get on? Where are you now? Where are you going?

Do not be afraid if, in sincerity, you are unable to answer. Do not be alarmed if you are very busy, doing a lot of things, but without really knowing why you are doing them, or where you are going with your life. The Liturgy itself will help us to answer.

We can find an answer, the answer, in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh for us. We can find the answer in Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Fr. Sean