

So Where Are We Going...

You notice there are two important contrasting images in the Gospel today, one at the beginning - the Temple, and the other, at the end - the hair on your head.

This is an interesting contrast. One will be completely destroyed - the other? - not a single one will be lost.

Ultimately God doesn't focus too much on buildings and 'things'; God is more into people, His children.

In "7 Secrets of Confession" written by Vinny Flynn, he said, "You and I were created because God is a Father who wanted children — children whom He created "in His own image and likeness" so that we could receive His love and ultimately come to share in His own divine life in the Trinity...

We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved. Wow! You exist because God thought of you and loved you!...

This God, this Father, has revealed, over and over again, that His love for each one of us is personal and forever, and that His focus is not on our behavior, but on our relationship with Him."

Think about that for a moment! When you and I sin we focus on our behavior and God focuses on our relationship with Him.

We think about what we did wrong, He thinks about how we turned our faces and hearts from Him. Next time you go to confession think if you are confessing your behavior or your relationship - lack of Love for God, Yourself or another.

God continues to father us forever.

Jesus promises us that when we act out of selfless love to seek first the good of another, we will find the words and actions that heal and lift up. God remains present to us in the goodness within ourselves and in the caring compassion offered by others.

We must attempt to become more exciting Catholics. One way of doing that is by making the world about us a more attractive place to live in.

Charles Dickens has said that no one is useless in the world who lightens the burden for someone else. "It is up to you to illumine the area about you.

Jesus said to the crowd: "They will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, ... You will be hated by all because of my name.

Today it is a terrible thing to be called "intolerant." Our society never wants to offend anyone--and intolerance, by and large, is equated with hate.

Pastor Rick Warren once said, "The problem is that being 'tolerant' has changed its meaning.

Tolerant used to mean, I may disagree with you completely, but I'm going to treat you with respect and dignity and I may even love you. That's what tolerant means.

Today, tolerant means you must approve of everything I do. That's not tolerance. That's approval. There's a difference between tolerance and approval."

Jesus accepted everybody no matter who they were, but He did not approve of everything or everyone. So, you can be accepting without being approving. That's an important point."

Many people in our society have chosen to tolerate everything, but believe nothing. And in so doing, we've really replaced love for our neighbor with tolerating our neighbor.

Loving others involves a genuine compassion and care for who they are as people, and it should never be traded for a weak, watered-down idea society calls tolerance.

Loving will lead to your giving testimony... Jesus said I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.

You and I comprise the Parish of St Patrick; we are Christ's witnesses in the city of York and its surrounding area. Jesus teaches us the importance of public witness to our faith.

We are the ones people look to when they want to see Christ in our present day.

At the same time, we reach out continually in truth and love to be Tolerant that even if we disagree with someone; we are going to treat the other with respect and dignity and even love.

By your perseverance you will secure your lives.

And remember: Not a hair of your head will be lost.

Thus, as we get ready to welcome Christ our eternal King, the readings of today invite us to see that it is Christ, present in the here and now, not Christ who is expected in the future who continues to shape and inspire our lives.

Praise be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever, Amen!