

September 6, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week we pray in thanksgiving for the work that God has given us to do in the world. Our work helps us to image the creative and life giving nature of God on a human level. God created all of us to image Him in the work that we do. He created us and the world and we develop His creation to show forth His creative genius through the many gifts, talents and abilities that he has given us. On this Labor Day weekend we pray for the strength of all those who work, for those who are looking for work, and in thanksgiving for the work that God has given us to be able to provide for ourselves and our families and build up the earthly Kingdom which he has created. And, eventually, may all the work we do in this life be offered as a spiritual sacrifice along with Jesus' greatest work, His suffering and death for our salvation, to the Father in thanksgiving for creating and saving us! We will offer a special Mass at SMV and St. Stanislaus at 9 am on Labor Day to thank God for giving us work and praying for those who seek employment. May God make us holy through the work He has given us to do in the world.

This weekend at SMV and on September 8 in all other Catholic Churches throughout the world we will celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Today, St. Mary's Visitation Parish celebrates one of their two parish feast-days (The Nativity of Mary and The Visitation) at special Masses which replace the Masses for the Sunday in Ordinary Time. Please remember to honor Mary by praying the Rosary or some other prayerful devotion in her honor this weekend or on September 8th itself. Through Mary's miraculous conception and birth, the life of our Savior dawned upon the world. We rejoice in your birth, dear Mary, because through you we receive the saving grace of your Son!

Over the last many weeks we have been exploring in our bulletin articles approved apparitions of Jesus, Mary, and the Saints to certain seers, especially in recent times. We have also been discussing various Catholic prophetic messages that seem to fit with the movement of time and history in our day. A few weeks ago we reviewed the criteria the Catholic Church uses to judge the authenticity of messages from heaven. During the next few weeks, we will be presenting prophetic messages from Catholic believers and visionaries that have not received official authentication from a Church investigative process. However, any messages that have not been officially condemned by the Church may be integrated into one's spiritual life provided that they do not contradict anything that Christ and His Church have taught through the centuries. And, so, we must use sound judgement based on whether the message truly fits with our Catholic Faith and what we must believe in order to be saved.

During these days when many of us are thinking to ourselves about the events foretold by Jesus in the Bible which will lead up to the "End Times" and His Second Coming, it might be helpful to look at a few prophetic words that Catholics have spoken in recent decades.

Fr. Michael Scanlan, TOR, who became president of Franciscan University of Steubenville in the 1970's, turned that school from a decadent campus known only for its partying and sports, into a truly Catholic school that has formed young Catholics who really live their Faith for the last 45 years. He was a dynamic speaker, priest, and preacher who was filled with the Holy Spirit and did amazing things to rebuild Christ's Church. He gave the following prophecy while speaking at a spiritual conference in Rome in 1976. His words were only recently rediscovered while some of those who were there remembered them and were thinking about everything that is happening in the world right now. When Fr. Scanlan addresses the audience with the term "Son of man" that means he is addressing every human being. Jesus is the Son of God but he also became the "Son of man" when he became one of us. Here are Fr. Scanlan's words for your consideration and application to our situation in the world right now:

Fr. Michael Scanlan's 1976 Prophecy:

"Son of man, do you see that city going bankrupt? Are you willing to see all your cities going bankrupt? Are you willing to see the bankruptcy of the whole economic system you rely on now so that all money is worthless and cannot support you?"

Son of man, do you see the crime and lawlessness in your city streets, and towns, and institutions? Are you willing to see no law, no order, no protection for you except that which I myself will give you?

Son of man, do you see the country which you love and which you are now celebrating—a country's history that you look back on with nostalgia? Are you willing to see no country—no country to call your own except those I give you as my body? Will you let me bring you life in my body and only there?

Son of man, do you see those churches which you can go to so easily now? Are you ready to see them with bars across their doors, with doors nailed shut? Are you ready to base your life only on me and not on any particular structure? Are you ready to depend only on me and not on all the institutions of schools and parishes that you are working so hard to foster?

Son of man, I call you to be ready for that. That is what I am telling you about. The structures are falling and changing—it is not for you to know the details now—but do not rely on them as you have been. I want you to make a deeper commitment to one another. I want you to trust one another, to build an interdependence that is based on my Spirit. It is an interdependence that is no luxury. It is an absolute necessity for those who will base their lives on me and not the structures from a pagan world. I have spoken and it will take place. My word will go forth to my people. They may hear and they may not—and I will respond accordingly—but this is my word.

Look about you, Son of man. When you see it all shut down, when you see everything removed which has been taken for granted, and when you are prepared to live without these things, then you will know what I am making ready."

Dr. Ralph Martin, a long time Catholic professor and speaker who lives in Michigan, was present when Fr. Scanlan gave these words in Rome. Dr. Martin was visiting Rome the year prior in 1975 for an international spiritual conference and also gave these prophetic messages found below in an address just after Holy Communion. Pope St. Paul VI was present at the Mass and heard these words from Dr. Martin, after which Dr. Martin and others had a private audience with the Pope:

"Because I love you, I want to show you what I am doing in the world today. I want to prepare you for what is to come. Days of darkness are coming on the world, days of tribulation. . . . Buildings that are now standing will not be standing. Supports that are there for my people now will not be there. I want you to be prepared, my people, to know only Me and to cleave to Me and to have Me in a way deeper than ever before. I will lead you into the desert. . . . I will strip you of everything that you are depending on now, so you depend just on Me. A time of darkness is coming on the world, but a time of glory is coming for my Church, a time of glory is coming for my people. I will pour out on you all the gifts of my Spirit. I will prepare you for spiritual combat; I will prepare you for a time of evangelism that the world has never seen. . . . And when you have nothing but Me, you will have everything: land, fields, homes, and brothers and sisters and love and joy and peace more than ever before. Be ready, my people, I want to prepare you."

As we have mentioned week after week, the best way to prepare for whatever is to come is to pray, especially the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, to repent and come to Confession, to come to Eucharist Adoration and Holy Mass if you are physically able, and to fast and do penance and acts of charity for the conversion of others. As we have also been encouraging for the last six months, please remember that the grace of Christ that we receive in His Sacraments is our sure refuge during these days. We are all being called to find refuge in Confession and to Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist. Once again, included below, is the liturgical schedule with additional

Confession times, Mass times, and adoration times. Weekday Mass times may be adjusted on special days so please remember to check the parish Mass intention section of the bulletin to confirm weekday Mass times. Please remember the Catholic precept to confess sins in the Sacrament of Penance and to receive Holy Communion at least once during or near the Easter Season. Confessions are done in a socially distanced way in the church or outside on the parish grounds. If you are unable to come to church or someone is home-bound and in need of any of the Sacraments, please let us know and the priest or deacon will come to you!

In Mary, the Queen of Peace,

Fr. Derda, Fr. Steve, Deacon Russ and Deacon Ed