



Homily for 11/24/2019

Last Sunday after Pentecost., Ancient Form

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We celebrate today the Last Sunday after Pentecost to close out the liturgical year. In the Ordinary Form, this Sunday is celebrated as Christ the King. However, in the more Ancient Form of the Roman Rite that celebration took place last month. Christ is still King, but the readings for this Last Sunday speak to us of false Christs and false prophets. This is a good topic for us to discuss, as it seems that Jesus' words are ringing very true in our ears these days. This is not unexpected. In fact, that is exactly what Jesus intended by telling us this. He was not trying to scare us, but rather to prepare us. His statements give us a little comfort: "Behold, I have told it to you beforehand." "For as lightning comes out of the East, and appears even to the West, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be." What I mean is: if we have to wonder or, if there is doubt whether or not this is the end, it is not the end. His statement is clear – there will be no doubt when it is the end.

But we have to be informed about these things so that they don't take us off guard, and so Jesus' words are mercy to us. These words are distilled through the Apostolic Tradition and, as Cardinal Sarah has counseled we should hold fast to doctrine, it behooves us to hear what the Catechism of the Catholic Church has to say:

675 Before Christ's second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers. The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth will unveil the "mystery of iniquity" in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God and of his Messiah come in the flesh.

676 The Antichrist's deception already begins to take shape in the world every time the claim is made to realize within history that messianic hope which can only be realized beyond history through the eschatological judgment. The Church has rejected even modified forms of this falsification of the kingdom to come under the name of millenarianism, especially the "intrinsically perverse" political form of a secular messianism.

677 The Church will enter the glory of the kingdom only through this final Passover, when she will follow her Lord in his death and Resurrection. The kingdom will be fulfilled, then, not by a historic triumph of the Church through a progressive ascendancy, but only by God's victory over the final unleashing of evil, which will cause his Bride to come down from heaven. God's triumph over the revolt of evil will take the form of the Last Judgment after the final cosmic upheaval of this passing world.

So for us who see these pseudo-christs and pseudo-prophets arising even within the Church, what are we to do? Well, the one thing we shouldn't do is grow anxious and abandon the faith. That is the work of the devil. There are many who would abandon the Bride of Christ for a seemingly 'more perfect' facsimile of it. For someone to say, "This other is the 'true Catholic Church,' or "we alone have the 'pure faith'", is to be caught up in the pride of perfectionism and is a false prophet. Just because the Bride seems to be made ugly and is battered does not mean we should go after another who presents herself pristine and perfect. Do not be deceived! No, abandon the Bride we must not. But rather, let us hear what our Lord has to say. "When you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, then let them that are in Judea, let them flee to the mountains." What is this mountain but prayer? Hold fast to prayer! It is our Lord's counsel that when the world starts to crumble, we are to look for Him in the interior of our own hearts. Instead of reading another article on Facebook or watching another video on YouTube, spend time in the Scriptures. Before we try and run off to some supposed perfect society where it is claimed there is no confusion and all is clarity, come, place yourself before the Blessed Sacrament, bend the knee and let God speak to you. How can we pray, "From the depths I have cried out to Thee, O Lord" unless we have actually gone into the depths of our hearts to seek the Lord where He may be found?

Yes, there is error within, but there is also error outside. There are many who frighten us within the Bride of Christ, but be careful of fleeing to false christs and false prophets who show great signs and wonders and even deceive some of the elect. What we need to do is stay where we are and listen. We need to attune the ear of our heart to the



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voice of the Master rather than seeking after someone who will say whatever we want to hear. We have not yet submitted our whole being to the reign of Christ the King. Let us trust the Lord who says, “I think thoughts of peace, and not of affliction: you shall call upon Me, and I will hear you; and I will bring back your captivity from all places.” Lord, we call upon you today. Save us, O Savior of the World. May Jesus Christ be praised!