

## **FROM FR. CHRIS ALIMAJI'S DESK**

### ***Reflections on the End Time:***

On this Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, we reflect on the End Time. The Bible Readings are from Daniel 12:1-3; Hebrews 10:11-14, 18; Mark 13:24-32; and the Song of Praise is Psalm 16. The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal high priest, pleading for us at the right hand of the Father. He is the Son of God and Son of Man, who will come in glory to judge all the nations at the end of time.

In the vision of Prophet Daniel, he heard among other things, that when the end comes, "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." (Dan. 12:2). This vision also contains good news for those that lived their lives wisely on this earth. Many shall shine like the stars forever. As we reflect on Daniel's prophetic vision and the words of Christ in the gospel, heavenly bodies are affected in both readings. The point of reflection today also includes the question as to who controls the heavenly bodies. Why did the Lord Jesus warn his disciples, us, of the happenings? It evokes the need for preparedness, to be vigilant, to stay awake and not be taken unawares. Daniel and Mark did not write just to terrify their audience. "They also wrote to comfort their listeners, to give hope during time of persecution." Certainly, terrible things would happen, those in God's favor will be saved or rescued. They shall escape the horrible things and live in joy eternally. Let these messages serve to strengthen us in our commitment to follow Christ. If heaven and earth will pass away, then what follows, what would remain?

From the book of Hebrews we learn of Christ and his priesthood, and the sacrifice he offered of himself for us. "For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated." (Heb.10:14). This is the good news of his reason for coming to earth for us, according to Philippians 2:6-8. Christ's perfect sacrifice is our reconciliation with God, which earned for us eternal redemption, because his death is an expiatory sacrifice for all eternity, (cf. Rom. 3:23-26 and 6:23). Christ's single sacrifice on the cross has brought us salvation the forgiveness of our sins. Therefore, the sin offerings of goats and sheep and all other animals and birds, are altogether obsolete. This is because Christ's sacrifice is the perfect sacrifice offered with divine blood, (cf. Heb. 9:11-14).

**Son of Man:** The authority of the Son of Man is established and fully highlighted in today's gospel, (cf. Mk 13:24-32). He has power and glory, and commands the angels. The angels belong to him. He will send them to "gather his elect." (Mk 13:27). Today's readings are preparing us for the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The triumphal entry of the Son of David into Jerusalem prefigures the Feast of Christ the King, to be celebrated next Sunday. Let us be aware that it is a gathering for the Last Judgement. The first reading today (cf. Dan 12:1-3) reminds us that only those whose names are found written in the book, the Book of Life, (cf. Rev 20:15), would be saved. The final end, the Judgement Day, is the Almighty Father's prerogative, meaning that the Father determines when, (cf. Mk 13:32). All we must do here on earth is to be prepared, ready and be at alert.