

Pastoral Reflection
November 13-14
33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

We are nearing the end of the Church year, and our readings today reflect the “End of Times.” This is the time when we will be united with the Communion of Saints as Jesus call all of us to him in the Glory of God, united in the Spirit. Does this fill us with excitement because we are a community called to God’s work, or do we feel somehow lacking as we see the state of the world today and wonder what we can do to bring about God’s reign?

I’ve been thinking a lot about the Communion of Saints this month, as we honor our ancestors. One of the questions that comes to my mind is whether there will be persons in that communion of saints that I have not loved as I should. Will I meet the people I have failed to love in my life with joy, or trepidation? Is there time to repair the relationships? Is there time to reach out in love and hope that my efforts are enough? Jesus tells us, “we know not the time.” What if some of the relationships aren’t ours to repair? What if we know that some failed relationships require time, and a reconsideration on someone else’s part? Many of you know that my Granddaughters have come to live with us. My daughter told them to leave because they weren’t showing their step-father, whom they fear, enough respect.

Even though I try hard these day to live as Christ commands and to follow his teachings, especially for social justice, I sometimes find myself doubting if I’m good enough. Right now, it’s very difficult to listen to some of the things my daughter accuses me of, and not wonder if I’m the one who is not loving enough, or not being a good mother to her as I try to take care of my grand girls. It amazes me how hurtful someone can be when you believe you have treated them with unconditional love. So I keep loving my daughter and the grand girls, and I keep praying that somehow Jesus is with her and her husband. With God, all things are possible, so I pray this is possible, too.

Do you look at the second coming as a time of fear or joy? Since we know not when the end will happen, it seems that how we choose to live our lives in the present will determine the answer to that question. If we choose to journey with Jesus in our day to day lives, we can live in confidence that the end times will be times of great joy and faith, whenever we are called to Him. If we live in Jesus’ love and service every day, we will know that being called to a new life with Him is a call to a deeper presence with him, one that can only be entered with eternal joy and faith. We will enter the Communion of Saints, embracing all we encounter with the unconditional love of Christ.

Next week, we will celebrate the Feast of Christ the Healer, with the anointing of the sick at each Mass, so that we can enter into the Advent Season with healthy bodies, minds, and hearts, devoted in our love for Jesus and for each other. As we await with love and anticipation the first coming of Christ, let us not forget our preparation for the second coming of Christ, whenever Christ comes for us and we become part of the Communion of Saints.

