



WEEKLY REFLECTION

On the Word of the Lord and the Message of Our Lady
A Guide on Living Our Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

12th Sunday in the Ordinary Time (Year A)
June 25, 2017

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Dear brothers and sisters,

Ave Maria!

After celebrating the great solemnities of Pentecost, Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi, we return to the Sundays of the Ordinary Time. The readings this Sunday exhort us to boldly proclaim all that was “*hidden*” and “*whispered*” in the light of divine revelation, despite the rejections and persecutions that would leave us shaken. Jesus assures us in the Gospel: “*Do not be afraid*” (Mt. 10:26-33).

Warning us of the “*darkness of this hour of trial for the Church,*” Our Lady also exhorts us to have confidence in Her Immaculate Heart, from which shines forth the light to illumine our path. “*Live only the present moment with trust and complete abandonment, in this Heart of mine*” (113 a-c, q). We will read “**Of What Are You Afraid?**” (Message 113) from the book “*To the Priests Our Lady’s Beloved Sons.*”

I. GOSPEL READING (Matthew 10:26-33)

“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

Points for Reflection

Jesus has forewarned his disciples of the serious opposition and violent persecutions that they would face as bearers of the Gospel. They are sent in mission like “*sheep in the midst of wolves.*” In the Gospel reading, Jesus spells out the reasons why they (and we, too) should be bold and fearless.

1. “**Nothing is covered that will not be revealed, hidden that will not be known.**”

Referring to the teachings that he gave them in a relatively quiet and unobtrusive manner, Jesus indicates to them that they will have to proclaim these teachings “*on the housetops.*” No matter how skeptical the world is of their message, they should never doubt in its truthfulness. One day, it will be crystal clear and will be gloriously manifest to all. With this assurance, they simply need patience and perseverance.

2. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

Stronger than the fear of doubt, the fear of physical suffering is instinctive and deep within us. However, this is only temporal and physical and is likewise empty. What we should fear, rather, is *“the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.”*

It is true that Satan seeks the ruin of our souls in Gehenna, or hell. However, it is ultimately our own choice to either resist or give in to the trap he offers us disguised as a satisfying path to happiness. If we grant him a foothold in our lives, he can certainly lead us to our destruction. We should, therefore, resist his tactics by being constantly alert to his deceptions. Neither should we underestimate him nor overestimate our own strength over him. In this sense, the fear of Satan means an informed vigilance against the great damage this enemy can do to us if we let him.

3. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

What more could Jesus say to give us great confidence than God’s love and care for us. He is our Father who knows everything that happens in the world. Not even a tiny, insignificant sparrow dies without his knowledge. *“Even all the hairs of your head are counted.”*

Dispelling our fear of any danger from anyone, we have courage to do what He asked of us. Still, our response is crucial: *“Everyone who acknowledges Me before others, I will also acknowledge before My heavenly Father. But whoever denies Me before others, I will deny before My heavenly Father.”*

We are confident in Jesus’ promise that we who declare our faith in Him before others will be remembered before our heavenly Father.

II. OUR LADY’S MESSAGE: "OF WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID?" (Message 113)

December 4, 1976
First Saturday

- a. My beloved sons, be ever more docile, and allow yourselves to be led by me with complete confidence.
- b. In the darkness of this hour of trial for the Church, you are called by me to walk in the light.
- c. The light shines forth from my Immaculate Heart and comes to you to envelop you and illumine your path.
- d. Stand firm; never again must you doubt! Your road is safe because it has been marked out for you by your heavenly Mother. How much my motherly Heart is saddened by the doubt and mistrust which is taking more and more hold of the souls of so many of my priest-sons! Why do you doubt? Of what are you afraid?
- e. Jesus redeemed you from the Evil One at the very hour of his triumph: *‘This is the hour of Satan and of the power of darkness’ (Lk. 22:53).*
- f. My Son Jesus gave you life forever at the very hour when He was slain on the Cross.

- g. At the moment of his death, He set all of you free from death.
- h. My Church, of which I am the Mother, lives again the life of Christ and is now called to tread the same path He trod.
- i. Of what, then, are you afraid?
- j. Of a world that has hurled itself with violent hatred against you? Of Satan who has succeeded in making his way into the heart of the Church and of reaping his victims from among its very pastors? Or of the error which menaces it, or the sin, which darkens it more and more, or the infidelity which floods it?
- k. This, my beloved sons, is for my Church still the hour of Satan and of the power of darkness.
- l. It will be also immolated like Christ on the Cross and be called to die for the salvation and the renewal of the world.
- m. And since this is the hour of your purification, it is above all the hour of your suffering.
- n. Could it perhaps be this that you fear?
- o. But what if the Father has called you now, one by one, from all eternity for this hour? And what if your heavenly Mother has long since chosen you and prepared you for this hour?
- p. Live then in serenity of spirit and without fear, even in the midst of the anxieties and threats of your time.
- q. And so I say again: do not be always peering into the future to see what is going to happen. Live only the present moment with trust and complete abandonment, in this Heart of mine.

Points for Reflection

1. The Light in the Darkness of This Hour of Trial

Like Our Lord in the Gospel, Our Lady warns us of the *“darkness of this hour of trial for the Church,”* the hour of our *“purification”* and *“suffering.”* She exhorts us to have confidence in Her Immaculate Heart, from which shines forth the light that illumines our path (113 a-c) - Jesus, her Son, who redeemed us from the Evil One at the very moment of his death. At the hour of his triumph, he set all of us free from death (113 e-g).

2. Of what, then, are you afraid?

Seeing the Church still under the power of Satan and darkness, Our Lady explains that the Church lives again the life of Jesus and is now called to tread the same path that he trod (113 h). It will also be *“immolated like (him) on the Cross and be called to die for the salvation and the renewal of the world”* (113 l).

3. Stand Firm and Serene

In the midst of the anxieties and threats of our time, Our Lady exhorts us to stand firm in serenity of spirit and not fear. We should not be peering into the future to see what is going to happen.

We need only to live the present moment with trust and complete abandonment in her Immaculate Heart.

Yours in the Immaculate Heart,
Fr. Omer

Note:

This reflection is shared with all cenacle and other prayer groups (priests and laity), communities and Marian organizations, associations and movements within and outside of the Philippines, with Our Lady's words transcribed verbatim for those who do not have copies of the messages. This may also be shared with private individuals for their personal use. Our Lady's messages are taken from the book: "To the Priests Our Lady's Beloved Sons," a compilation of 604 messages in the form of locutions given by the Blessed Virgin Mary through Fr. Stefano Gobbi of Italy.

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