



Homily for
THE THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
12/13 November, 2016

Fr. Dwayne's homily follows...

33rd Sunday – C – 2016 November 13, 2016 Holy Spirit (SH/HT)

Malachi 3:19-20a II Thess 3:7-12 Lk 21:5-19

I. What fears grip your heart? What are your worries – anxieties – concerns?
Most likely every one of us carries

around some kind of concern or worry or even fear in our heart everyday. These may small – perhaps just tasks one needs to get done throughout the course of the day. Or perhaps we worry a great deal about our loved ones – or our future – or the future of the world.

Each of the readings today deal people preoccupied with the future – so much so that it fills their hearts with fear and distorts how they are living now.

Writing more than 400 years before Christ, Malachi prophesies the good will be rewarded and those who are evil will punished severely.

“Lo, the day is coming, blazing like an oven, when all the proud and all evildoers will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire, leaving them neither root nor branch.”

In the gospel Jesus addresses coming destruction...there will be wars and insurrections, nation will rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom...there will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place. It all sounds very frightful.

And Paul writes to the Thessalonians who have become preoccupied with the

Second Coming of Christ. They have become disorderly and so distracted by this that some of them have quit working! Paul reminds them that when he and his company were with them, he instructed them that if someone was unwilling to work, then that person should also not eat!

II. Fear – worries – even stress over everyday concerns have a way of disorienting us causing us to lose focus. We should not allow such things to take control of us, but rather see this as an opportunity to stand up more boldly and demonstrate who we are faithful disciples of Jesus.

Are you a stay-at-home mom? Perhaps a nurses' aide, receptionist, waitress, dental assistant. Do you work on an assembly line or in the office? Do you work construction...carpenter, electrician, plumber, mason, excavating? Are you a teacher, supervisor, doctor, custodian or mechanic?

Regardless of your profession...what does your day look like? What is the rhythm of your day – and how can you profess your faith in word and deed throughout the day? Boldly sharing our faith helps to bring perspective to fear – bring down the anxiety – defuse the concern. But that doesn't mean being aggressive or speaking loudly when making a case for Christ. Sharing faith is most effective when it becomes a normal and natural part of the way we conduct ourselves throughout the day.

III. That could mean...

- making the extra effort to be patient with a difficult child
- offering a friendly greeting to a co-worker
- taking time to talk with a discouraged teenager
- sharing lunch with a classmate who always eats alone
- at school...breaking out of your group of friends to talk with someone who has few friends
- using respectful language throughout the day
- visiting someone whose spouse is fighting cancer
- encouraging a young adult who is seeking a path through life
- just slowing down long enough from a busy life to truly be present to someone

In these – and so many other simple ways – we can help to bring sanity to life, diminish fears and anxieties – and in this way be the face and hands and

presence of Christ to others. We must be bold in living and professing our faith in the world today: our own day-to-day world in which we live – and within the culture and big world we live in. The gospel of Jesus is the best hope for all of humanity. As Jesus said, there will be calamities: wars and insurrections, violence and terror, stresses of every kind. But in the end, God is still the God of the living. God’s word and God’s love will prevail.

IV. Malachi prophesies not only the doom, but hope as well, “But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays.” And in spite of persecutions, challenges and stresses of every kind, Jesus assures us, “By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”

V. So what are the fears and worries and concerns that grip your heart? Doesn’t the love and presence of Christ in your life put all of that in perspective?