

Living a Mystery

By Father John Catoir - (2/7/17)

The late Cardinal Suhard wrote, “Our mission does not consist in engaging in propaganda, nor in stirring people up; rather, our mission consists in living a mystery. This means that we live in such a way that our lives would make no sense if God did not exist.”

Life can be harsh at times; loved ones die, threats of war abound, fears are widespread. But Catholics have an advantage in the game of life. We possess a body of wisdom that has saved us from much confusion and dread. We have the gift of faith; we have the Apostle’s Creed.

This body of wisdom is grounded in the thinking of Jesus Christ. We believe in the Holy Catholic Church, which He founded. We believe in the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of Sins, the Resurrection of the Body, and Life Everlasting, Amen. This Creed is part of the collective wisdom that protects us from undue fear.

As we live out the months and years of this mysterious life, we listened when Jesus said, “Peace be with you-in this world you will have many troubles, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.” (John 16-33). What could be more challenging, than being cheerful when everything seems to be sliding off the rails?

St. Paul writing in Hebrews, Chapter 3, verse 1, said, “That is why all of you, holy brothers and sisters, have had the same heavenly call. Turn your minds to Jesus, the high priest. Be faithful as he was faithful to the one who appointed him. Rejoice always.”

Among all the people on planet earth, the followers of Christ stand as witnesses to truths that transcend the limits of human imagination. We have the capacity to laugh at death, because we know our destiny and purpose lies beyond this world. Of course, this attitude of faith does not come naturally to us, but isn’t that what faith is all about? We accept the mysteries revealed by Jesus Christ, without fear or hesitation, or at least we pray to be able to do so.

If you want to be holy, take Jesus at his word. He said, “Peace be with you.” This is a call to courage. It urges you to remain calm in the storms of life. Trust the Lord in spite of all the turmoil. Claim the fact that you are in the embrace of God’s protective care.

You may not feel His comforting love at any given moment, but supernatural love transcends feelings. It is a joy that this world cannot give. Whether you are joyful or sad at this moment; the Lord elevates you to live in his Joy. Simply by abiding in Him you become a new creation. When St. Paul says, “Rejoice always,” he is assuring us that Joy is possible.

Keep in mind. Joy is not only a gift, it’s a choice. Joy is in the will. We were given the Holy Spirit of Joy at Baptism, but to make it come alive in the true sense, we have to claim it every day with courage and perseverance. By doing so, we discover that our transformation in Christ is well under way.

Always respect the words of Jesus, “Fear is useless, what you need is trust.” If The Lord was speaking to you this very day, he would say: Thank you for your many years of service and struggle. Thank you for being my messengers of joy.