

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020
Friday of the 25th Week in OT
Luke 9: 18-22

“THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING.”

There is time for everything, and time will only be meaningful with our beloved, our loved ones, with our parents, brothers and sisters, and with our God. This is the theme of our First reading for today, and if we really listen and reflect on it, we can say that this is our life here on earth and the anticipation of our life in heaven. This year is a remarkable year with a lot of challenges because of this pandemic. And this reading is so appropriate as it considers the common ups and downs of life.

“Life here is presented as equally divided between things which bring pleasure and sadness, comfort and pain. Each has its own ‘time’ slot, so to speak, and we have little control over one or the other. Our occupations – some bringing joy, others pain – are overshadowed by the inevitable end in death. Death casts its shadow on life, which is a series of contradictory acts, some of them listed here, but all end in the meaninglessness of death. We are subject to times and changes over which we have little or no control. Only one thing remains supreme – the all-knowing and all-loving God. We are totally in His hands and the sooner we realise that the happier we will be.”¹

The First Reading talks about the parallelism of life: “a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time

¹ Daily homilies -living space

to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.”²

My brothers and sisters, we need to try our best to be the person God wants us to be because at the end, there is only few questions that He will asks us: “Do you live your life to the fullest? Do you loved and inspired other people by and through your everyday life?” In this time of pandemic, chaos and uncertainties, “as Christians, we know that Jesus is still in charge of the situation. He has ‘made everything appropriate to its time’ (Ecclesiastes 3:11). He is with us in this pandemic, just as He has been with us in all our other trials. And because He is with us, He continues to pour out His blessings, even amid the challenges. He gives us the grace to deal with the obstacles we face. He invites us to unite our sufferings to His on the cross. And He holds out the promise of new life, both now and forever.”

Let us also remember that we are all pilgrims passing through here on earth. We are not permanent here and have will not last forever in this world. Our essential goal is not to be reached here on earth because in the first place it does not and cannot exist. Our ultimate goal is beyond this life, in the place wherein God will be with us. As Peter proclaimed in our gospel You are “the Christ of God”³ we too must proclaim, believe and live that He is our Savior, and will be our Master and our ultimate goal to be with. In all of these, we may also say: “Thank you, Lord, for being our stronghold and our fortress during life’s ups and downs. Amen.”

² Ecclesiastes 3: 2-8 NRSV Catholic Bible Press, USA

³ Luke 9: 20 NRSV Catholic Bible Press, USA