

***Thirty-Third Week of Ordinary Time  
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost  
November 16, 2025  
Year of the Holy Spirit***

*“Death teaches us that we’re weaker than we thought—we’re mortal—and there must be something more than this. There must be a love that is stronger than death. That type of love is the deepest longing of all our hearts. It’s the love for which we were made. And as life draws to a close, our hearts long for it more, not less.”*

*(Scott Hahn, Hope to Die: The Christian Meaning of Death and the Resurrection of the Body, pp.7-8)*

As we approach the end of the Catholic Church’s Liturgical calendar, we are invited to reflect upon the eschatological reality in which we now live. As a reminder, Eschatology refers to the Last Four Things all must encounter — Death, Judgment, Heaven or Hell. Some, addressing this topic, may refer to it as “The End Times.” This weekend, I would like to focus our reflection upon one of these four: Death. It is my intention to present death, not as something dreadful to be feared, rather something beautiful. It can be that final moment when the soul quietly reclines into the loving peace of Christ. I stress “can be” because it also has the potential to “not be” dependent upon how one prepares during their lifetime.

In his book A Time to Die: Monks on the Threshold of Eternal Life the author, Nicolas Diat, recounted a conversation he had with a priest, Father Michael, as they walked discussing the eminent passing of a religious brother. When asked if religious (brothers or sisters) have a difficult time abandoning those things of earthly life, Father Michael responded: *“Religious life does not prevent us from loving the earth. We love it differently, and perhaps more, because the earth is more beautiful with the eyes of faith. Nature is more beautiful, souls are more beautiful, human relationships are more beautiful.”*

This is the crux of our entire reflection. Through the eyes of Faith, all things become more. All becomes more valued, beautiful, desirable. We know this to be true for as we have gradually aged, we have found one truth which daily tugs at our inmost being, a pull for union with Love. Our hearts long to be drawn upward into a Love which knows no end. Our bodies and our intellects, gradually slowing, hold us fast to the present. And, in this present moment some will struggle with fear, confusion and doubt. For the Christian, the fear of death should not be an area of struggle. Our faith in the words of Jesus should calm us. For the God who created us knows us fully. He knows that mental or psychological suffering can be as debilitating as physical suffering. His words wipe these fears away: *“I am with you always, even to the end of the world”* (Matthew 28:20).

A person may live a life of doubt or disregard toward God and His Commandments. Nevertheless, each person will find themselves standing before His Divine Judgment Seat at the end of their days. It will be in this moment that all will be revealed. And, in this moment, one of two realities will occur — Love or Catastrophe. Love which conquers all things including death. Love which daily reminds man that he is destined not for this earth. Love which, as the end approaches, draws man deeper and deeper into Love. For Love is not a thought nor a feeling, but a person. Love is The Person of God. It is a God who embraces His Beloved and consoles their heart which sought for Him whom they followed. Or, it

is a catastrophe with eternal ramifications. One that did not seek daily to live their best life obedient to His Commands. One which might have desired to follow His Words, but chose to follow tomorrow, putting off today the conversion necessary through purification. Alas, one wholly unprepared for this inevitable moment – standing face to face with Love, regretting a life of sluggish half-hearted attempts to respond to this Love.

My family, death, our death, is not something to fear. For how can one fear Love? We were never made to remain here apart from Him who is our First Love. And, as we draw closer to Him, to Love, the more He will draw closer to us and we will move away from all that is not Him, is not Love.