

FEAR NOT LITTLE FLOCK. *There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your father to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)* In the Gospel according to John Jesus is encouraging us with these beautiful words as well. ***I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.***

John 16:33 The Gospel admonition **fear not**, is now in our society. Fear is in the air. Trust has been diminished. Some many institutions including churches no longer enjoy the trust that they once did. Much and more we are a little flock in a world of opinions for spirituality and we are a sacrament and a sign for the world because the thing to be most feared is fear itself; **Fear is the true enemy of Love**. That should not be our attitude towards life but an attitude of commitment with our faith always remembering Jesus already won the battle for us but we need to contribute with our everyday efforts. I'm thinking in many People that received the crown of martyrdom because their faith in Jesus. In the second reading we find a beautiful definition about what faith means: ***Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen.*** And the author of this letter is giving us examples of true faith in the old testament..

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah. In the same way we do everything we do, our duty, work, help in Church because our faith in Jesus. In today's gospel Jesus urges us to have this attitude: always ready. Always ready for the moment when we will meet him. He's encouraging us to live each day ready to love. In that way, we're storing up treasure for the day when we will meet God face to face. It's good to reflect on the question: *how would I like to meet God? We don't know when or how, but we will die. How ready am I to meet him?* Jesus wants us to be ready for that moment. We will die as we have lived, and if we've lived by sacrificing ourselves for others, trying to do our best every day for the good of others, we'll be ready. This part of Jesus' discourse **balances out** what he says about **not worrying**. These parables paint a **vivid picture of who Christ is and what the Church is**. The **clearer** that picture is in our minds, the **better** we will be able to live as true Christians. In these parables, Christ portrays himself as **the master of the house**, the head of a grand estate. He instructed his listeners **not to fret about worldly concerns**, but to trust in God's Providence. But he knows that **some** people will tend to turn that invitation into an **excuse** for laziness, irresponsibility, so now he

shows the other side of the coin. "You also must be prepared," How am I preparing myself every day? What does it mean to be Prepared? He tells his followers, like servants standing ready for the return of their master any minute. If we want to live in communion with God forever, to **experience the fulfilment** he promises in **this** life and the **next**, we need to make **friendship with God** the **number one priority** of our lives. The good things of this **earthly** life, its pleasures, challenges, and occupations, will **come to an end** when the Master returns. To live as if they were going to last **forever**, therefore, is foolish. Jesus wants to make sure we **don't act like fools**. Peter asked: Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone? One steward must to be faithful...I can see how Jesus is asking us to be honest, to be generous with him with our response, with the church because when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him. With this, he teaches us that every human **life** is a **task**, a **mission to know, love, and serve God in a unique way**. Our "treasure" (what we most value and desire) consists **not** in the passing pleasures of this life, but in discovering and fulfilling that **supernatural** task and mission that is The kingdom

of God taught by Jesus and conquered with no fear at all because **surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**"

Fr Luis Herrera

7th August 2016

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time