

Time Could Be Running Out!

Do you ever get the feeling that maybe our time on earth might be soon running out? The dwindling economy, lack of morals, wide-spread abortion, euthanasia, cloning, and all the other ills of our world all caused by sin and the casting out of God's 10 Commandments from our very own governmental laws.

You can sense it. Our world, as we know it, could be about to fall apart. What are we all going to do?

Isn't it about time that we think about our life after death? After all, this is not our real home, thank God. We constantly get side-tracked by Satan and often don't even think about where we will be spending our eternity, either in Heaven or in hell. Satan surely doesn't want us to believe that there is a hell. He only wants us to focus on living this life in lustful sin and not even thinking about the future at all. If we end up in hell, he will surely be laughing and torturing us forever and ever. We must believe in it and fear it.

Hell is real and everything that the Lord told us about it really exists. Don't let anyone tell you that it isn't real. That is the devil's biggest lie, "don't worry, there is no hell". Jesus Himself spoke of hell as a lake of fire, where the worms die not and the fires would not ever be quenched. There have been several people who have seen what hell is like and have written about it. Mary Baxter, who authored "A Divine Revelation of Hell", was taken to hell by Jesus for 40 nights and thoroughly explains hell in her writings.

Jesus is about to return to judge the world. How do we know this? The signs of the coming of the Lord are all around us. Many modern day prophets have been telling us.... get ready! Who are these modern day prophets? One of these most significant ones has recently been made a saint in the Catholic Church.

Her name is Saint Faustina. Jesus appeared to her in 1931 and He told her that she was going to prepare the world for His Second Coming. Jesus told her to write down everything that He would tell her about His Divine Mercy. She spent the next 7 years recording the words of Jesus, which have been published worldwide in her diary "Divine Mercy in My Soul". The Catholic Church has determined that what she wrote in that book is true. We have to take serious notice if the Catholic Church itself has approved it.

Jesus told Faustina that He would be coming soon and that He was going to pour out His mercy before He comes. Jesus told her that He would be pouring it out, like a whole ocean, on a feast that He wanted to be celebrated in His Church. He promised to give people a very special and incredible pardon on this feast that He wanted celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. The Catholic Church did a very thorough investigation and made that an official feast in the year 2000, right on that Sunday that Jesus wanted.

So, if Jesus said that He wanted a new feast celebrated in "His" Church and the Catholic Church has responded, then it must truly be His Church. What is even more alarming is what else Jesus said about this feast: that it would be the "last hope of salvation". So how much time do we actually have? Who knows, but Pope John Paul II actually died right on that feast! That should set off all the alarms! He is the Pope who instituted that new feast and declared that he had "fulfilled the will of Christ" by doing so.

So how do we get this special pardon that Jesus promised and what kind of a special pardon is it? Jesus gave us all the instructions, He said "The soul that will go to Confession and receive (Holy Communion on that feast) shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (taken from Saint Faustina's diary, entry #699). Some of you are probably wondering what this all means. The Church teaches that when you normally go to Confession, it is only your sins that are forgiven, and not the punishment that is due from the sins. That has to be worked out here on earth or in the flames of purgatory for much longer.

St. John Vianney said that "the fires of Purgatory are the same as the fires of hell; the difference between them is that the fire of Purgatory is not everlasting". He declared "How dearly we shall pay for all those faults that we look upon as nothing at all, like those little lies that we tell to amuse ourselves, those little scandals, and those little murmurings in the difficulties of life that God sends us"! St. Peter Damien said

that his sister remained several years in Purgatory because she had listened to an evil song with some little pleasure. Many people have cried out from Purgatory for prayers and help from their relatives.

How much more suffering would we have to make up for our many sins that are committed by us daily in this world that we live in today? I really don't think anybody wants to spend time at all in the flames of hell or purgatory. We all need to realize that this earth is not our true home. Heaven is our true home.

Jesus is offering us an unsurpassable deal on this feast. All we have to do is to make a good Confession and receive Holy Communion on that feast. If we were to die on that feast, after heartfully fulfilling the requirements, we would go straight to Heaven. That is a deal that none of us can afford to pass up. The Catholic Church has declared that this new feast will be celebrated every year on the Sunday after Easter and has named that feast, Divine Mercy Sunday. It is being officially celebrated in every single parish.

So what if you are not a Catholic? That is a good question and something that, in the light of this new feast, needs to be addressed very seriously. First of all, Jesus said that He wanted the Feast of Mercy to be celebrated in His Church. If you want to receive the special graces that Jesus is promising, than you need to join His Church. We can't discount the fact that the Catholic Church has thoroughly investigated the writings of St. Faustina, whom Jesus gave the message to and was the first to establish this feastday.

Why take a chance on probably spending decades, or eternity burning in the flames of Purgatory or hell? Find out what it takes to come home to the one true Catholic Church and celebrate this great Feast of Mercy, which Jesus said would be the "last hope of salvation". Don't take a chance on where you will spend your time after you die. This life on earth is just a drop in the ocean of eternity. While there is still time we need to get right with God. Don't mess around with eternity. Today is the day of salvation, not tomorrow which may never come for many of us. You never know when you are going to die.

We have to remember that Jesus said that we have to go to "Confession and receive Holy Communion". If you are wondering how Confession first got started in the Church, it actually got initiated on the night of the Resurrection when Jesus first appeared to His Apostles. They were all in the Upper Room when all of a sudden, Jesus walked in and said to them "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John 20:19-31)

This act of Jesus must have been very important because it was the very first instruction to the Apostles, after His Death and Resurrection to begin His new Church. And this power of the Holy Spirit was meant to be passed down through Jesus' Church to the Apostles of today. For those of you who have suspicions about confessing to a priest, Jesus informed St. Faustina that He, Himself is actually there, waiting for us in the Confessional. Jesus said to her "*When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul. Make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of a priest it is that I am making use of; open your soul in confession as you would to Me, and I will fill it with My light.*"

So what could possibly be more important than preparing ourselves for eternal life? This Feast of Mercy, now called Divine Mercy Sunday, in the Catholic Church is our perfect opportunity to get right with God and a direct path straight into Heaven. There could be no better time than right now. We must always be ready to meet Jesus. Jesus is coming and He is giving us a "last hope of salvation". Don't mess around!

If you are a Catholic and have been away from the faith, then go to Confession and start going to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day. It is a mortal sin to knowingly miss Sunday Mass. Remember that a good Confession includes a promise to avoid sin again. You must plan on coming to Mass every Sunday. On Divine Mercy Sunday (the Sunday after Easter) you will receive the promise of Jesus for the forgiveness of all sins and punishment. The Church says you must confess your serious sins at least once every year.

For more information about Divine Mercy Sunday, go to www.MercySunday.com or call 772-343-9475.