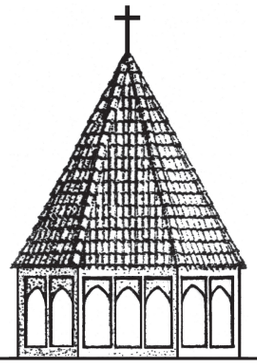
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The *Winnowing Fan* hopes "...to do what little it could to solve the evils that beset the Church."
St. Teresa of Avila



WINNOWING FAN

The Spiritual Life according to the Fathers and Saints of the Catholic Church in preparation for Christ's Second Coming.

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THE APOSTOLIC COMMISSION ON EVANGELIZATION III

The third step in evangelizing people according to the instructions of Christ to the Apostles is to teach the people all the commands of Christ. We must emphasize the importance of teaching them ALL the commands of Christ. Not just two or three but all.

Unlike the ten commandments of the God in the Old Testament that can be learned by any man of any nationality and from anywhere, the commands of Christ in the New Testament cannot be learned without the aid of Sanctifying grace because the commands of Christ are supernatural commands, therefore, the soul must be co-natural to those commands. As St. Thomas wrote, if the commands to be learned are natural, the soul can be natural. But if the commands to be learned are supernatural, the soul must be in the supernatural level, i.e. he must be without any mortal sin and in the state of grace. That practically excludes most Catholics.

Because most Catholics had lost their baptismal grace early in life due to inappropriate environment, most Catholics never had the grace to learn the commands of Christ in the New Testament. Thus they never obeyed the commands of Christ, never reached Faith, Hope and Charity and were never able to enter inside the Catholic Church. They are still outside, their salvation is in great peril and they don' know it.

ADVENT. Cycle A.

The Liturgical Year starts with the 1st Sunday of Advent. It ends with the Feast of Christ the King around November.

The entire Liturgical Year has three cycles; A, B and C. After cycle C the year begins again with cycle A and goes on and on.

The Liturgical Year, also, has a Year I and a Year II. The difference between these two is not significant.

The Liturgy of the Mass is the most important instrument by which Holy Mother the Church teaches her members. The Liturgy is the best school for unbelievers to know the Catholic Church; it is the best way to learn how to enter the Catholic Church; and it is the the only way to perfect one's spiritual life.

Thus, attending Mass as a family is the best way to raise up a truly Catholic family. A family that religiously attends Mass on Sundays, or better still, everyday, will need nothing else in raising a happy, balanced, and problemless family that is destined to go to heaven.

ADVENT – as a preparation for death.

Catholics believe in the last 4 things; namely, death, judgment, heaven and hell. It is an important reminder to Catholics that man does not just die. He is judged after he dies and is rewarded or punished according to his deserts.

This reward and punishment is based on the commandments of Christ. If a soul had obeyed all the commandments of Christ then he can be assured that he will receive a reward. If he has disobeyed some commands of Christ, then he is in danger of being punished in hell.

In any activity, we must know what is our end so that all activities can be oriented towards that end. If our end is to go to heaven then we must know the means towards that end. If we wish to go to heaven we must win a favorable sentence from Him who will judge us.

Worldly people often purchase hell at a very dear price by sacrificing themselves to please the world.

Blessed Henry Suso

HOW TO WIN A FAVORABLE JUDGMENT FROM GOD.

Every man who dies will undergo judgment from God. Lucky is the man who knows this. All sensible men know that there is a Creator and man has to give an account on how he used His creation. That is Judgment Day.

Like in any court case, it must be proven that the law was obeyed. God, in His mercy and goodness, gave us the laws which we must observe to win a favorable judgment before His Divine Court.

At this point we must make certain we know who is the Judge and on which court the trial will be heard. Imagine all the mess that can happen if we go to the wrong judge and wrong court and studied the wrong laws.....which is happening to all false religions.

THE LITURGY TELLS US WHO IS THE JUDGE.

Who will the Divine Judge be? Catholics believe in the Blessed Trinity; i.e. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. However, by attribution the judging of all men will be done by God the Son, Jesus Christ.

We say by attribution because all the three Persons will judge all men since the three Persons are One God. But to simplify the truths, the 'Judging of the living and the head' will be done by Christ 'when He comes'.

Those words 'when He comes' is either on our death or on the Last Judgment at the end of the world.

The Advent season tells us about the birth of this Divine Judge.

If you pile up on one side of the scales all the rest of spiritual efforts and practices, and on the other–silence, you will find that the latter outweighs them all. Many are the counsels that men have; but if a man embraces silence, superfluous for him will be the work of keeping to them and superfluous will prove his former practices; he will prove to have surpassed these activities, for he has neared perfection.

When you face God in prayer, become in your thought like a speechless babe.

St. Isaac of Syria

WHEN WILL THE JUDGE COME.

He will come at a time nobody expects like on a cold Christmas night. Nobody knew. The sheperds and the Magi had to be personally invited by His Father.

Or as the 1st Sunday of Advent described it 'as on the day of Noah.' Nobody knew it was coming. The populace was eating, drinking and marrying. People did not notice that it was raining and that the flood was rising until it was too late. God, Himself, had shut the door of the Ark. And the people of the world died by drowning.

The first lesson of Holy Mother the Church is very clear. And this is the first lesson: That death and judgment will come at a time we do not expect. And so what? That we must always be prepared.

BE PREPARED.

What does it mean to be prepared for death? Well, it has nothing to do with a plot in a Memorial park.

St. John the Baptist will teach us how to prepare. Preparation for Christ was John's main role. He is the main personality in the season of Advent, precisely, because God meant him to prepare the way for the Messiah, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity made man.

WHAT DID JOHN TEACH?

Before using a cup to drink water we must make sure the cup is clean. Before we invite a guest, we must see to it that our house is clean. Before we receive anything Holy, we must try to be sinless, at least.

To be judged worthy to be rewarded in heaven, we must be in the state of grace. Grace is a very holy thing. And we must make sure that the container, our soul, must be without stain.

So St. John preached a baptism of water to cleanse the soul before the arrival of grace from Christ. This baptism is called 'repentance.' Repentance is a process by which we find out what are our sins so we can remove them, thus cleansing our soul in preparation for grace.

When we pray, the voice of the heart must be heard more than the proceedings from the mouth.

St. Bonaventure

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