

“It’s the End of the World as We Know It…”

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mal 3: 19-20

Luke 21: 5-19

I haven’t been able to get the music from
R.E.M.’ s song out of my head
for two days!

Today’s scriptures are a wake-up call,
a reminder that just as the Church’s
liturgical calendar year is coming to an end,
so will the world and everything in it.

So we ought get our priorities straight
and place our hope
in God.

The secular doomsday scenario is global warming.
concern over our warming of the planet
has more and more of us
worrying that we should
implement strict guidelines for
consumer behavior, buying choices, regulating industries,
even,choosing lifestyles.

Does God have such a hold on the public imagination anymore?

The worldwide militant atheist movement
with science as their manifesto
calls most of us Christians,
not theists, or deists, but “apatheists.”
Apatheists are people who “don’t care much about their own religion,
even less about others’ religions.”

Some leading atheists wish to be called “brights…” (as in ‘bright lights’)
anyone enlightened enough to embrace
a worldview without supernaturalism
or mysticism

They hope not that religion will disappear entirely,
but that religions will simply cease to matter.

Whether permanent climate change is really on the way
or we’re simply in an extreme weather cycle,
it may be ultimately consoling for scientists
to believe we caused the changes,
rather than to admit something is happening
which we don’t understand.

Re-read today's Scriptures...

there's big climate change coming
to be sure,
but it's about the sun of justice,
not global warming and greenhouse emissions
and its about God's remaking creation
and rightwising the earth, not evolution.

I'm not proposing there's a vast scientific, atheist conspiracy,
I don't have the evidence.

But it's reported only 7% of leading scientists say they believe in God
at ivy league and leading university faculty
the percentage is equally small.

Remember Carl Sagan, the astronomer who developed the TV series *Cosmos*?

I didn't know he was an avowed atheist.

He wrote the mantra: "The cosmos is all there is or was or ever will be."

Sounds a bit like the modernist antidote to the doxology with which
we end the "Glory Be," doesn't it?

Look around, there are no gods, we're gleefully told,
WE are the gods, we create our own reality.

As Catholics, as parents, as evangelists,
we should be aware of both the subtle
and blatant anti-Christian messages
in mass media, and scientific reporting.

Even the Berenstain Bears in one of their children's books
are seen entering a forest emblazoned with the words,
"Nature is all there is there is or was
or ever will be."

(according to "What's So Good About Christianity" by Dinesh D'Souza;
a great Christmas gift for the high school or college student in the family)

Let's take this opportunity right before Advent
as the church's year comes to an end,
not simply to worry, but to pray.

Let's review God's place in our lives.

How does God influence the place of God in my life,
my spending, my recreation, my worship
my relationship with family?

Advent is coming, and it is well before the secular
obsession with New Year's resolutions.

We can resolve to prepare daily for Christmas

We'll have so many resources here at Church to help
Magnificat booklets, Little Blue Books or do some research
and choose your own. Consult any Catholic publisher,
or simply Google or look on Amazon for

Advent prayer resources. Pick one you like.
There are podcasts and reflections of all kinds
for the busy commuter.
Consider attending Daily Mass when possible,
come to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
There are two retreats this Advent,
 one for parents and children,
 another for adults only.

God will matter in the end,
do I live like God matters now.