

OUR LIFE – NOW AND FOREVER

I am prompted to write this piece because of what I see - and what I hear - as I observe human life around me at this particular time in history.

It was William Shakespeare who said in “A Tale of Two Cities”: “It was the best of times...it was the worst of times.”

A few hundred years later - I can agree with what the Bard of Avon said - but I can also take it several steps further and say that this is the most critical time in the history of the world: it has the potential of being the greatest of all times, and the most baneful and cataclysmic ever.

There are overwhelming signs of both present everywhere you look!

It is an exciting time in which we live; it is also a terribly dangerous time!

It is an amazing time in which we live; it is also a potentially fatal time!

It is a graced time; it is also potentially the most sinful of all times!

Let us begin at the beginning – at the beginning when there was nothing – but God! God – Triune – God Father-Son-Spirit – who as a *living, dynamic exchange of love* were perfectly happy as they were. They needed nothing at all!

This Trinity of Persons, however, wanted to share their amazing experience of “loving” with other persons outside of themselves. And so they created first the world as a suitable environment, and then the highest form of the creations: mankind, in their own image and likeness – to live in the truly awesome and majestic world that was made just for them. This meant that they were *created persons*; they were *filled with the glory of God*: they were created in the *image and likeness* of God.

As persons, they were given an enormous amount of gifts, the chief among which was *free-will* - because even though God created them for the express purpose of *loving and glorifying him* – he did not want to force this love from them. *It would have to be a free decision on their part.*

Everything was going along quite well until the devil – a fallen angel who “failed a test” that God had given him – who also had free will, and was dismissed from heaven, never to return – tempted our first parents to mistrust God to disobey him. Unfortunately, our first parents took the bait: they mistrusted and disobeyed. They used their free-will for the wrong purpose – *to make something of themselves* – to grab hold of what was not intended to be theirs – and they lost their “glory,” they lost the special gifts of God – though they still retained their status of being made in God’s image. And they were evicted from their home – to wander the earth, in a vale of tears!

The devil rejoiced! God the Father was very sad! The disobedient children of God were devastated.

Before this time our parents had nothing at all to worry about. God provided *everything* for them. Now they would have to fend for themselves. *Everything* would be a struggle. There would be pain and suffering; confusion, misunderstanding; lust and greed; anger and sloth; pride and envy! And most devastating of all – after a brief lifespan on earth - there would be death - which would be eternal and Godless.

This is not just a fictional story – this is fact! It is all true!

But God the Father – who out of justice expelled our parents from the Garden – from the first moment of the eviction - began to prepare for a Redeemer to be sent: someone who would make things right – someone who would save his beloved, foolish, wayward, lost children!

And so, he took thousands of years to prepare a family to receive the only person who could accomplish the task. He took, from among the tribes of the earth, one person who would believe in him as he really is: the One God (who was made up of Three Persons, but this was not revealed so early in the process). That one person was Abraham. And he promised Abraham that *his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky, or the grains of sand on the shore!*

From this array of believers would come *a nation of believers*, who would provide the setting for the arrival of the one qualified person to bring about the reconciliation between God and his people: *The Messiah! Jesus of Nazareth!* Only he could do it because he would be both man and God at

the same time. Fully man and fully God simultaneously! God had been offended, only God could make it up to God; man was the offender, man had to be the one making the offering (the offering that, of himself, on his own, could never go high enough or far enough to reach God).

This coming to earth of God is the most astounding fact of all time! **GOD BECOMES ONE OF HIS CREATURES!** This is truly amazing!

The Son was sent by the Father – and he accepted freely, willingly and lovingly the task – because like the Father, he loved each and every person who ever lived or will live on this earth! Emptying himself of his divinity, Jesus took on *all of our humanity* (except sin), so he could *redeem it all* – and make it divine! Everything about us he gathered into himself so he could change it into newness of life by his self-sacrificial death and subsequent resurrection!

There is no other way that this could happen.

JESUS MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD!
JESUS MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR WORLD!
JESUS MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN MY WORLD!

Or does he?

 Could he?

 Should he?

And so I ask: when I look around – especially at people who claim to be of his following – as I look at myself in the mirror - am I looking at people who have *really met* this Jesus, who *truly believe* in what his life is about, who *live out* what he commanded to be lived out – *LOVE* - if we want to live with him and his Father and the Spirit – and all like-minded brothers and sister forever – in heaven?

What evidence is there that Jesus is the central figure in our lives and of all of human history?

I am saddened to report that there is not as much evidence as it would seem there ought to be – as we survey conditions of people's lives throughout the world this very day, as we survey our own lives!

Perhaps I need to introduce another idea now that will help make my point. This is from “The Catechism of the Catholic Church.” I like to place it in the “Know Thy Enemy” category – that should be part and parcel of every member of the Church’s tool bag. It says this concerning THE ANTI-CHRIST:

“The anti-Christ is:

the supreme religious deception by which man glorifies himself in place of God and of his Messiah come in the flesh (Jesus Christ).

This is SECULAR MESSIANISM.

...There will be a final unleashing of evil and then God’s victory – which will cause his Bride to come down from heaven – the Last Judgment after the final cosmic upheaval of this passing world.”

This is very serious matter!

What disturbs me greatly is that the prevalent philosophy of the day – throughout the world – but most especially demonstrated in the United States - is what I call a *fatal subjectivism*. It says that “truth” is simply “my truth.” Whatever I decree: is! Whatever I believe: is! Whatever I reject: is trash! Objective reality does not exist, because I say it doesn’t! Freedom of will means that I am absolute master of everything about my life – I am totally free to say and do whatever I please! What is fatal about this is that it denies the reality of God – who will not be denied – who will extinguish the reality of such deniers when the final trumpet is sounded!

But this need not be the case!

There *is* objective reality! There *is* a mind greater than our own, ruling and guiding and encouraging us along a safe path to reach eternal blessedness in an experience beyond our wildest imagining! There *is* God who is giving us every tool we need to make wise, prudent and loving decisions!

In “The Dialogue” of St. Catherine of Siena, God the Father relates to Catherine (while she is in a mystical state) – and to any soul who wants to know, some basic, point-blank, undebatable facts. He states very simply that **HE IS GOD!** Period! Everything comes *from* his Love, and is destined to return *to* his Love – so long as we do not place obstacles in our own way! He states that on our own we could never have “bridged the gap” between our fallen, sinful natures and his divine life and glory. There is

nothing we could have done to make up for what happened in the Garden so long ago! And so he sent his Son, as a man, to do what could not otherwise have been done. He calls the teachings of his Son (objective Truth, Truth-in-the-flesh), and his self-sacrificial death on the Cross the BRIDGE, the **only bridge** that could traverse the abyss between us.

He encourages Catherine, he encourages all of us: “**GET ON THE BRIDGE!** Grab onto the teachings of “my Truth” who is “my Son” “my Word” – hide yourself in the wounds of his Cross – wash yourselves in his Blood shed for the forgiveness of your sins – and you shall be safe! **THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!**”

In the tumultuous river below the bridge are all those who deliberately choose not to be either heading towards the bridge or actually on it – at any given time! And he says that we never can stand still: either we are heading towards it or away from it! The Father tells Catherine point-blank-between-the-eyes: “these souls are headed directly to hell and eternal damnation!” They gloried in themselves, rather than in me! They wanted to be children of Satan – and so they are – and will be forever!

These are very severe words! But they correspond entirely with the complete message of all of Scripture; all of the teachings of Jesus when he was among us; all of the teachings of the Church when he left us and sent the Spirit to carry on his work. It is the Spirit who is in charge now of coordinating the final push towards Judgment Day! *He wants to steer as many people as he can onto the BRIDGE, which is JESUS!*

A very vital question that is **NOT OPTIONAL FOR ANYONE LIVING** is this: “Do I want to be *on the bridge*; or in the *raging river* below?” Your answer will matter for all eternity! Believe me as one sent to propose the question! Believe God who sent me, by means of my ordination as a priest! Believe for your own salvation’s sake!

Remember, dear brothers and sisters, self-glorification, self-gratification, and ignoring the needs of our brothers and sisters is *spiritual suicide*; the same holds true of society as a whole: the supreme technological advances that are right around the corner – in which secular mankind will be tempted to declare itself “savior of the world” – is the sure and certain sign that the “anti-Christ” – the “anti-Messiah” has arrived in full force – and the cataclysmic upheaval that will usher in the Final Day will not be far

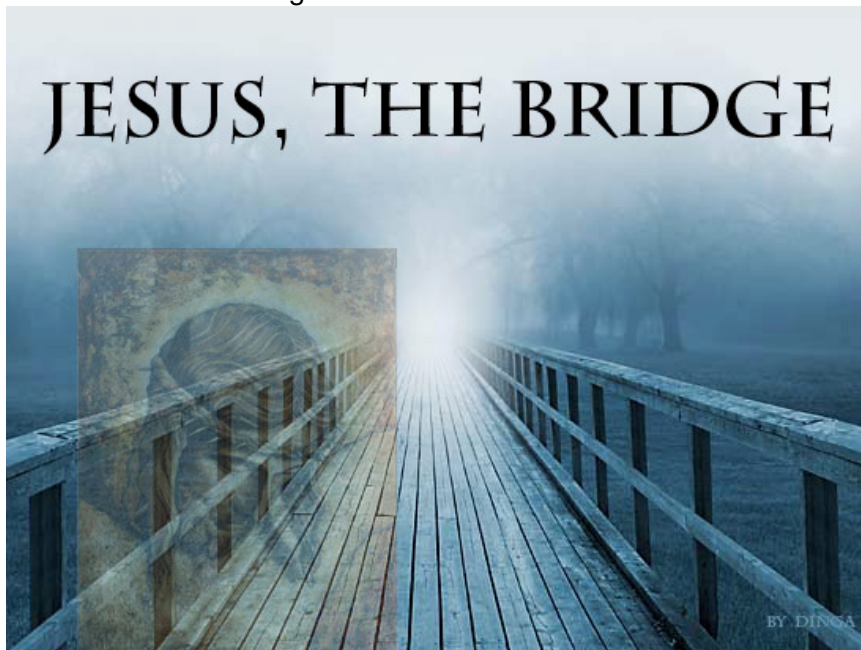
behind! There will be a new heaven and a new earth where Christ will reign as foretold, promised and installed! It is up to us to always keep ourselves and our society ready for the change that is to come – and that means keeping our priorities in line with God’s will!

The good news is that the anti-Christ has already been defeated – and for those on the BRIDGE, the Final Day of the Old Order will be an awesome, but wondrous day! They will be judged on how well they LOVED GOD FIRST, and how much THEY LOVED THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS to show their love for God – and how much they loved themselves who were privileged enough to be in an amazing relationship with their God!

The choice is yours! The choice is mine! The sooner we make the choice, stick to it, and make our lives reflect it – the more we can look around at each other and see people who have placed God the Father squarely FIRST in their lives; who deeply love Jesus his Son and our Lord and brother, who accomplished a reconciliation that would have been impossible if he never came to us; who experience the very life and power of the Holy Spirit in every loving thing they do!

Some practical suggestions to “get onto” and to “stay on” Jesus, the Bridge!

Treasure this rendering:



One could spend the rest of one’s life meditating on this scene!

As we have been created by God who is LOVE, and are to return to God who is LOVE to reside with him forever – LOVING is the way to stay immediately and intimately in touch with God. And how can this be done? May I offer challenging but useful spiritual tips to men, women and children everywhere: There are at least these several things that can be done - beginning with:

- *By praying always:* giving glory to God the Father, praise to God the Son, worship and thanks to God the Spirit – from the moment you wake up in the morning you can begin filtering every aspect of your day through this “prayer-net” – with a little practice!
 - But how do I do it?
 - The first way is the “silence!” In the quiet and stillness that is increasingly more difficult to find – “be still and know that He is God!” It really works – if you practice this long enough! “Listen” in the “Silence” so that you can “obey” and follow through with what you hear!
 - The second way is the way of talking to God. Just do it! Talk to God – as you would another person – because he is not only one other person, he is actually three!
 - *Believe and relate to God as YOUR Father; Jesus as your Lord, yes, but Brother and Friend; Holy Spirit, who is God’s LIGHT, and GRACE and STRENGTH – have several chats with them throughout the day!*
 - *As you live your day talking to God, you can expect him in many and varied ways to talk back to you – in good thoughts, in inspired moments, in the constructive, helpful, useful to others ideas that “pop” into your head*

- *By meeting up with him at Mass, in Church.* It has been said that Mass is “an experience of heaven on earth.” This is really true. The Trinity, the angels, saints, all faithful members who have died, and all who are alive right now are present wherever Mass is celebrated. This is the most supreme way in which God is glorified, worshiped, praised, honored and thanked! Full participation in this extraordinary event is not optional for one “on the bridge!”
 - When we listen to the Scriptures read and the homily given at Mass we hear Jesus speaking to us about what is objective truth, what is good, right, beautiful and just – what is the appropriate way to act and react to life as it comes our way.

- When we receive Jesus (and his Father, and the Spirit) in Holy Communion we make a heartfelt act of trust and obedience and ask that we may be used to further the growth of the Kingdom to which we are all invited!
- *By loving others whom you can see because you cannot see God directly, or love him the way he wants to be loved by you –*
 - God loves us FIRST, and UNCONDITIONALLY
 - We can't love him back FIRST, but we can do what he told us and love our neighbors – all of them – everyone, everywhere – first – before they can love us, or return our love – as unconditionally as possible.
 - In fact, God the Father insists and says that if we do not love our neighbors then we do not experience “loving,” we do not experience his presence (and that of his Son) in us, and we will not be spending eternity with them.
 - Sin, he tells us, always has everything to do with our neighbor. We sin when we do not love our neighbor as Jesus showed us how! Even and especially when we sit in our house and do not come into contact with our neighbor – we still sin – because we are not doing something positive for him. This does not mean that we must spend all our time outdoors canvassing the neighborhood – but it does mean that in the ordinary course of our day – all of the people who cross our path, or who we feel inspired to contact – are the ones deserving of our loving (which means self-sacrificial giving – even to the point of hurting) exchange.
 - Being in loving dialogue and exchange of service done deliberately because we love God – is a virtuous thing – and virtue will always be rewarded.
- *By loving ourselves – as temples of the Holy Spirit – as the place where Jesus and his Father come to visit – to refresh, nourish and encourage us. How we regard ourselves is very important. We are called to see ourselves as God the Father sees us – at all times. Taking care of ourselves physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually are essential for the service of which we can be for God in the lives of other people! And so, reflecting on the message from above – self-glorification, self-gratification, self-centered hedonism is*

always spiritually fatal! When we put ourselves in God's place – we are completely delusional and merit eternal death! There is no other way around it!

- This means that we can use all the gifts that God gives us to use for our own well being and that of our families – and friends. But we are never free to misuse them, to idolize them, to take any bit of glory away from God at all.
 - This is indeed an arduous and difficult task. Because of the remnants of original sin it is *very difficult* to rise above the three concupiscences: *to prestige, power, and pleasure*. And there always seems to be a very loud irrational voice justifying own claim on potentially poisonous and fatal elements in our lives.
 - JESUS CHRIST, by his DEATH ON THE CROSS, and his subsequent Resurrection has REDEEMED US. We must not forget this! This is why having a Crucifix visible in our homes is very important. “Redeem” means: *made it possible so that we do not have to be slaves of concupiscence any longer*: SO LONG AS WE ARE ON THE BRIDGE, so long as we KEEP OUR EYES FIXED ON THE CROSS OF CHRIST, so long as we immerse ourselves in the Wounds of Christ and wash ourselves in his Blood! It is possible to live a truly free, joyous and happy life –even here and now – as we await its fullness in the world to come!
 - Through Christ our Lord we can allow into our lives only that which is truly of God, truly “of the Bridge,” truly of one who is alive in God's love! And we can steer clear of that which is not! That which is clearly of the Evil one, clearly of the Deceiver, clearly of the Anti-Christ.

Try to look around now – look and listen – what do you see and hear? How many of our brothers and sisters are anywhere near the Bridge that is Jesus? I hope you see many, and pray for those who seem far from it!

It is a scary thought that a great many people may think that the contents of this paper might be less than what they are: there is nothing fictional, there is nothing untrue here – and there is most definitely everything at stake.

Can any of us afford not to accept the challenge of taking these words to heart?

What is comforting to know is that there is still time! The Final Day has not yet arrived! Jesus has not yet come as Just Judge. And because of his revelations through St. Faustina Kowalska, in our own day in age – there will be one last, final warning for everyone, everywhere.

“There will be darkness over the whole earth for a period of time, and a Cross will appear in the sky! In the place where the nails were pounded a white light will shine forth onto the earth. This will be the final announcement of available mercy! Those who turn to Jesus – those who grab onto his Cross – those who hide in his Wounds, those who ask to be washed in his Blood – **THOSE WHO ASK FOR MERCY** shall be saved! **JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!** Have mercy on me – and on the whole world!”

The time of mercy is before death; after death, there is no mercy, for anyone – there is only judgment!

The time is **NOW** to turn to God as ask for his mercy – he wants so very much to bestow it on us – he can think of nothing better than he would like to do for us – for he wants all of his children gathered into his house to live with him forever!

There is a perfect prayer that Jesus himself taught us: it can be used anywhere, at any time! It can surely keep us on the right path, the right road, leading across the one and only bridge from where we are to where he now resides: it goes like this:

Our Father, in heaven,
holy is your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not to the test,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

Please God, may we all meet on the other side of “the Bridge,” – when *the worst of times is turned into the best of times* – but this time, without “time” – at all!

Father William Dinga
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Feast of St. Agatha