

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 14-15, 2015

Readings: Daniel 12:1-3; Hebrews 10:11-14, 18; Mark 13: 24-32

This evening's Gospel began on a very sober note, eerily appropriate this weekend. Jesus said,

"In those days after that tribulation  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from the sky,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken."

Indeed, humanity is shaken, as we witnessed yet another horrific act of violence perpetrated by radical Islamic jihadists from ISIS who hate everything that we as Christians stand for and who want to injure, kill and maim as many people as possible. Equally important is their desire to disrupt our lives. Notice how the attacks took place on a Friday evening, at the end of a work week. People want to go out, be with their friends, go to dinner, a movie or a concert. It is an attack on the very fabric of society, intended to frighten us

"Having been informed about the horrific attacks that took place in Paris and at the Stade de France, causing the death of numerous people and injuring many others, His Holiness Pope Francis joins in prayer with the suffering of families affected by this tragedy as well as with the pain of the French people as a whole." The Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, said this in a telegram sent to the Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal André Vingt-Trois on behalf of Pope Francis.

Pope Francis "invokes God, the father of mercy, to welcome the victims in the peace of his light and bring comfort and hope to the wounded and their families. He wishes to assure them and all people who have been involved in the rescue operations, of his

spiritual closeness. Once again, the Holy Father expresses his strong condemnation of violence which does not resolve anything and asks God to inspire in everyone thoughts of peace and solidarity and to offer his abundant blessings to affected families and all the people of France.”

Vatican Spokesman Fr. Frederico Lombardi added: **For this reason I would say the Jubilee of mercy seems more necessary than ever.** A message of mercy, of God’s love, which brings reciprocal love and reconciliation. This is precisely the response that is needed in times of temptation and distrust.”

“Terror always seeks to separate us from those we most love. Through their suffering, courage and compassion, Parisians are reminding us that the common bond of humanity is strongest when the need is greatest.”

This cannot be a time of fear, but a time for all people of good will to come together to solve the growing problem of terrorism in a spirit of truth and justice. “May the tender and merciful love of Jesus Christ give you comfort during this great trial and lead you on a path toward healing and peace.”