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## Chancellor's Update

### Lord, We Are a People in Deep Trouble

In ancient times the Psalmist would often cry out to God about his serious tribulations. For example, *Hear, O God, my prayer, and despise not my supplication: be attentive to me and hear me. I...am troubled, at the voice of the enemy...For they have cast iniquities upon me: and in wrath they were troublesome to me. My heart is troubled within me: and the fear of death is fallen upon me.* (Psalm 54, 2-5)

In the Twenty-first Century God-fearing Christians might cry out in a similar manner. Lord, we are a people in deep trouble.

Lies are accepted as truth and truth is criticized, denigrated and despised.

Those who stand up for truth and Christian values are ridiculed and defamed.

Animals are protected, even with severe penalties for supposed violations, while the murders of millions of babies are greeted with silence or general acceptance.

Your gift of marriage to the human race is often rejected or its meaning expanded to include acts which You condemn.

The role of fathers as procreators, providers and protectors is often obscured or wrapped in confusion.

Many women, acting in defense of their supposed reproductive rights, act like Eve in defiance to You.

Parents' duties to their children are often superseded by government and bureaucracies.

Young people, even the smallest, are not taught about sin. Instead they are indoctrinated to avoid inappropriate behavior and crimes as designated by the government.

In institutions of higher learning, where students should be led to and reason to the Truth, they are directed to question and even deny Your existence.

Those who defend Your teaching and moral laws are made to appear evil by new meanings and interpretations of the Bible.

Sinister interpretations of heretical teachings pervert Apostolic Faith.

Desire of human glory causes many to achieve high places by doing acceptable 'good works', while ignoring grave sins and injustices in the culture.

Scientists and philanthropists, pretending to help families and the human race, invent novelties that manipulate and control the marital act and creation of life.

Rulers oppress and persecute those who attempt to obey the natural law.

Experts and professionals strive to instill guilt complexes into ordinary people, where no wrong or sin has been committed or is contemplated.

Many in high places in the government and in the culture, including Christians, support, promote and even mandate evil and call it good.

Generic prayers in Your houses of worship are often politicized rather than identifying the serious moral problems that require Your help.

Lambs and sheep, who try to live their lives as faithful Christians in a difficult culture, often receive little or no support or encouragement from Your shepherds.

The cultural decay continues as Christian civilization devolves into hedonism and paganism.

So the faithful wonder how long God will allow this state of affairs to continue.

God has many options to respond to the failings of His creatures, such as a *deus ex machina*, or He could raise up a saint to ignite a fiery reawakening of Christian life. He could decree that His patience was exhausted and punish by natural catastrophes or by military conquest. Or He could leave a sinful unrepentant generation to continue its lifestyle and machinations until it sinks into its own destruction and desolation. If this last option occurs, how should Christians live and act under such adverse circumstances?

St. John Chrysostom teaches, “He who suffers persecution from heretics, for refusing to abandon the truth, is...blessed: for he suffers for justice sake. And if one of the mighty of this world, who seems to be a Christian, corrected by you because of his sins, persecutes you; you are blessed in the company of John the Baptist. For if it is true that the Prophets who were slain by their own people were martyrs, then without doubt he who suffers anything for God’s sake, even though he suffered it from his own people, shall have the martyr’s reward. Because of this Scripture does not attach importance to the persons of the persecutors, but solely to the reason of the persecution: that you may not dwell on who it is that persecutes you, but why.”

St. Hilary notes, “He endows with blessedness those who are ready to suffer all things for Christ, Who is Himself Justice. For these therefore a kingdom is laid up, who in their contempt for the world are poor in spirit.”

St. Jerome adds, “We should rejoice and be glad that a reward is prepared for us in heaven. This he cannot do who seeks vainglory.”

Chrysostom continues, “The more a man rejoices in the praise of men, the more is he cast down when they speak ill of him. He who desires glory in heaven does not fear opprobrium on earth.”

Gloss writes, “He (Jesus) encourages them to patience, not only by reward, but also by example, when He adds: *For so they persecuted the prophets that were before you.*”

Matthew 5:12)

Therefore, while we must never slacken in our efforts to save our souls and to help to spread the Kingdom of God, remember the words of Our Lord, *Blessed are you when they shall revile you and persecute you and speak all that is evil against you, untruly, for my sake; be glad and rejoice, for your reward is very great in heaven.* (Matthew 5:11 - 12)

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