

Dear friends of St. Paul's,

This Sunday we will celebrate the great Feast of ***Christ the King*** as we come to the last Sunday of Ordinary time. Soon we will be entering the season of Advent and begin our Christmas preparations.

At this time of year the liturgical readings will speak of the end of time, of being prepared to meet the Lord and judgment. This Sunday we will read of Matthew's description of the Final Judgement. All people will stand before the Lord and be separated as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me."*

For the last couple of weeks my spiritual reading has come from a book authored by Pope Benedict, entitled, *The Fathers*. In 2007/08 Pope Benedict used his Wednesday audiences to do a series on the *Fathers of the Church*. The last chapter is dedicated to St. Augustine. Four years before he died, Augustine appointed someone to take over from him as bishop and that occasion he preached the following:

"In this life we are all mortal, and the day which shall be the last of life on earth is to every man at all times uncertain; but in infancy there is hope of entering boyhood...looking forward from boyhood to youth, from youth to manhood and from manhood to old age; whether these hopes may be realized or not is uncertain, but there is in each case something which may be hoped for. But old age has no other period of this life to look forward to with expectation: in any case how long old age may be prolonged is uncertain..."

As Augustine retired he dedicated himself to prayer and more intense study of Scripture and it was actually a time of intensely productive intellectual activity. But what was the object of this time? To know God and to be immersed in his Word.

In those final years of Saint Augustine's life, the world went through great distress. The barbarians were attacking what remained of the western Roman empire and Roman civilization was collapsing. Just before his death the Vandals had arrived in North Africa and his city, Hippo, was besieged.

Pope Benedict reflects on this time. Despite his old age, Augustine stood in the breach, comforting himself and others with prayer and meditation on the mysterious designs of God's providence. Like himself the world had grown old. The Roman world was truly old and it was dying.

But as Augustine preached in these last days, *“Yet as the world grows old, Christ is perpetually young; do not refuse to be rejuvenated by Christ... for he tells you, ‘Do not fear-your youth will be renewed like that of an eagle”*

As the pandemic grinds, are we not getting the sense that life is growing old and tiresome? There is a sense that the world we knew is dying. To what are we looking forward?

Saint Augustine reminds us that it is towards Christ towards whom we turn. For in Christ, and in his Resurrection from the dead, the world is renewed; and despite our own growing old, our own dying, we will be rejuvenated in Him.

Announcements:

- **At the time of writing this letter there have been no further restrictions placed on mass attendance. We still have room at all of our masses for those who wish to attend in person.**
- **Catholic Women’s League is sponsoring a virtual auction to fundraise for charity. It opens November 20 follow the link to sign up.**
<https://www.biddingforgood.com/stpcwlb>
- **Stop by the office to pick up your new offertory envelopes as well missals for the new liturgical year (\$5 each).**
- **Please make sure that your donations for the Saint Vincent de Paul Angel tree program are into the parish as soon as possible. The deadline is this weekend.**
- **With the assumption that there will be no further restrictions placed on churches in our area we are working on a sign-up system for the Christmas masses. Registration will be required and will be via the parish website. It will not go live until December 1st. Details will be outlined on the website in the coming days.**

Join us for Mass 9 am Sunday on Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulTheApostleBurlingtonOntario/>