

Exceptional Times Demand Exceptional Conduct

This point has on many occasions been pointed out in our Weekly Bulletins, as well as in our Sunday sermons: **"Exceptional times demand exceptional conduct."** Who is it in this day that can honestly say we do not live – now more than ever in the history of Man – in times of unprecedented developments. Our day is described in Sacred Scripture as a day when "all flesh has corrupted its ways." It is plain for all to see that our day is so corrupted that even the gravest offenses against God are matters of no consequence – rather, they are seen by some as virtues!

As the matter stands, we believe or we do not believe! As the matter stands, we are people of Faith or we are not people of Faith! There is no middle way in this matter. We are the one, entirely – or we are the other, entirely. If we are people of no belief – of no faith – there is hardly anything that can be said to us that will be of lasting help. We have made our decision, and the matter rests there. If we are people of Faith – PLEASE GOD – if we are God's people of Scripture, we can and should realize the seriousness of the situation; we should clearly understand the enormity of sin. If we are people of understanding, we should be able to focus our minds on the single sin of Adam and Eve, and direct our attention to the boundless consequences of that ONE – SINGLE – SOLITARY – SIN! Can anyone with any kind of mind at all fail to realize the seriousness of the problem? Unfortunately, Man defies reason! With mindless abandon, Man has fled from all the laws that constitute peace and order for humankind and for the universe. The abandonment of reason began its ascendance just seconds before the first bite was taken out of the apple! As a consequence of that ONE, SINGLE, SOLITARY, SIN – because he fled from order through the gateway of sin – man has never seen, and never shall see, himself return to order in any other way except through the gateway of PUNISHMENT AND SORROW! How, indeed, can any man or woman with even the slightest shred of intelligence and reason come to any other conclusion? For there is no other conclusion!

Always seeking more and more arguments and "proofs" to justify his absolutely unreasonable state and condition – in utter defiance of right reason – Man seeks after money and all the things money can obtain for him, relying on all such as guarantees of his security. Effort and inconvenience are of no consequence to him so long as he remains successful in grabbing up more and more money and things. He looks at his possessions, takes in a deep breath, and convinces himself that it is all going to be all right! In his dream world – all full of sugarplum fun and frolic and dreamlike pleasure and entertainment – he contents himself, looking for security and satisfaction in all the wrong places. He rivets his thoughts and actions to his dreams, shutting out all thoughts of the realities that would otherwise be a scourge to his happiness. But no matter how fast he runs, he can never outrun his shadow! No matter how much he dreams, he can never outrun the reality of his fears!

Spiritual reality makes no sense to the man who sees reality only in that which he can pick up with his hands or see with his eyes. Spiritual