

Fr Rudy's Reflections  
The Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
June 9, 2024

### All Is Well with My Soul

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

It might be difficult to admit, but the devil is all around us. How else do you explain the most horrific events of our history and the hate we see filling hearts that rage against humanity? This evil, these sins, are wide-ranging and seem unstoppable as they pervade our society and our individual lives. We, as children of God, recoil in horror and fear that this world is on a trajectory toward losing the battle for our souls as goodness, love, and mercy are being replaced with sinfulness, immorality, and egoism that seem acceptable in lieu of our greatest virtues. St. John Vianney said, "Sin is the assassination of the soul."

On this Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we say goodbye to the season of Lent, the seven weeks of Easter, and the feasts of Pentecost, Holy Trinity, Ascension, and the Body and Blood of Christ. How fitting as we begin these summer months and continue our liturgical year that we consider the end of the third chapter of Mark as our Gospel today. It serves as a concrete reminder that if we walk with Jesus and follow his teachings, we will be armed with the tools he gave us "so that although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day" (2 Cor 4:16). Jesus Christ gives us hope, a guarantee that all will be well, despite all we see and experience in this world. He is our surety—and we must have faith to live it.

Peter Kreeft in his book, *Food for the Soul*, describes five different groups who are highlighted in today's Gospel: those seeking God (the disciples of Christ); those seeking cures and miracles; curiosity seekers; Jesus's relatives; and those who thought him demon-possessed (priests and Pharisees). Whatever their level of interest, concern, or malice, these groups came together to evaluate and react for or against this amazing man in their midst who was turning lives upside down. In some ways, even today, people continue to assess the meaning of his life, death, and resurrection and the teachings that light the Christian faith—what Jesus means to all of us.

In this passage, Jesus declares the formidable nature of Satan and the state of the world at that time, as he logically dispels the scribe's arguments against him. He relates through a clever parable that he is the powerful one who fights and topples Satan from his hatefulness, oppression, and indignities, as he "ties up the strong man" against the plundering of the soul. Jesus also amends the lines of family as he embraces those who encircle him with love, hope, faith, and who live his Good News. Hence, Jesus remains in the struggle with us as we face the evils of the world, yet who continue to live the lives he envisions for us all.

*"There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us. There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us and does not now bear with us."*—St. Pope John Paul II

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Rudy