

Dear Friends,

People have always been fascinated with the end of time. In today's gospel, Jesus says the end of time will come.

**"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory."** The Catholic Church's vision of the end times is far from popular imagination of doom and gloom. Our understanding of the end of time is not based on apocalyptic speculation, but on truth which comes from the Holy Scripture, full of hope, transformation, and the fulfillment of God's divine plan.

With the birth of Christ, the Kingdom of God is already present. Through Christ's death and resurrection, the work of salvation has been accomplished, yet we await its complete manifestation. As Catholics, we believe that the end of time is not the destruction, but the transformation of creation. We are awaiting a **"new heaven and new earth"** (Revelation 21:1) where God's kingdom will be fully established. This is not just a spiritual reality, but includes the resurrection of the body and the renewal of the material universe.

When it is going to happen? We know from the Bible that there will be signs before Christ's return, including tribulation, apostasy, and the preaching of the Gospel to all nations. But we firmly reject attempts to predict the exact timing. As Jesus himself stated, **"of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."** (Mark 13:32) Our understanding of the end of time is full of hope. We acknowledge the reality of judgment and the possibility of eternal separation from God (hell), but the Church emphasizes God's desire for universal salvation and the triumph of divine mercy. The end times represent not a fearsome destruction but the fulfillment of God's loving plan for creation. St. Paul wrote in the Letter to Romans **"For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God."** (Rom 8:19-21)

Our vision and the Catholic vision of the end times offers hope. Rather than promoting fear or passive waiting, it calls believers to active participation in God's work in this world and while keeping trust for ultimate purposes for creation - a **"new heaven and new earth"** (Revelation 21:1). This understanding of the end of time provides both comfort and challenge: comfort in knowing that our world, the whole creation is moving toward fulfilling a divine purpose, and challenge to live now in light of that final destiny. We are not to lose sight of our final destiny, which we call the Heavenly Kingdom. In our time, often characterized by apocalyptic anxiety fueled by those who misunderstand the message of God regarding last days, Catholics believe firmly in Holy Scripture, which offers a hopeful vision of humanity's ultimate destination.

Jesus, I Trust in You,  
Fr. Krzysztof

