

## A Time for Hope

**Peter's Declaration about Jesus and the Foretelling of Jesus' Death and Resurrection** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things. "MATTHEW, CHAPTER 16: 15-18, 21-23 (NSRV)

The above passage depicts a very challenging and confusing time for the men who soon would be transformed by the Resurrection of Jesus *and* the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, at which time the Church would be formed.

With all the confusion and frustration (and worse!) in the Church at this time, we are reminded that the gates of Hell will not prevail against the Church. This means the Church, although engaged in its great struggle with evil, will not succumb to the powers of darkness.

Consider Christ's imagery further, and the connotation that Christ gives us is not that His Church is on the defensive, but actually it depicts that the Church is ultimately carrying the spiritual battle to the gates of hell. Gates are put up as a defensive mechanisms, and Christ is telling us that those gates of Hell will not prevail against the His Love and the works of charity and the love that He has entrusted to all the members of His Church. God's Church is on the march and is proactive even amidst serious scandals and ultimately will not be thwarted by evil. Our trust and faith in Jesus, strengthened by frequent reception of the sacraments, will enable us to take this battle to the adversary most effectively.

Do not give in to the temptation to lose hope! Those who hope in the Lord will not be disappointed. The great and ongoing struggle of the Church is highlighted above wherein moments after Jesus commends Peter, He gives him a stern reprimand to get behind Him while admonishing him to consider God's will rather than his own. We must consider what God is calling us to do now and to not retreat from the spiritual battle that is won through faith, prayer, and good works. As St. Paul says, "In response to all he has done for us, let us outdo each other in being helpful and kind to each other and in doing good." Hebrews 10:24

Please pray for the ongoing success of Catholic schools. If you are in a position to support us financially or know anyone who would be interested in providing support, direct them to [teachthetruthfoundation.org](http://teachthetruthfoundation.org). Your support is allowing children to attend Catholic schools who otherwise would not be able to do so. Please note that those you help are extremely grateful! Thank you for what you have done to respond to Christ's command to teach all nations through your prayers and financial support.

teach the truth

### Teach the Truth

Teach the Truth Foundation provides tuition aid and financial support to Catholic Schools so that all who seek to attend a Catholic school can do so regardless of financial need.

Established in 2014, we invite all those who feel called to aid in the mission to support Catholic Education in Western Pennsylvania to partner with us. Our goal is to ensure that the Catholic Schools continue to be an option to all parents of school age children.

Catholic Schools have a wonderful legacy of providing an educational experience of outstanding quality with the foundational focus being Christ, the source of all true knowledge. The mission of Catholic Schools has been critical to the development of the United States and is even more critical today.

## On Christian Education

In 1929, Pope Pius XI's Encyclical entitled *On Christian Education* highlighted the importance of integrating the Gospel into education:

Men, created by God to His image and likeness and destined for Him Who is infinite perfection realize today more than ever amid the most exuberant material progress, the insufficiency of earthly goods to produce true happiness either for the individual or for the nations.

It is therefore as important to make no mistake in education, as it is to make no mistake in the pursuit of the last end, with which the whole work of education is intimately and necessarily connected. In fact, since education consists essentially in preparing man for what he must be and for what he must do here below, in order to attain the sublime end for which he was created, it is clear that there can be no true education which is not wholly directed to man's last end, and that in the present order of Providence, since God has revealed Himself to us in the Person of His Only Begotten Son, who alone is "the way, the truth and the life," there can be no ideally perfect education which is not Christian education.

The excellence, we may well call it the unsurpassed excellence, of the work of Christian education becomes manifest and clear; for after all it aims at securing the Supreme Good, that is, God, for the souls of those who are being educated, and the maximum of well-being possible here below for human society. And this it does as efficaciously as man is capable of doing it, namely by cooperating with God in the perfecting of individuals and of society, in as much as education makes upon the soul the first, the most powerful and lasting impression for life ... With good reason therefore did St. John Chrysostom say, "What greater work is there than training the mind and forming the habits of the young?"

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