CONSOLATION IN TIMES OF TRIAL AND OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Bp. Michał Stobnicki

My dear ones, today's Gospel, which we have just heard, is a fragment of the farewell discourse of the Lord Jesus, which He delivered on Holy Thursday in the Upper Room, when He wished to prepare the disciples for Good Friday, for the sorrow they would feel when He would be taken from them, when they would no longer have their Master in their midst. Yet in announcing this sorrow that awaits them, the Lord Jesus foretells the joy into which this sorrow will be turned, for Good Friday leads to the morning of the Resurrection. Hence the Lord Jesus says: "A little while, so very little, and soon you will not see Me, and soon you will see Me again." And, dear faithful, these words, "a little while," "soon," become a source of consolation for each of us.

After all, we know perfectly well that temporal life here on earth does not spare us hardships, uncertainty, disappointments, fear, anxiety, tears; yet every suffering has its end and passes more quickly than it seems to us. And may we only be able to receive all hardships, vexations and crosses with humble submission to the will of God. For we must realise that a man has no great merit when he accepts God's will when it is advantageous to him, when it is bound up with joy. It is far harder for us to accept God's will when it is a cross, when it is bound up with difficulties, with suffering. But the greater the effort in accepting this will of God, the greater our merit.

A WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

Dear faithful, we should be perfectly aware that the Conqueror of death, hell and Satan is not as well known and as well loved as one might expect after twenty centuries. Although we live in a time when, thanks to the development of technology, we can connect within a few seconds with people on another continent, it is precisely today, in this age of astonishing technical development, that more people have heard of Coca-Cola than of Jesus Christ, the one Saviour of every man.

And as Catholics we must constantly remind ourselves of what the modern world forgets: that in our temporal life God sends us smaller and greater crosses so that we may carry them together with the Saviour and merit for ourselves salvation, eternal life. The crosses that God gives us on earth do not weaken a man, but serve to temper him, to strengthen him. What is a faith worth that has never had to confront doubt, that lies moored in the quiet harbour of indifference, that has never put out into the deep? What is a hope worth that flees from suffering and has never had to face any hardship? What is a love worth that has never sacrificed anything for another, but seeks only its own advantage?

These words of the Lord Jesus, "soon," resound as a foretelling of His victory in our times as well — in times when the devil is destroying the foundations of the family and of society; in times when the Church seems to be a sinking boat tossed about by satanic winds. As Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre aptly described it in 1988: everywhere ruin, and so everywhere bad fruits. And this is because the shepherds are not good shepherds, because they do not fulfil their duties. The shepherds do not protect Tradition, the treasures that Our Lord Jesus Christ entrusted to them. They wanted at all costs to invent a new church, but no new church can be invented. The Church is what it is, and must remain so until the end of time. It will not change. It cannot change, because it was founded by Christ the Lord, who is God, and God does not change.

And it seems that Judeo-Masonry has already almost achieved its goal: it has brought it about that the true God has been eliminated from the life of societies, from the life of families, and a new world order has been established, which is nothing other than a contemporary variety of the cult of Lucifer — an obscene, grotesque inversion, an overturning, of God's order. Whoever has not yet let himself be made stupid by the vile media sees ever more clearly how the apostles of the Great Reset are conducting anti-evan-

gelisation across the whole world in order to establish the tyranny of Lucifer. Ever stronger are, and will be, the pressures brought to bear on us so that we, with an attitude of abasement, would accept, approve and live according to the dictates of Satan's anti-religion.

They want to force us, my dear ones, to accept the killing of innocent children, of the sick, of the elderly. They want to force us to accept mutilation hidden under the banner of so-called gender change. In the name of green madness we are to destroy our agriculture. We are to eat worthless, poisoned food. We are to freeze in unheated homes and spend hours celebrating the pseudo-liturgy of waste segregation. They want to turn us, through omnipresent, unceasing control, into slaves, perpetually sick patients subjected to pseudo-medical procedures that bring death. They want, my dear ones, to turn us into slaves incapable of any resistance, with a noose of debt around their necks. Debt through which they exercise control over individuals and over whole nations. They want, my dear ones, to turn us into slaves who will mindlessly carry out the godless orders of a godless pseudo-authority. They want us to destroy our economy, our industry, our trade. They want us to build up the power of Jewish corporations.

This is the world around us, as it is, not as it seems to us. This is the world as it is. But, my dear ones, we are blind. We are blind men who do not see it. Even if they do see it, they do not want to admit it, because the thought that the world could be so degenerate, so corrupt, so demonic fills us with horror. It awakens fear in us. It can awaken spiritual doubt in us, perhaps even spiritual despair. But, my dear ones, when such difficult moments come in our lives, let us recall the words of the Lord Jesus: "Soon." Soon this anti-religion of Satan will fall; soon God's order will be restored on this earth; soon the triumph of her Immaculate Heart, foretold by the Most Holy Mother, will come.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

And it so happens that today, on this third Sunday after Easter, when we hear the Gospel through which the Lord Jesus wished to console His disciples and wishes to console us too in the Church, we also honour Our Lady of Good Counsel. Her image is placed today on the side altar. And it is worth, my dear ones, that we look at this image, that we contemplate it. Why? Because this image is a great lesson for us. Look, my dear ones, at the particular way in which the Lord Jesus is depicted. How tightly He clings to Our Lady. One little hand grasps Mary by the neck, with the other He holds on to her garment. Like a small child who nestles against his mother, who is afraid of something, snuggled up to the Most Holy Mother.

And we should act in exactly this way when fear and doubt arise in our lives: seize the Most Holy Mother, if only by the hem of her garment. For when we are with the Most Holy Mother, my dear ones, we will not go astray. When we are helpless Catholics, when we do not know what to do in our lives, she will always give us good counsel. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux cried out: "Whenever you are in doubt, whenever you are helpless, call upon the Most Holy Mother. She will give you counsel." Therefore, my dear ones, let us make this resolution today: that we will turn as often as possible for help, for guidance, to Our Lady of Good Counsel; that, after the example of the Child Jesus in this miraculous image, we will cling tightly to our Mother, trusting in her care, in her intercession, trusting that if we remain close to her, we shall not perish.

Dear faithful, this Sunday, the third Sunday after Easter, reminds us of one more thing, namely that we should be instruments of God's grace, of God's consolation, toward our neighbours. How many people around us are lost, how many around us are helpless, who do not yet know the Lord Jesus at all, or who know Him but are unable to truly love Him. And it is needed, my dear ones, that we become instruments of God's grace, of God's consolation, toward so many lost, helpless souls in this world. Just as God gives us light through the sun, so we too, my dear ones, are to become instruments, bearers of this consolation. How many people around us today are distressed and need consolation? How many people around us are lost and need good counsel?

Today's lesson, Saint Peter, reminds us of how we are to live: in such a way as to astonish other people, so that others, looking at us, at our example, would wish to follow our Lord Jesus Christ as well. Let us strive,

my dear ones, with zeal for the salvation of our souls and the salvation of the souls of our neighbours. Let us strive with particular zeal for the salvation of these helpless Catholics of today. Let us strive, my dear ones, so that we too may become conquerors of death, hell and Satan.

Amen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Praised be Jesus Christ.