

Time

What is it?

Does it rule us or does it serve us?

Does it matter?

Time is a creation of God

It is a gift that has been given to mankind

It is how we measure great events in the world

The greatest being the birth of Jesus Christ

***B C* Before Christ**

***A D Anno Domini*, the Year of the Lord**

It is how we measure the great events in our lives

Birthdays and anniversaries

Causes for celebration and for remembering

9/11, the 4th of July and Dec 7 all have specific meaning for Americans

Everyone knows the meaning without attaching a specific year

How long we have been at a particular job

It is how we measure celebrations in our Church

Today is the last day of the Octave of Christmas

Also the Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Easter is a celebration that doesn't have a specific date

But is tied to the cycle of the moon

We see that we all mark time in one way or another

But how do we mark time?

As we begin a new year, this can be a good reflection

Does time control us?

Does it rule over us?

Or are we in control?

Does it serve us as we make our way through this life into eternity

Time is a gift

But as any of God's gifts

It can be used as he intended

Or it can be used for other purposes

It can help our journey through this life

Or it can become something we fight against tooth and nail

We have all been given so much time

We don't know how much

So we are always called to be prepared

As Christians, we do not use a flat, linear model

Begins here and simply moves along

Then it will end at some point

We see the cyclical nature of time

As it moves forward, certain things repeat

Not in a Ground Hogs Day the movie repetition

But in a repetition that is old and new at the same time

This is why Christmas is a 2000 plus year old celebration

And why it is as fresh as a baby born last week

Everything is like this

Even something as normal as a new day

Every morning He who is the Alpha has an invitation for us

An invitation to begin fresh

The dawn brings new hope

And in the evening the Omega is there

So we can offer thanksgiving for the small victories

And sorrow for the failures

Asking for the strength to make amends

And for his grace to be healed

Then he gives us rest

A taste of the sleep of death

Rejuvenating us for the start of a new life

New opportunities

We can do the same thing throughout the year

At our anniversaries

At our memorials

Doing this, time invites us into a deeper relationship with Christ

Trusting that he has taken our mortal enemy

Death

And turned it into a portal

A gateway to eternity

Through his resurrection, death is no more something to be feared

It is the end of time

And the beginning of eternity

All of us gathered here today have been given another year

None of us is guaranteed a seat here a year from now

What are we going to do with this gift?

Almost 2000 years ago, the Greek philosopher Seneca wrote:

It is not that we have so little time

It is that we have wasted so much of it

St Paul, in his Letter to the Ephesians said:

Look carefully then how you walk

Not as unwise men and women,

But as wise, making the most of the time

The invitation is there

To live as if time really matters

To imitate the one who gave himself for us

To use this gift as a gift for others

Preparing for our final birth

May God grant to you and yours a blessed and prosperous New Year