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ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2012

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 11

On the Coming of the
Son of Man
POPE BENEDICT XVI



Friends
of God
JOHN J. FLYNN III



November Speaker
HUGH HEWITT



ON THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN

POPE BENEDICT XVI

“He is the Central Event That, in the Midst of the Troubles of the World, Remains the Firm and Stable Point”

VATICAN CITY, Nov. 18, 2012 (Zenit.org).- Here is a translation of the address Benedict XVI gave Sunday before and after praying the midday Angelus in St. Peter’s Square.



* * *

Dear brothers and sisters!

On this last Sunday of the liturgical year, Jesus’ discourse about the end times (in technical terms, his “eschatological” discourse) is proclaimed at Mass (cf. Mark 13:24-32). This discourse is also found, with some variations, in Matthew and Luke, and it is probably the most difficult text in the Gospels.

This difficulty derives both from the content and the language: Jesus speaks of a future that is beyond our categories, and because of this Jesus uses images and words taken from the Old Testament, but, importantly, he inserts a new center, namely, himself, the mystery of his person and his death and resurrection. Today’s passage too opens with some cosmic images of an apocalyptic nature: “The sun will be darkened, the moon will no longer give its light, the stars will fall from the sky and the powers in the skies will be shaken” (Mark 13:24-25); but this element is relativized by what follows: “Then the Son of Man will come upon the clouds in the sky with great power and glory” (13:26). The “Son of Man” is Jesus himself, who links the present with the future; the ancient words of the prophets have finally found a center in the person of the Messiah of Nazareth: he is the central event that, in the midst of the troubles of the world, remains the firm and stable point.

Another passage from today’s Gospel confirms. Jesus says: “The sky and the earth will pass away but my words will not pass away” (13:31). In fact, we know that in the Bible the word of God is at the origin of creation: all creatures, starting with the cosmic elements – sun, moon, sky – obey God’s Word, they exist insofar as they are

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IDEALS OF ST. THOMAS MORE

The legal profession is a high calling with corresponding responsibilities to society. The principal objective of every lawyer is to promote and seek justice. Catholic Lawyers pursue the truth in both their spiritual and professional lives. The duty of a Catholic lawyer is to remain faithful to Jesus Christ, His Church and its teachings at all times despite the personal consequences.

THE OBJECTIVES OF STMS

- encouraging its members to live a Christian life and apply the principles and ideals exemplified by St. Thomas More in their lives and encourage same in the legal profession.
- promoting and foster high ethical principals in the legal profession generally and, in particular, in the community of Catholic lawyers.
- assisting in the spiritual growth of its members.
- encouraging interfaith understanding and brotherhood.
- sponsoring the annual Red Mass for

elected and appointed officials and members of the legal profession.

MEMBERSHIP IN STMS

Each member of the Society is committed to:

- strive to live an exemplary Christian life and apply the principles and ideals exemplified by St. Thomas More in their daily lives and encourage same in the legal profession.
- attend monthly meeting of the Society and provide personal support to the St. Thomas More Society.
- attend and support the Red Mass.

LAWYER’S PRAYER

Give me the grace, Good Lord, to set the world at naught; to set my mind fast upon thee and not to hang upon the blast of men’s mouths; to be content to be solitary; not to long for worldly company but utterly to cast off the world and rid my mind of the business thereof.
- ST. THOMAS MORE

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FRIENDS OF GOD

JOHN J. FLYNN III



The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs, about 1423-4, by Fra Angelico.

In November, we celebrate the Feast of All Saints, the “friends of God.” A friend is another self, said Aristotle. Has any poem of a thousand words said it more poetically? But what has friendship to do with faith? God creates and God commands. We obey, and the gates are opened to us. Friendship with God, viewed in that light, seems irrelevant, even slightly ridiculous. As for the saints, perhaps now they are friends of God, but what of those of us who still are bound by the mortal coil? The communion of saints may strike us as more an idea than a living reality, like a community of plaster statues, a place of pedestals and niches.

But we are called not merely to obey God, but to follow him, on a path that he has walked first, with feet of flesh, uttering words in a human voice that vibrates the air. The Gospel is no mere announcement of rules, but the blazing of a path, not only to a place, but to union, not only in the sweet hereafter, but here and now.

God creates and God commands. God shows us the way, having first walked it himself; God heals and God consoles; and finally, he dies. We are baptized into his death, buried

with him, and then walk with him out of the tomb. So we progress in the spiritual life, from servants to friends, with God, and with all those who have died in his friendship.

Friendship, like every other love, is fraught with risk. The heart open to love is open to loss, to heartbreak. And God does indeed intend for our hearts to be broken. But the heartbreak that God wills for us is not the heartbreak of loss, but the broken heart of resistance overcome by a shattering love, the walls of fear, of anger, of pride, finally broken to pieces, that grace might enter, heal, and raise to Heaven. ♦

ON THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN

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also passes through his human words, which are the true “sky” that orients the thought and path of man on earth. For this reason Jesus does not describe the end of the world and when he uses apocalyptic images he does not conduct himself like a “visionary.” On the contrary, he wants to take away the curiosity of his disciples in every age about dates and predictions and wishes instead to give them a key to a

“called” by it. This creative power of the divine Word (“Parola”) is concentrated in Jesus Christ, the Word (“Verbo”) made flesh, and

deep, essential reading, and above all to indicate the right path to take, today and tomorrow, to enter into eternal life. Everything passes – the Lord tells us – but God’s Word does not change, and before this Word each of us is responsible for his conduct. It is on this basis that we will be judged.

Dear friends, even in our times there is no lack of natural calamities, nor, unfortunately, of war and violence. Today too we need a stable basis for our life and our hope, much more because of the relativism in which we are immersed. May the Virgin help us to accept this center in the Person of Christ and in his Word. ♦

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NOVEMBER LUNCH MEETING

HUGH HEWITT: IMPACTS OF THE ELECTION POST 2012

Hugh Hewitt will provide his insights and analysis of the likely changes that will occur in the economy, healthcare, the administration, Congress, and future appointments to the United States Supreme Court over the next four years as a result of Barack Obama being re-elected President of the United States.

Hugh is a lawyer, law professor, author and broadcast journalist whose nationally syndicated radio show is heard in more than 100 cities across the United States every weekday afternoon. Hugh has received three Emmys for his work as co-host of the ground-breaking Life & Times program, a nightly news and public affairs program that aired on the Los Angeles PBS affiliate, KCET, from 1992 until 2007. Hugh Hewitt also conceived and hosted the 1996 PBS series, Searching for God in America. Hugh is the author of a dozen books, including two New York Times best-sellers.

Hugh served for nearly six years in the Reagan Administration in a variety of posts, including Assistant Counsel in the White House and Special Assistant to two Attorneys General. Upon returning to California in 1989, Hugh provided key oversight for the construction of the



Nixon Library in Yorba Linda.

Hugh is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Michigan Law School, and has been teaching Constitutional Law at Chapman University Law School since it opened in 1995.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTH	DATE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
November	Wed., Nov. 21, 12:00 p.m.	Lunch meeting. Nationally-syndicated radio show host Hugh Hewitt will speak. A lawyer, law professor and broadcast journalist, Hewitt served in the Reagan Administration and lives in Orange County.	Jilio Ryan 14661 Franklin, #150 Tustin, California jilioryan.com
	Sun., Nov. 24, 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Come to help cook and serve breakfast to the homeless of the community at Isaiah House. www.occatholicworker.org	Isaiah House 316 S. Cypress Avenue Santa Ana, CA 92701 (714) 835-6304
December	Wed., Dec. 19, 12:00 p.m.	Fr. Hugh Barbour, chaplain of the St. Thomas More Society, will speak.	Jilio Ryan (same as above)