

1st Sunday of Advent - December 1, 2024
Homily by Bp. Romie- Jun Peñalosa

We start the year on the first day of Advent.
And if you look at our readings on the first day of the year, it talks about the end.

Okay, bakit ganyan?

Nag-uumpisa tayo ng bagong araw, bagong taon, liturgical year.

But our readings is about the end.

It's about the end times, apocalypse.

Because sometimes it is wise that you start your day thinking of the end.

Amen?

Think of the end.

If you are going to go one day, ano gusto mong maalala ng mga anak mo tungkol sayo?

What would you like your children to remember you by?

Para sa akin, I would like people to remember me as someone who is kind.

Someone who is compassionate.

Amen?

Yan ang gusto ko maalala ng tao sa akin.

Wala tayong pwedeng dalhin sa kabilang buhay.

Everything we have here on earth will be left behind.

Pero pwede tayong mag-iwan ng magandang alaala.

So how would you like people to remember you?

Would you like them to remember you as loving, as kind?

If you would like people to remember you that way, when will you start?

Kailan mo umpisa na maging loving and kind ikaw?

Not at the end of your life, but you start today.

Amen?

You start today.

Kaya palagi mong iniisip, pag inumpisahan mo yung araw mo, isipin mo yung dulo ng buhay mo.

What are the things that you want to accomplish in life?

What are the things that you would like to leave as a legacy to your family?

You think about that every start of the day so that you will not waste time.

Amen?

You will not waste your life, wag mong sayangin ang buhay mo.

Because sometimes we think that we will live very long on this earth.

Akala natin marami tayong oras sa mundong ito.

And so we get caught up with little things, yung mga maliliit na bagay na wala namang bearing sa buhay natin.

Tatampu-tampu tayo, gagalit-galit tayo.

And you know, we work hard for things that are not essential in life because hindi natin nakikita yung dulo ng buhay natin.

And we think that we have the luxury of time.

Sabi nga ng kaibigan ko, life is short.

Don't make it shorter.

Mas lalong pinapaiksi natin pag sinasayang natin ang buhay natin.

That is why Advent, as we start another year, the Church reminds us of the end.

Pinapalala sa atin yung dulo ng lahat.

And when we talk of the end, we talk of the coming of Jesus.

Amen?

Yan ang inaantay ng lahat.

All creation groans for the coming of the Son of Man.

All creation groans, pati yung buhay natin.

We groan.

We await the coming of Christ.

That is why, today, we look at the Scriptures.

In the Scriptures, kinikwento dito.

This is the Lord's words Himself.

Sabi niya,

And there will be signs in the sun and the moon and in the stars.

And on the earth, distress of nations.

With perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring.

Men's hearts failing them from fear.
Men's hearts failing them from fear.
The Lord was not trying to scare us.
Hindi tayo tinatakot ni Lord.

You know?

Sabi niya,

In the last days, before the Son of Man returns, you will see these things.

There will be signs from the heaven.

The sun, the moon will be darkened.

The stars will be falling down.

Kinikwento niya.

And sabi niya,

There will be so much distress among nations.

Kaya nga maraming gera sa panahon natin.

At hindi lang sa panahon natin, even long before we arrive on this world,
magaging may gera.

This expresses the distress that is among peoples.

With perplexity, with trouble, with hardship, yan ang nakikita natin.

And the sea and the waves roaring.

Oh, tsunami.

You know?

Kaya nga, every time may tsunami,

ang mga tao palagi sinasabi,

Matatapos na ba ang mundo?

Pag nagkakaroon ng gera, people will only think it's the end of the world.

During World War II, noong nagbabagsakan na yung mga bomba and nations are being
destroyed,

people were thinking, this is the end already.

Because these are signs.

Itong sinabi ni Lord.

And sabi niya, men's heart will fail.

Yung pananampalatayan natin, roaton na pagsalig sa Diyos,

it will begin to fail because we are going to be afraid.

Okay?

But the Lord is saying,

we are not supposed to be afraid of these things

because these are the signs which tells us that Christ is coming soon already.

That's why sabi niya, when these things begin to happen,

you lift up your head.

You lift up your head, be confident, don't be afraid of these things.

Pero hindi kasi ito ang main event.

It's not the earthquake, it's not the flood, it's not the trouble.

Sabi niya, these are just signs.

And sabi niya, if you are awaiting,

if you are awaiting for the Son of Man to return,

we should be rejoicing because the signs are already pointing to the time.

Amen?

Hindi ka matatakot.

Naalala ko noon,

when Anthony Bishop sa akin, sabi niya,

we pray for God's provision, nagtipray tayo sa provision ni Lord.

At minsan, the provisions come, nandiyan yan.

Pero may araw talaga na nauubos.

Sino sa inyo nakaranas, minsan nauubos yung provisions.

And pag wala nang pera, wala nang naman yung bankbook,

wala nang naman yung bulsa mo.

And that's where we get so scared.

Ano bang nangyayari, nauubos na to?

My resources are depleting.

And Bishop Ricardo told me, sabi niya,

pag nauubos na yan,

it's because a new wave of blessing is coming to you.

Yan ang sabi ni Bishop Ricardo.

I will not forget that.

Kaya pag wala nang pagkain sa bahay,
wala nang pera ang bulsa ko,
instead matakot ka at nakatingin ka sa bulsa mo,
instead na tingnan mo yung bankbook mo,
you lift up your eyes to the hills.

Where will your help comes from?

Etong sinasabi ni Lord,
lift up your head!

Because the blessings are coming already.

These are just signs of the blessings
that are coming to you.

Amen?

Sa palagay mo ba,

kahayaan ka ng Diyos na magdurusa?

Will God really allow you to suffer these things?

No, He will not.

He's a good Father to us.

But these things really happen to us.

Bakit?

The first candle we light is the candle of hope.

Hope comes to us when there is trouble.

Hindi nagkakaroon ng pag-asa ang tao

kung maganda ang sitwasyon ng buhay niya.

When you have everything,

and everything is so nice and perfect in your life,
do you need hope?

No.

Hope comes to us when there is already darkness.

Hope comes to us when there is a storm in your life.

Hope comes to us when circumstances

is saying that it's gonna be bad for you.

Doon nag-uumpisa rung pag-asa naroon.

Amen?

Kaya when you see these things happening,

the sun, the moon, the stars are being darkened.

The signs, people everywhere,

there's so much confusion,

so much trouble everywhere.

Prices of commodities are rising up.

Tumataas na yung mga presyo ng bilingin,

di naman tumataas yung sahod ng tao.

We get scared, we get so afraid.

But praise God,

those dark times,

those difficult moments in your life,

that will give rise to the hope

that is already in you.

Magkakaroon ka ng pag-asa.

That's why the scripture teaches us

to lift up your eyes,

not to look at the circumstances,

not to look down on the problems

that is happening upon you,

but you lift up your head,

you look above.

Because our hope,

ro-ato nga pag-laom naroon,

it's not on the things we hope for.

Our hope is in a person.

Amen?

Ro-ato nga pag-laom

ay bukonta sa sirkumstansya,

bukonta sa mga bagay

nga ginalauman natin.

Ro-ato nga pag-laom
ay una ta kay Kristo.
We put our hope in Christ.
This is what Advent is teaching us.
That's why as we start another year in our life,
the first lesson we learn is to hope.
Where is your hope?
Siin ro-imo nga pag-laom?
You know,
many people put their hope in themselves.
But the problem is,
you are not God,
and you are not in control of your life,
you are not in control of anything,
circumstances in your life.
Kahapon,
maraming nagplano
na pupunta ng burakay sa araw na to,
kasi mag-i-enjoy sila.
Yung iba hindi na nagising.
Amen?
Yung iba naman,
hindi na natuloy,
kasi yung maliwanag na araw kahapon,
wala na ngayon.
Balakas ng ulan,
kaya cancel yung mga trips.
You understand what I'm saying?
It simply proves,
it simply shows that you are not in control of your life.
Amen?
You don't even know what will happen to you
five minutes from now.
Amen?
You don't even know what will happen to you
a day from now.
Alam mo bang mangyayari sa'yo?
Ang dami-daming plano natin sa buhay,
but we are not in control.
That's why we bring our plans before the Lord.
Binibigay natin yung mga plano natin sa Kanya.
We surrender our plans to God.
Because only God is in control of our lives.
We are not in control of our lives.
Parang kailan lang,
ang bilis ko tumakbo.
Parang kailan lang,
nagbabasketball ako at nagte-tennis.
Ngayon, ginagawa ko pa rin,
pero sa panaginip na lang.
I can't run as fast as I used to run.
I can't jump as high as I used to jump.
There are things that I can't do now,
which I used to do before.
Nagbabago ang katawan ko.
Nagbabago ang pag-iisip ko.
Kaya ko bang tigilan yung pagtanda ko?
Sino sa inyong may gamot dyan
na makakapigil ng pagtanda?
Kung merong kang gamot dyan,
nako, magiging mayaman ka.
But you see, we cannot stop aging.
It's a process that is slowly creeping in
sa buhay natin.

Amen?

Dati, pag birthday mo,
ang dami kong regalong kolon at perfume.
Kasi misal, alam na mga tao,
mahilig ako sa kolon.
So sige, kolon.

Ngayon, ang regalo ko pag birthday,
banyos.

Puro banyos. Iba-ibang klase.
May sa Thailand, may sa Malaysia.
Eto, father, tikman mo to.
Ang hanghang to, aabot sa buto mo.
Banyos mo naman.

Kahit ang baho, sige, tinitiiis mo.
You understand what I'm saying?
We are not in control of our lives.
That's why if you put your hope in yourself,
if you put your hope in yourself, on yourself,
then you will be disappointed.

Amen?

Pagdi-disappoint ka lang,
you will become frustrated.
Some people put their hope on money.
Linalagay nila yung pag-asa nila sa pera nila.
Kaya ipon ng ipon ng ipon ng ipon ng ipon ng ipon ng pera.
Sige, ipon ng ipon.

Pag marami na, umaakaw na yung pera.
Ilang banko na yung account niya.
Tuwang-tuwa na siya kasi ang dami ng pera.
Tapos biglang tawagin ng doktor.
Fourth stage cancer na.
Isang linggo ka nalang mabubuhay.
Naku, anong gagawin mo?

Sa limpak-limpak ng salapin na yun,
anong gagawin mo?

Habi ko, pag ganyan,
bilhin ko lahat ng bawal kainin,
at kainin ko sa buong linggo na yan.

Amen?

That's why we don't put our hope on money.

Amen?

Amen?

Every year, at the start of the year in Advent,
we are reminded,
put your hope in God.

God,
who is in control of everything,
even your own life.

God,
who never fails.

Amen?

Tell the person beside you,
God never fails.

Ay, minsan kasi,
pag pumalpak ang buhay natin,
anong ginagawa natin?
Nagagali tayo sa Diyos.

Akala natin, pumalpak din ang Diyos.
Hindi po pumapalpak ang Diyos.

Amen?

Don't be disappointed in God.

Oh, mahirap ang buhay ko.

Nagkasakit ako.

Ang hirap-hirap ng negosyo ko.

Hindi na siya kumikita kagaya ng dati.

Lord! Lord!

Bakit si Lord ang pinapagalitan mo?

Amen?

Remember, God does not fail.

Amen?

He does not fail,

so we put our hope on a person.

We put our hope in Christ.

If you can put your hope in Christ all the time,
your hope will always be in God.

Amen?

Naaayos yan.

So this is the first lesson we have to learn

as we prepare our lives for the coming of Christ.

Remember, our gospel today speaks about the coming of Christ.

We are not trying to go to Christ.

Amen?

Yung journey natin, we enter a new liturgical year.

Akala natin, naglalakbay tayo, pupuntahan natin si Jesus.

Hindi po tayo pumupunta dun.

Siya po ang pupunta sa atin.

Our journey this year

is a journey of waiting on the Lord.

Amen?

Now, there are two dimensions in waiting.

The first dimension is expecting.

Amen?

Amen.

You expect.

You expect from God.

Now, the coming of Christ has three dimensions also.

He came in history,

He comes today in the Eucharist and in your prayers,

and He will come again in the future,

the final coming of Christ.

So tatlo yan.

Amen?

Tatlo yan.

When we think of the coming of Christ,

it's the three comings that we are thinking about.

Kaya nga after Advent, magse-celebrate tayo ng Christmas.

Advent is not Christmas.

Ayawan ko ano nangyari sa Pilipinas bakit yung Advent Christmas na.

Amen?

Dapat hindi muna.

Kaya nga pagdating ng Christmas dahil hindi tayo nag-prepare,
when Christmas comes,

walang kahulugan ang Christmas sa atin.

We need to prepare for it.

That's why we have the season of Advent.

It's a time of preparation,

so that when Christmas time comes,

you will enjoy Christmas because you have grasped its meaning.

Nakuha mo yung meaning ng Christmas.

Bakit nakuha mo talaga yung meaning ng Christmas?

Pinaghandaan mo sa Advent.

Amen?

Pinaghandaan mo.

That's why the Church,

for those special occasion,

for those joyful occasions,

Christmas,

we put Advent.

A time, a season to prepare for that.
Hindi buo ang joy natin kasi hindi natin pinaghahandaan.
Amen?
That's the reason.
Delay the gratification and you will intensify the joy.
You understand what I'm saying?
Sa mga graduates na sumasahod na,
sabi ko, huwag muna kayong bili ng bili ng mga bagay.
Mag-invest kayo, mag-ipon.
Delay the satisfaction so you will have enough money later on.
Amen?
Sa mga nagpaplanong mag-asawa,
sinabi ko, huwag muna muna kayong mag-live in.
Antayin nyo.
Pigil sa sarili.
Because on the day of your wedding,
and on the many years that will come,
you will find fulfillment in marriage.
Ayon na e.
Hindi nagpapakasal.
Live in na kagad.
Noong kinasal na sila, maghihiwalay.
Maghihiwalay.
Kasi wala ng joy.
Wala ng gratification.
Yan ang problema sa tao.
The things that we want,
we want it now.
Amen?
We want it now.
Wala tayong pasensya.
Gusto na natin ngayon.
Alam natin yung Christmas masaya.
Pero paghandaan natin yung Christmas.
We have to get the meaning of what Christmas is.
Kaya mag-Advent muna tayo.
Amen?
Let us pray.
Let us have a time of fasting and prayer
so that when Christmas time comes,
we know what it is.
Our joy will be complete.
Amen?
Kaya nga,
the coming of Christ is history.
That's number one.
But for us, history,
history has importance to us still.
Hindi yan tapos na yun.
Nangyari na yun.
Hindi po.
That's why we always look back on our history
and we bring it to our present moment.
Yan ang ginagawa natin.
You do this in remembrance of me.
Yes, that is something in the past already.
But every Sunday,
we do it in remembrance of Christ.
We bring it in our present moment.
Yung unang pagdating ni Christo nung Christmas,
we bring it in our present moment.
Amen?
Amen?
Kasi,

if we forget the past,
we will not learn from the past.
Sabi nga nila,
those who do not learn from the past,
okay,
those who do not learn from the mistakes of the past
is doomed to make it and repeat it again.
Yan ang importansya.
The coming of Christ in history is important
because from the past, we learn
and we bring it to our present moment.
The coming of Christ in the future,
yun, importante din yun.
Hindi pa nangyayari yun.
He will come again,
somewhere in the future.
We wait for that.
We expect that.
Not only that, but Christ is also coming today, now.
In the Eucharist, in our prayers,
every time we pray to God and ask God's help,
He comes to us.
So tatlo yan pag sinabi mong coming of Christ.
The past, the history, the present, and the future.
So what do we do?
How do we respond to the coming of Christ?
We respond by waiting.
And like I've said, waiting means expecting.
We expect.
I expect Jesus to be here today
as we celebrate the Eucharist.
Kaninang umaga, hindi na ako makatulog.
I woke up very early.
Maliban dun sa brownout.
Kaya alam ko ilang beses nag-brownout.
I woke up early because I'm so excited for today.
I know Jesus is going to be with us today.
He's coming to us in a special way, to the sacrament.
But at the same time, I wait in expectation
for His second coming,
which I do not know when will happen.
I may see the signs.
Kaya kanina nung umuulan malakas, sabi ko, baha.
Wapasok sa isip ko, baka end of the world na.
Hindi po.
Palagi namang binabaha ang Pilipinas eh.
Okay? It's not the end of the world yet.
But the signs, the signs are pointing
that Jesus is going to come again.
Amen?
So we wait in expectation.
We put our faith.
We put our hope in Christ
that no matter what the problem,
no matter what the situation I am facing now in my life,
I may be sick,
I may be facing a crisis in my life,
but praise be to God,
Jesus will come to me.
I'm not going to Him.
He's coming to me.
Amen?
Another dimension of waiting
is not just expecting.

Waiting means serving.
Anong tawag mo sa taong nagsiserve sa restaurant?
Huh?
Chef daw.
Okay.
Anong tawag mo sa taong nagsiserve sa restaurant?
Oh, waiter.
Kaya pang yung waiter, pabalik-balik sa table mo,
Anything you need, ma'am?
Anything you need, sir?
Do you like water, sir?
Nakong binibigyan ko talaga ng tip yan.
Amen?
Kasi binabalik-balikan ka.
Pag napansin yan na pumupunas ka sa ulo mo,
nainitan ka, kukuha niya siya ng electric fan,
ya harap sayo yung electric fan.
Nako, the best waiter yan.
Kaya pagbayad mo,
pagbayad mo, malaki ang tip sa kanya.
To wait on the Lord is not just to expect.
To wait on the Lord means that you serve Him now.
If we believe Christ is going to come again,
if we hope in His coming,
kung talagang inaasahan natin yung pagdating niya ulit,
Kung ngayon kita nga magabalik imaw,
o man, katon,
we will not be passive in our Christian life.
We will be actively serving.
Serving God by serving others.
Palagi kong sinasabi ito sa mga estudyante.
Pag tinanong ko, anong gusto mong kurso
at anong gusto mong maging pag nag-graduate ka?
Father, gusto kong maging doktor.
Alam mong advice ko sa kanya palagi?
Mag-aral ng mabuti.
And study, study hard.
Ang hirap kaya magpa-opera sa isang doktor na hindi nag-aaral.
Kaya pag tinanong mo, nakapag-board exam ka ba?
Actually, hindi po. Hindi ako nag-aaral eh.
Pero sige, hiwain na kita.
You know?
Why? Why is it important?
Because your dream, your hope to become a doctor
will never happen if you do not work at it.
Amen?
Kaya yung mga nagtatrabaho, anong pangarap mo sa buhay?
Gusto kong makaipon ng pera.
Gusto kong makaipon tatayo ko ng bahay yung pamilya ko.
Gusto kong makaipon para maipasyal ko yung pamilya ko.
Nakapunta kami sa Korea.
Oh, ang ganda.
Di ba? Ngayon.
Para ma-frozen kayo doon. Masyado malamig doon.
If you are hoping for those things, what do you do now?
Anong gagawin mo ngayon if you hope for those things?
You have to work.
Maraming nangangarap na magkaroong maipon.
May maipon sila sa buhay.
Nangangarap.
Pero hindi naman kumakayod.
Amen? Hindi kumakayod.
Puro pangarap. Walang gawa. Walang mangyayari.
Gustong sumahod. Ayaw kumayod.

Yan ang problema.
Yan ang problema sa maraming kababayan natin.
Malaking pangarap.
Pero yung gawain, yung kayang gawin, ito lang.
Gustong umani ng ilang ektarya.
Pero yung itatanim, isang sako lang.
Pero gusto mong umani ka sa sampung ektarya.
Pero itatanim mo, isang sakong binhi lang.
Pwede ba yan?
Kung gusto mong malaking ani mo,
eh dapat marami din itatanim.
Do you understand what I'm saying?
That's why to hope is not just to expect.
It's not just to dream.
But to hope means that you also work at it.
You serve.
I know Jesus will come again. Yes, He will come again.
He comes to me every night when I pray.
He comes to me every Sunday we celebrate the Eucharist.
I expect Him to come when I pray.
I know He will come again at the last day.
But what am I doing?
If I hope He comes, I have to prepare.
I expect Him to come, but I also have to serve Him.
Serve Him.
And serve Him faithfully.
So this is our challenge.
As we start another liturgical year,
yes, we will journey.
We will continue as a community.
We will live together.
But we are not moving towards Christ.
Christ is coming. Amen?
Christ is coming to us.
So anong gagawin natin sa liturgical year na rin?
Anong gagawin natin sa journey natin?
We prepare ourselves for that coming.
We prepare ourselves for that coming by waiting.
Waiting for Him and waiting on Him.
We wait for Him by expecting and putting our hope and our confidence in God.
Yes, maraming problema ang hinaharap.
Pero alam ko, alam ko, darating ang Panginoon ko.
And when He comes, it will be over soon.
Matatapos na lahat. Amen?
I expect and I wait for Him.
But the second thing is, I wait on Him.
Amen?
I wait on Him.
I serve Him.
I serve Him by serving others.
What you do to the least of my brothers, you do to me.
How many of you would like to help Jesus?
Help others.
Amen?
Help others, you're helping Christ.
What you do to your fellow man, yung ginagawa mo sa kapwa mo, ginagawa mo kay
Lord yan.
When I was hungry, you fed me.
Nagugutom ba si Lord?
I mean, nagugutom ba si Jesus?
Nagugutom ba si Jesus?
Gusto kong pakainin si Jesus?
Hindi po nagugutom ang Diyos.
Sino ang nagugutom?

Yung mga kapatid niya, gutom.
Kaya sabi ni Jesus, pag pinakain mo yung mga kapatid ko,
para na rin pinakain mo ako.
Amen?
That's how we feed Christ.
Gusto kong magpakain kay Lord.
Ang hirap kayo magpakain sa taong busog.
But when you feed the hungry, when you come to the hungry,
you come to their aid and you feed them.
Sabi ni Jesus, pinakain mo na rin ako.
Amen?
Yung gutom nila, nararamdaman ko.
Yung hilab ng tiyan nila, nararamdaman ko rin.
Kaya pag pinakain mo sila,
nararamdaman ko rin yung busog nararamdaman nila.
I feel everything they feel.
That's why we wait on Him.
We serve Him.
This year, as we start another liturgical year,
this is the tone.
Ito yung tono, ito yung theme ng paglalakbay natin.
We wait for Christ and we wait on Christ as a people.
For more information, visit www.fema.org