

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

**Life Everlasting**    Twenty-second Week in Ordinary Time    Saturday, November 21, 2015  
8:15 AM    1Mc 6:1-13;    **Lk 20:27-40**    The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(Our little minds could never grasp what God has prepared for those who love him.)

Today Jesus is involved in a question that cannot be answered in our language. **What is the nature of the resurrection?** St. Paul says to dispute about it is really to waste your time. We cannot know. We believe, it is our faith, that we will be raised bodily. We do not believe in the immortality of the soul. That is what some people believe, but it's not what the Church believes. **We believe that we will be raised body and soul into eternal life, and that all are alive to God.** But what that means, we do not know. What Jesus is saying here is there is just so much continuity between the present age and age to come; that is, **there is so much continuity that the same person**, but not necessarily anything else.

Things we may take to be basic are not basic there. So our relationships change. St. Thomas Aquinas, and think about this, says that **in heaven everyone loves everyone else as himself.** Well, that's not like on earth, and we can't even imagine what that would be like. So is anyone really my wife or my husband in that situation? It's hard to say, and yet, on the other hand, it's hard to say that whatever we enjoy on earth in terms of a deep commitment would completely dissolve in eternity, that's also unlikely.

So it is very important that we keep our eyes fixed on the horizons that Jesus himself gives us, that we believe that with God all things are alive, that **we believe that with God all things are possible, that we really await the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting**, but that we don't worry about how this is all going to be because **our little minds could never grasp what God has prepared for those who love him.** This is St. Paul's own view that he expressed in the First Letter to the Corinthians: "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, the mind has never imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." And that has to be enough for us.