

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

**Beyond Our Comprehension**    Twenty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time    Saturday,  
September 17, 2016    8:15 AM    **1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49;**    Lk 8:4-15    (St. Robert  
Bellarmine, bishop and Doctor of the Church)    (This is about acknowledging that in the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ something so wonderful happened that did not simply happen to him,  
but it happened to him for us.)

Today we are reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, a section we don't often read from. I think this is a very important section; in fact, I wish it were the one that we would be reading later today at my aunt's funeral, but my cousins picked the readings and this isn't one of them. But it's very apropos, especially for my family where many of the people have more or less fallen away from Catholic faith; and I think they fall away because they think in very simple terms about what we believe and they can't quite swallow it.

Well, **St. Paul here says, look, don't think that what you imagine or what you can see is really what our faith is about.** Our faith is about a mystery that no one can see and no one can imagine. "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, the mind has not imagined what God has in store for those who love him." And so when he talks about **the resurrection**, which is the foundation of Christian faith as was established earlier in the letter, he is saying, well, people say what's it like? The whole point is we can't say. **We are being invited to believe in something that is totally beyond our comprehension.** If we don't get that basic point, we will stumble, as many have stumbled because they think that we believe in something silly, like those who think that when they die they go to heaven and play golf. And the skeptics come along and cynics come along and say, well, how stupid. Well, yes, that's not the point is it?

**The point is life in God, sharing God, living divine life.** Now I can't explain what that is. From time to time life will give us **little intimations**; graces will come, moments will come where God touches us, opens a little window or door to let us see something quite marvelous or to even feel something quite marvelous. Those are **little actual graces inviting us to surrender**

**to mystery.** Now many modern people don't like the idea of surrendering to mystery; they want to know exactly what's entailed. They want to know exactly what this is all about. They think they have a right to know. They think they have a right to certainty. But there's no way we can surrender to mystery and still be certain.

**This is about acknowledging that in the resurrection of Jesus Christ something so wonderful happened that did not simply happen to him, but it happened to him for us.** It is a foreshadowing, a preview of what life is about. And we know that our bodies are corruptible, but what would be raised will be incorruptible. How so, we cannot explain. What is sown is often dishonorable, but what will be raised will be glorious after the pattern of his body. What is sown is weak, but what will be raised will be powerful. What is sown is often sick, but what is raised will be full of health. What is sown is a natural body, which we all know what that is. What will be raised is a spiritual body, but we have no idea what that is. So we are being asked to **give God a blank check. We are being asked to simply surrender our faith to his love and his mastery over life and death.** And St. Paul is saying **that really is the cornerstone of faith and it leads to hope and of course participates already in divine love.**