

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Not Battling Flesh and Blood Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time Thursday,
October 27, 2016 8:45 AM Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican in the Chapel of St. John
XXIII **Eph 6:10-20;** Lk 13:31-35 (The evil spirit infiltrates our minds to irritate us, to
confuse us, to turn us into people who don't want what is really good.)

St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians is a very good time for us to reflect on the source of our problems. He makes it very clear that **we are not battling flesh and blood, meaning people.** People are not our problems; we sometimes think that. Some people get under our skin, but what he is saying is it isn't really them. **They are simply the means by which the evil spirit infiltrates our minds to irritate us, to confuse us, to turn us** into people who don't want what is really good, people who are small and petty and mean and self-righteous and looking for retaliation. That is not the product of the flesh and blood. **That is a spiritual evil that penetrates.** So we have to keep that in mind. **The whole idea of racial hatred, national hatreds, wars, those are inspired by the evil spirit.** It has nothing to do with race. It has nothing to do with nationality. And so we have to keep that in mind if we are to be free of this evil spirit, of this temptation. And being free of course means **we have to work on ourselves.** **We have to see what works on us, and we have to oppose it with the word of God and the grace of God.**