

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 13, 2008

Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23

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The old saying that history repeats itself could not be more timely and true than it is today as we reflect and compare on how God's people of old and of the present have too often failed miserably to live up to what God asked of them.

The sufferings of S. Paul and the early Christians were outrageously cruel and brutal under their political leaders as testified by the early Roman martyrs and the witness of the catacombs. To that we can compare the terrible injustices of our day: the genocides, the wars perpetrated by our generation. Like our ancestors, we groan in labor pains for the curse that has been put on humanity because of sin.

But what about Creation that St. Paul says "has been groaning in labor pains even until now"?

According to the footnotes of the Jerusalem Bible, the word Creation meant the *material world*. The *Material World* was created **for** *humanity*, and therefore shared and is sharing, in mankind's destiny.
(Romans 8:18-28)

What is mankind's destiny?

It is comforting to BELIEVE from the words of St. Paul that all creation (*Humanity* and the *Material World*) although groaning together in labor pains now, will be "set free from the slavery of corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God."

What is the destiny of Humanity?

Let us rejoice with St. Paul who, reminding us that we *Humanity* who have the fruits of the Spirit, can say with certainty, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us."
(Romans:8:18-23)

What is our destiny?