

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Someone recently asked me if I send Christmas cards and if I had yet ordered or purchased them. Although the question was asked with really no other purpose than to make “small talk,” I thought it seemed odd that one would be talking of sending Christmas cards before the beginning of the month of October. Such a question, coupled with the fact that Christmas decorations are already making their way to store shelves, causes me to pause and reflect upon the fact that we always seem to be in such a hurry. In a hurry for the cooler weather to arrive; in a hurry to get through the week and into the weekend; in a hurry to complete this or that task; in a hurry for the holidays; And maybe even in a hurry to have the holidays done and over so that we can get back to our normal, hurried lives.

Approaching life with such a hurried and harried approach can cause us to miss out on the present, to fail to recognize the beauty of the present moment, and all the “here and now” moments of life. And that is unfortunate, because we have no real control over what tomorrow will bring and, as Scripture tells us, everything has its own appointed time. “There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). The Lord Jesus Himself reminds us of the futility of worrying – and hurrying- when he speaks of the lilies of the field in the Gospel of Saint Luke: “Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith? And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. **But seek the kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you**” (Luke 12:27-31).

Therefore, instead of worrying about the future, about Christmas cards or holiday preparations or when the weather will be more pleasant, we should live the present moment—for each moment we live is a moment of grace, every moment is a moment in which can draw closer to the Lord and allow Him to enter more fully into our hearts and lives. And if we live each moment with our hearts centered in the Lord, there is nothing for which we really need worry—for the most important task is thus completed, the task of being prepared for that moment—whenever it shall be and however it shall arrive—that the Lord will come and call us into the fullness of His kingdom. So, even though we all have preoccupations about tomorrow and what it might bring, let us live this moment, here and now, seeking the kingdom of God with the confidence that the Lord will give us His grace in the present moment and grant us the wisdom to seek Him above all other things.

With love in the Lord,

Father David