

occupied the White House. We are not invulnerable, as September 11th and Katrina have reminded us. If we continue to yield sour grapes, our walls too will indeed come tumbling down.

So what are we to do? Perhaps instead of killing the prophets, we ought to listen to them. Maybe we can begin honoring God rather than exiling him, respecting marital fidelity rather than ridiculing it, protecting the unborn rather than protecting their “terminators,” and caring for the poor rather than abandoning them.



And maybe we can follow the advice of St. Paul (Phil 4:6-9) and renounce the anxiety that makes us miserable and causes us to conclude that we must “take care of ourselves” rather than do things God’s way. Perhaps if we thank God for blessings and even trials, presenting our needs to Him in faith, we’ll see a change in our mood and even a change in our world. And maybe if we fill our minds with the beauty of truth rather than with the trash of “Desperate Housewives” we might just notice more joy and serenity in our lives.

Have you ever seen a more frantic society than ours? We eat, drink, and breathe tension.

Yet St. Paul speaks of a “peace that passes all understanding.” It’s a peace that does not go away even when planes strike towers and hurricanes sink cities. It starts in the inside but has impact on the outside. Without it, Mother Teresa could have never lasted in the chaos of Calcutta and John Paul the Great could have never made his way through Nazi tanks and Communist oppression to occupy the chair of Peter.



This peace indeed defies comprehension. But it’s ours for the asking.

This was originally published in Our Sunday Visitor as a reflection upon the readings for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, liturgical cycle A (Is. 5:1-7, Ps 80, Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43). It is reproduced here with the permission of the author.

I Believe - The Heart of Catholic Faith

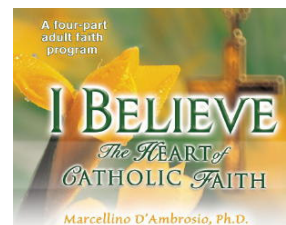
by: Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D.

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