



*From the Office of the President*

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REGIS UNIVERSITY | DENVER, COLORADO

**Daniel 12:1-3**  
**Homily for the Thirty-third Sunday of the Year (B)**  
**Regis University, St. John Francis Regis Chapel**  
**November 18, 2018**  
**Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11**  
**Hebrews 10:11-14, 18**  
**Mark 13:24-32**

Hate speech. Cowardly behaviors that put lives at risk. Racism, misogyny, arrogance.

What are we to do to fathom this time? We are in that part of Mark's gospel where we hear Jesus consoling his disciples about the trouble to come for them. Of course, this is really important for Mark's hearers because of the persecutions they are enduring. It is also very important for us, as we face the troubles of our time.

In one form or another, many of us are asking, "Is this the fate of the earth? Of our nation? Our community? All the labors of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noontday brightness of human genius and hope and love are destined to extinction in the cultural implosion of hate and intolerance?" It is not simply a lack of listening; it is an arrogance of having all the answers.

Jesus consoles his disciples by pointing to a tree. "Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he [the Savior] is near at the gates." God never leaves us, especially in our distress.

Our University community at Regis University has responded to a difficult and painful interpretation of our inclusion that does grave damage, in some cases, deadly damage to members of our community. Allow me to read my response to Archbishop Aquila's concerns regarding the manner of our inclusion of the LGBTQ community here.

[Read Letter.]

We can practice our faith- really exercise it and strengthen it- by joyful, courageous, and loving responses to intolerance, cowardly behavior, and ignorance.