

Catholic Women's Conference
April 13, 2019

“What are we going to do?” This is a question many may be asking these days. There always seems to be a new problem, always a new thing to fear, always a new failing or fight. We live in this kind of world. We in the Church know all too well that there are problems that need fixing, and praise God we are working together on those solutions. However, the Gospel today shows us a people who are worried about the future in a way that is not life-giving. Their response is to question, “What are we going to do?” They are worried, anxious, and doubting. They are doubting so much, that they cannot see the presence of God among them. They have let their fears and doubts overcome them so much, that they do not even recognize the face of their savior.

My dear sisters in Christ, we must be honest with our current culture. We live in the midst of an outrage culture, a culture of dishonesty, and a culture of mistrust. Every media outlet is filled with fear and anger. The conversations we see between experts become shouting matches and angry fights. This is the world around us. We Christians have been called to show the world a better way. However, sometimes, we absorb some of the world into ourselves. Have you been feeling angry lately? Have you been living days filled with worry, doubt, or frustration? If this is the case in your life, then I can tell you that you are not alone. There are many throwing their hands up and asking “What are we going to do?”

It is an understandable impulse. Trust has been violated – even in the Church. People let us down. Systems let us down. People we

should be able to trust let us down. This is the common experience of all people. But we are not just any people. We are people who believe in God. We are the ones who believe in the savior, Jesus Christ. We are the ones who are temples of the Holy Spirit. We know that “the Lord will guard us, as a shepherd guards his flock” (Ps). Fear and doubt can turn us against each other. We can become like the members of the Sanhedrin who could not see the truth in the face of Jesus. We speak words of faith, but do not truly live our lives in faith. But we already know the answer to the question. “What are we going to do?” We will trust in the Lord and conform our hearts to his will.

There are problems that need to be worked on; this is true. We are not naïve people. But when we Christians address our problems, we do it with hope and trust in the Lord who is truly guiding the process. If we succumb to fear and division, then we are not following the Lord. The Lord himself promised to guide us always. As he said through the prophet Ezekiel: “I will make with them a covenant of peace; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them.” Trusting in the Lord’s promise brings us back to who we truly are. As Pope Francis has put it: “Trusting in the Lord, one becomes like Him; His blessing transforms us into His children, who share His life” (11 Jan 2017).

So my dear sisters. May we take this Lenten moment at this wonderful conference and renew our faith. May we not be afraid or divided. In the freedom of those who trust in God, may we face our challenges with hope and charity. “What are we going to do?” We will place our trust in the God who walks with us, and let him continue to transform us into his children after his own heart.