

June 16th, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

War of the Worlds

War of the Worlds was written by the British author, H. G. Wells in 1898. The science fiction novel had two parts. Part I was titled, 'Coming of the Martians.' Part II was titled, 'Earth under the Martians.' Taking advantage of the widespread belief that the world was going to end at midnight, December 31st, 1899, the book presented dark years for the future of human kind.

Powerful new weapons were unveiled in the novel. The Martians had in their arsenal a terrifying heat ray and poisonous black smoke strong enough to defeat any adversary. H. G. Wells must have smiled at what he unknowingly prophesied, because one year before he died the world witnessed the awesome destructive power of the atomic bomb. He himself would say that mankind that began in a cave would end in a cave.

In 1954, the scripture scholar, William Barclay wrote, "We are living today in an atmosphere of despair. People despair of the church; they despair of the world; they look with shuddering dread on the future." (Barclay, *The Gospel of Mark*, p. 108)

In 1899, one of the longest reigning popes in history, Leo XIII, wrote that when God is banished from the earth would anyone expect to be free from anxiety and peril. "When religion is discarded it follows by necessity that the surest foundations of the public welfare must give way." (*Annum Sacrum*)

It seems that the despair that many people suffer and the anxiety that fills our hearts are caused by living in a world and society increasingly devoid of God and religion. Christians, more than anyone else, are expected to be men and women of faith. If we do not bring Christ to the world by the manner of our lives, who will?

Pope Leo XIII encouraged Catholic devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as a visible sign of God's love. "We must have recourse to Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We have gone astray and we must return to the right path: darkness has overshadowed our minds, and the gloom must be dispelled by the light of truth: death has seized upon us, and we must lay hold of life. It will at length be possible that our many wounds be healed and justice spring forth again; that the splendors of peace be renewed, and swords and arms drop from the hands" of men. (*Annum Sacrum*)

Perhaps our generation will be the first one in a long time who will begin to see the world in a different light. Instead of fearing for the future, perhaps there will be greater hope and optimism. This I believe can only be possible when our lives begin to reflect more the faith we have in Jesus and the love we have for God.