

Daily Homily
33 Week, Ordinary Time, Monday
14 November 2022
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

For the last two weeks of our Church Year during the daily Masses, for the most part, our first reading will be taken from the Book of Revelation.

I think my initial education and formation on the Book of Revelation came from Hollywood movies unfortunately. It seemed in the 80's and 90's there were several movies that came out that showed that the Book of Revelation was written as things that will happen in the future. Well, in these movies those future predictions were coming true and it spelled out a cataclysmic end of the world.

This is not what Revelation is about. This book is not about future things. This book is not a prediction of how the world will end. Hollywood got it wrong.

This book is part of a style of writing that was popular in the past, but is a bit odd to us today. This is part of apocalyptic writing which is heavily grounded on the symbolic and the poetic. The events that this book writes about have already happened. This book of the Bible was written for a Christian community who probably thought that it was the end of their world. They were going through intense, violent, life-threatening persecution. To be Christian at the time meant that you were going to be martyred. This was a given and to be expected. This book was written as a source of compassion, hope, perseverance, encouragement, and strength.

There is a different kind of martyrdom that we endure today... Pope Francis speaks of the Church in China, which to some degree has gone underground because of intolerance there, that they are enduring the martyrdom of patience. In other parts of the world, including our own, we are enduring the martyrdom of irrelevance and the martyrdom of indifference... and of course the martyrdom of the culture of death continues to plague us.

However, over the course of these last two weeks, it is not about losing hope or wringing our hands and asking God why isn't He answering our prayers for a better life or a better world. In Revelation it is made clear that even the forces of evil unknowingly endorse and bring about the divine plan because regardless – God wins.

Take heart and take courage – God will always win.