

Question: Should people construct Safe Havens to prepare themselves for the coming tribulation?

Answer: When it is God's initiative and *not man's*, the construction of chapels or churches for the nurturing and spreading of the Christian faith, as well as for the healing and spiritual safeguard of the faithful, is indeed the will of God. Such has been the case in certain places of numerous 19th and 20th century Marian apparitions that have been approved or acknowledged by the local ordinary, where Mary requested the construction of a chapel or church that would serve as centers of pilgrimage and prayer to safeguard the faith, with reports of repeated miraculous healing experiences, e.g., Lourdes, Kibeho, etc. The impact these many modern pilgrimage sites have had on the fruition and development of the life in the Church in all parts of the world cannot be underestimated.¹

When the source behind this undertaking is not God or Mary, but man's sole initiative who undertakes the construction of a "safe haven" for the physical protection of his family and friends, there is nothing in Sacred Scripture, Tradition or approved prophetic private revelations to suggest that such places will guarantee said protection. Now, does this mean that God-fearing individuals are, out of charity, not to make provisions for their loved ones (elderly, children, grandchildren, etc.) in times of crises? Of course not. On the contrary, such charity necessitates such provisions. Nevertheless, the *motives* underlying such provisions, which God alone sees, render more or less efficacious said undertakings. Such motives, marked by charity, may be found in the Gospel:

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn. 15:13); "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Lk. 9:24; 17:33; Mt. 10:39; 16:25).

Nor is it unadvisable to protect one's own life (even if it means abandoning one's material possessions) in times of danger, for Scripture also relates:

"When you see the desolating abomination spoken of through Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains, a person on the housetop must not go down to get things out of his house, a person in the field must not return to get his cloak" (Mt. 24: 15-18).

¹ To mention just a few of these Marian apparitions, consider the apparitions of La Salette (1846), Lourdes (1858), Pontmain (1871), continuing in the 20th century with Fatima (1917), Banneux and Beauraing (1932-1933), Garabandal (1961-1963) and Medjugorje (ongoing from 1981). Our Lady also promised a permanent and indestructible sign above Mount Pobrd in Medjugorje, and above the Pines in Garabandal that indicate the enduring presence of God and Mary in these places.

That the spiritual which precedes the physical is not only protected by God and his angels, but especially by the Virgin Mary through “cenacles” (that is in private homes or local churches where prayer groups are established) is accentuated in the Church-approved writings of Fr. Stefano Gobbi to whom Mary reveals:

“Without an extraordinary intervention of my motherly love, you would not be able to support the pain of the great trial which has now come for all” (MMP, entry 536k);

“Because of the generous response which I am receiving everywhere from my littlest children, I promise to intervene to save you in the hour of the great trial” (Ibid., 529r);

“...Multiply everywhere the cenacles of prayer which I have asked of you, as safe places, as refuges in which you take shelter in the tremendous storm which awaits you... In the cenacles you will be preserved from evil and defended from the great dangers which threaten you” (Ibid., 509g,j).

It is further evident in approved prophetic literature that one must always be spiritually prepared for the day of the imminent tribulation. For those who are *spiritually* ready (in the state of grace, living a steady prayer life and frequenting the Sacraments), approved prophetic texts reveal that God, his angels and Mary will dispose the events in their lives in such a way that they will serve for their well-being and protection. The mercy of God is so great that such protection is already promised to those persons who are *spiritually* disposed and ask him for the gift of the Holy Spirit and to the *physical places* where such persons reside. Consider the following Church-approved revelation of Jesus to the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta:

*“The divine justice imposes chastisements, but neither these nor [God’s] enemies get close to those souls who live in the Divine Will... Know that I will have regard for **the souls** who live in My Will, and for **the places** where these souls reside. They may be likened to the kings of the earth who have their own courts and quarters in which they are kept safe amidst dangers and among the fiercest enemies. Since their power is so imposing, their enemies, while destroying other places, dare not [even] look at their location for fear of being defeated. In the same way, I too, the King of Heaven, have My courts and quarters on earth: These are the souls who live in My Will and in whom I live; the heavenly court crowds around them. The strength of My Will keeps them safe, rendering their enemies bullets ineffective, and driving back the fiercest enemies... I place the souls who live completely in My Will on earth, in the same condition as the blessed [in heaven]. Therefore, live in My Will and fear nothing” (Luisa Piccarreta, volume 11, May 18, 1915).*

In his letter to the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta, whose 19 volumes and works, *The Hours of the Passion* and *The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will*, enjoy the *imprimatur* and *nihil obstat*, St. Hannibal di Francia writes of the work Jesus dictated to Luisa for our times entitled, *The Hours of the Passion*:

“If on account of only one soul doing these hours [of the Passion], **Jesus would spare a city of chastisements** and would give grace to as many souls as there are words of these sorrowful hours [one meditates], how many graces might a community [or any group of individuals] expect to receive? How many imperfections and omissions would it be healed of, if not preserved from? How many souls would sanctify and save [other souls] through the observance of this pious exercise?”²

In the light of the preceding, it is evident that acting out of charity to prepare for the coming tribulations by caring and proving first and foremost for the soul, and then for the body, is a meritorious deed. To emphasize the primacy of spiritual over physical preparations, consider the following Gospel text: “*But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil*” (Mt. 6:33-34)?

As for the tribulation itself, which will assume the form of a “hurricane of fire” (prophesied by several Church-approved mystics), it is both a *spiritual fire* that will set the hearts of some ablaze with repentance and love, thereby producing conversions, and also a *material fire* igniting the atmosphere we breathe world-wide, whereby many shall inhale fire and be consumed by it. Since all humans, animals and plants will be affected by the global fire that will ignite the entire atmosphere, it would appear that no survivors will remain. And yet, numerous Church-approved mystics affirm that a remnant will indeed survive, about 1/3 in number. While without the intervention of God, his angels and Mary no survivors would exist, this miracle of God sparing 1/3 of mankind will dispose the earth for the fulfillment of the “Our Father” prayer, whereby his Will shall be done on earth as in heaven.

To emphasize the role of God’s angels in these end times, consider how He availed himself of his angels to bring the plagues upon Egypt (Psalm 78:43, 49) and sent the destroying angel to execute the firstborn in Egypt at the Passover (Exodus 12:13, 23). Inasmuch as the direct act of “execution” of the firstborn and “protection” of the God-fearing was supervised directly by God himself and executed by his angels, the same may be said for the coming tribulation of a global hurricane of fire. God’s angels will execute his command to separate the wheat from the dandelion, the good from the bad, the sheep from the goats. Admittedly, some of the good will die with the bad – and these former will be judged far less severely or will be similar to martyrs (cf. Book of Revelation 6:9; 7:13-14; 13:7.10.15; 17:6; 18:24; 20:4).

² To obtain a copy of this work, cf. the website LTDW.org. This work is contained in *The Divine Will Prayer Book*.

Hence Jesus' words in the Church-approved writings of Vassula Rydén (that bear the Church's *imprimatur* and *nihil obstat*):

"What is the Day of the Lord? those who have and are persistently rebelling against Me will taste that Day and all it bears; it will come upon those transgressors as sudden as a thunderbolt, and like a fearful fire they will be turned into human torches; yes, the earth, as you said, will be set aflame and their consciousness will be revealed to them as a revelation; My divine fire will turn the inflexible heart into a lenient heart in My Day; the earth in agony will become fully aware in consciousness and soul, of its failures and its deficiency, its corruptibility, and its lawlessness and not to say the least, the infamous rejection of My Resurrection and My Omnipresence in your daily life; heaven will open in My Day, and those who rejected Me, proclaiming themselves as gods will be judged severely... have you ever asserted My greatness or proclaimed My fearful splendour and power? I tell you: woe to anyone who finds himself without My Light [not in the state of grace] in My Day... these I will purge with My Fire;

as for those who kept My precepts and My Law based on love, and who are the salt of the earth, they shall not be tested by fire, since I am their God, and have acknowledged Me as the principal of their life; they have already been tested, and are part of Me now and constantly within My Divine Light in union with the Godhead; and as you said, daughter, at Noah's time the heavens deluged at My coming; and now the earth will be tested and put aflame by fire..." (TLIG Message of June 1, 2002).

In conclusion, while the most important act of charity in preparing for the "Day of the Lord" is preparing one's soul and that of others, making provisions out of charity to protect the physical lives and welfare of others may be considered a good, but less meritorious than the former. For we cannot rely on human means to protect us from the events prophesied in Holy Scripture and Church-approved private revelations. Only God can protect and save us. We ought to have recourse to prayer, imploring Heaven to intercede so that the tribulation be shortened or mitigated.