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**Homily for Friday of the Fourth Week in Ordinary Time  
Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

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I would suspect that there are some people present here today who are worried about something. Worried about family, our children, our finances, our health, the future; worry about not being able to overcome some type of sin; worry about not measuring up; worry about our country or our world. What are the worries of your life that you are experiencing today? We all have them.

So often we wake up every day carrying them again. We will wake up tomorrow carrying them again. And the next; and the next day. Right?

***“Let your life be free from love of money but be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you.” [Hebrews 13:5]***

This line has jumped out at me, not because it speaks of money. For me, it calls to mind more than money. It begs the question, “What am I attached to?” Or “What has a hold on me that I can’t seem to give up or let go of?”

The things we are attached to may be material things. But it also may be all the **WORRIES** of our lives. We become attached to them. We have become attached to them because we don’t know how to deal with them or what to do with them. Or we can’t see beyond them.

And sometimes it may not be the difficulties or the worries of life but the drudgery of life. That in itself may also make one think God has forsaken and abandoned them.

If we cling to the worries and the fears, and allow ourselves to become attached to them, thinking they are never going to go away, then we have given in – or given up. And then **FAITH** is not our guide – something else or someone else is – and we find ourselves sinking into the abyss.

When this happens, we can be certain that God has not left us; we have left Him. We have walked away and have begun to follow the One who leads us away from peace and consolation. Yes, that is the Evil One. God has not abandoned us. It is we who have abandoned Him. For remember what we have just heard, ***“I will never forsake you or abandon you.”***

Jesus Christ came into this world to reach those who feel lost, those who feel that nobody cares. The Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in Him. The Lord Jesus Christ does care and He is always reaching out to the lonely and the desperate, the confused and the hurt, the depressed and the disillusioned, those who have lost hope. Jesus Christ is reaching out to each of you – right now, at this very moment.

Are we reaching out toward Him?

Why is it so bad to succumb to fear or worry? What did the Apostles do when they succumbed to fear: they abandoned Jesus? When we give in to fear we do the same thing. When we give in to fear we focus on the potential of what will happen and take our eyes off of Christ. This is why fear or worry is so poisonous to our spiritual life and our relationship with Christ. It becomes a barrier to our relationship with Jesus Christ.

As I look out at all of you today, I do not know what situation you are facing right now or might face in the days or weeks or months to come. I do not know what might be around the next corner of life for you, or me for that matter. I do not know the future, yours or mine. But I do know the One who controls the future and I am 100% confident that He **WILL NOT** forsake or abandon us.

Therefore, take heart and comfort in Him, no matter what you face, no matter what you fear, no matter what the worry. Keep your gaze fixed on Jesus and trust that His gaze is fixed on you. Invite Him into the worry or fear or anxiety with you. He already knows that it is there. He will **NOT FAIL or ABANDON YOU**.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. [Hebrews 13:8]