

Reflections While Walking

Beginnings

- Deacon Bob Salvestrini -



Dante's Journey to Heaven

Although probably not a totally accurate quote, I recall once reading something along the lines that stated, “all beginnings should begin at the end.” Practical wisdom asserts: if you don’t have some idea of where you want to end up then the effort may not be worth undertaking. There are few endeavors that can be successfully completed if there isn’t a specific goal in mind when one begins. An artist begins his painting with a scene before him or an image in his mind. A musician senses how a piece should sound before he begins his practice. Problem solving involves understanding the parameters of the problem before attempting to develop a solution. There is no end to the examples that one could muster to illustrate the importance of understanding the desired goal or anticipated end of any venture before beginning.

The biggest journey we undertake is life itself and ostensibly life’s beginning, and its end is the same for everyone. Quantitatively we can point to the beginning and end of every life but is that truly the whole picture – the reality? Jesus said, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (RV 22:13) There exists with every ending a new beginning and there is no new beginning more important than the one that occurs at life’s corporeal end. Like the artist whose goal it is to move his mental images to canvas, or the musician who practices to produce the music he hears in his heart, the goal for every Christian is to achieve entry into heaven as their final new beginning. The artist must prepare the canvas to receive his creation and the musician must tune his instrument to accurately produce his heartfelt melodies and the Christian must prepare their soul for an eventual permanent new beginning. We have prayer, scripture and the sacraments as means of preparation, but one of the best ways of prepping for one’s own Alpha and Omega is to assist others in ordering their lives toward a heavenly pursuit.