

**“When Herod the king
heard this, he was troubled,
and all Jerusalem with him”**

Matthew 2:3



How should we react to persecution against the Church?



❖ We should not be surprised

- “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you.”

1 Peter 4:12

- Reading the history of the Church



❖ We should not be terrified

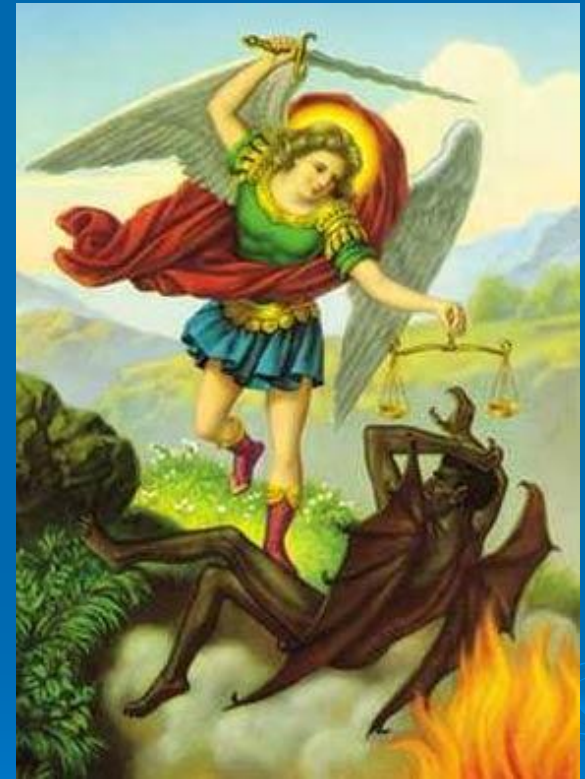
- “My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him.” *Luke 12:4-5*



❖ We should not be distracted

- “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Ephesians 6:12



❖ We should not doubt

- “If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”

John 15:19



❖ We should not be defeated

- “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Romans 12:21



❖ We should not be divided

- “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand”

Matthew 12:25



❖ It is the calling for each of us

- “So it was, when I heard these words that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days....Both my father’s house and I have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You.” *Nehemiah 1:4, 6-7*



How should we react to persecution against the Church?

1. We should not be surprised
2. We should not be terrified
3. We should not be distracted
4. We should not doubt
5. We should not be defeated
6. We should not be divided
7. It is the calling for each of us