



# *Sons of Saint Joseph* <sup>tm</sup>

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## **4- Evangelii Nuntiandi : THE BENEFICIARIES OF Evangelization.** **Saturday, February 3, 2024**

### **Peter 3: 3-10**

Know this first of all, that in the last days scoffers will come [to] scoff, living according to their own desires and saying, “Where is the promise of his coming? From the time when our ancestors fell asleep, everything has remained as it was from the beginning of creation.” They deliberately ignore the fact that the heavens existed of old and earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God; through these the world that then existed was destroyed, deluged with water. The present heavens and earth have been reserved by the same word for fire, kept for the day of judgment and of destruction of the godless. But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

### **Questions**

1. The document mentions some obstacles: tempting to reduce missionary activity due to enormous resistance, public power adversarial, or loss of motivation. What are the reasons for the resistance of the world or any political power against the Church? Why are the baptized less motivated today than the apostles? What is the remedy?
2. To evangelize includes “pre-evangelization;” how can art, or science or philosophy, or sports help set an initial context for us to evangelize other people into the Church?
3. What are differences in preaching to those simply never heard the faith, or children, and those of non-Christian religions who also require evangelization? How can the Church respect these religions, but still energetically pursue converts among them?
4. How does contemporary secular militant atheism compound the problem of evangelization today? Another problem: how does man-centered secularism influence people in the way they practice their faith? How can we counter that, and prevent it from taking root in children.