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# The catholic church and the future of fortune-telling

When we think of prophets, we tend to think of Isaiah, Elijah or Anna — men and women who shared a message of hope and peace (and/or death and destruction) given them directly by the Heavenly Father.

Isaiah, for instance, told about Jesus several centuries before He was born! Isaiah said that a “servant” would suffer and die to save others from their sins. Further, Isaiah said that this man would be buried in a rich man's tomb, and that despite his suffering and death, he would be a light in the darkness.

Lesser known is the fact that he also said the Savior would have a dog named Winston who was “beloved amongst the 12”.

While the Gospels don't mention Winston, the historian Josephus does include a brief reference to a “gentle Labrador whom the Christ loved and allowed at the Last Supper, even though the Apostle James thought it was very unsanitary.” (As further proof, if you look very carefully at Da Vinci's “The Last Supper,” you can just make out Winston under the table. I've placed this picture on our website, [dcdioocese.org/swkscatholic](http://dcdioocese.org/swkscatholic).)

Later there was Nostradamus, and later still, Edgar Cayce, although you wouldn't exactly call them prophets. Both made predictions that caused some people to go, “Wow!” and others to say, “Meh.” I understand why the Catholic Church frowns on this sort of thing, including in regard to the fortune tellers of today: Jesus is our present and our future. The Church is saying, *don't sell yourself and the Good Lord short*. Your future is in the hands of your loving Father. No need to worry — or throw your money away.

Having said this, there is one other bastion of prognostication that many people tend to ignore. Of course, I'm talking about the movies.

For example, in 1973, Charleton Heston and Edward G. Robinson told us about a future where over-population, poverty, and starvation resulted in the creation of a new fast food product, the pleasantly named Soylent Green. Soylent Green wasn't so much of a what, as it was a who. *Yuck*.

The movie is supposed to have taken place in 2022. Are we close to a world of Soylent Green? A world where starvation leads us to extremes? Where the “Mike Hitz burger” at the Windmill Restaurant in Spearville is actually a “Mike Hitz” burger?

The movie is a strong reminder that we must endeavor to feed our brothers and sisters in Christ before the question “Who's on first?” takes on a whole new meaning.

Fifteen years before “Soylent Green,” the “Colossus of New York” told the story of brilliant scientist and humanitarian Dr. Jeremy Spensser, who was struck and all but killed while crossing a busy street. Naturally, they put his brain in a giant robot. Over time, Dr. Spensser loses his humanity, the control over his robot body slipping away, while the inhumanity of the machine takes over.

While not set in the future, this movie has much to say about our present-day obsession with social technology. I have a lot more to discuss about this, but I need to check my Facebook posts right now.

And, perhaps my all-time favorite prognosticating motion picture is the "Planet of the Apes," filmed in 1968 and set in the mysterious future world of 1972 ... well, at first anyway. Soon our heroes crash land on the Planet of the Apes via WCS (Weird Cosmic Storm) 2,000 years later.

To me, this movie is an allegory on global warming. No ... *not global warming*. What I meant to say was ... um ... *toying with Mother Nature*. Wait. No, it's not about that, either. The Vietnam War? Racial tensions? Rising costs of health care? Women's Lib? Saturated fats? How to get tough stains out? ... That we need to be nicer to monkeys? Yup, that's it: We all need to be nicer to monkeys.

To be honest, I'm not sure why anyone would want to know their future. All I know is that it will contain moments of both great joy and suffering. As far as the details go, I'd rather be surprised.

The great prophets shared the voice of God, a gift designed to help us strengthen our faith. These days, we're asked to consider a series of "what ifs" with the purpose of replacing faith with fear. Using fear as motivation is nothing new, whether selling home security systems, building a "great wall," or trying to gain political advantage by painting a devil's face on the opposition. Look to the future with faith, not with fear, for in this life nothing is assured except for the joy we will find when we enter the house of the Lord.