

## Commentary on the Readings for October 16, 2022

### The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the past two weeks the Readings have been about faith: ***faith*** and ***trust*** and ***faith*** and ***patience***. Today the Readings are about faith and prayer, but with a difference. That difference is ***persistence***. We are all encouraged to pray, but many people give up after a few attempts. Others feel that God knows what they need and hears their prayers. Therefore, they need only to ask once. You will see in the following readings that persistence is an important aspect of prayer even to the point of getting others to pray with you for strength and encouragement just as Moses needed help in the First Reading.

In the **First Reading**, from the ***Book of Exodus (17:8-13)***, Moses is leading the Israelites through the desert toward the Promised Land. They must go through various enemy territories which often resulted in tribal wars. During one of these situations, Moses implores God to help them defeat the tribe of Amalek. The result was that God has Moses holding up his hands to remind his people that their help really comes from God and Moses is only their intermediary.

The **Responsorial Psalm** is ***(121:1-8)***. In this passage the psalmist picks up the same theme and acknowledges that "our help is from the Lord who made heaven and earth." We should not be ashamed to admit that all we have and all that we are come from God, and we are dependent upon Him for all our needs.

The **Second Reading** is from ***St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (3:14-4:2)***. This passage is complementary to our theme of persistence in faith and prayer. It is intended to encourage us, through our faith, to be strong in the face of difficulties and to be grateful in times of plenty.

The **Gospel Reading** is taken from the ***Gospel of Luke (18:1-8)***. This short parable told by Jesus to His disciples is often misunderstood because of two statements that Jesus, makes. In the opening sentence, Luke says that Jesus encouraged His disciples (and us) to "pray always." This does not mean that we must be on our knees 24/7. Rather, it means that we should always be in the "spirit" of prayer acknowledging our dependence upon God for all things. Later, Jesus says: "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says." Jesus is not condoning what the judge says. Rather He is holding it up as an example of persistence and of how the Divine Judge, God the Father, will listen to our persistent pleas if we remain faithful, particularly in times of need.

People in our western culture have difficulty with being dependent upon others for their needs. Most of us will go to any extreme to avoid asking for help, particularly long-term help. However, when it comes down to the nitty-gritty of our faith, we must acknowledge our dependence upon God for it is only through His love and Grace that we can survive and be saved. After reading, or listening to these scripture passages, we should ask ourselves: "***Does my Prayer Life reflect patience and persistence?***" Something to think about during your Prayer Time this week! **MFB**