



## ***29th SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME*** ***YEAR C – October 20, 2019***

The scriptures today remind us of the importance of faith in God and perseverance in prayer. When Jesus asked us to be like little children, he was talking specifically about faith, the kind that little children have in their parents and about perseverance in prayer, the kind that comes from faith in God.

The first reading today (Exodus 17:8-13) seems strange to us who live at a different time and in a different culture. But even children know the meaning of the story. We should not stop trusting God and we should continue to pray even against all odds. We don't always get what we want but we always get what we need.

Someone once said happiness is not having what you want - happiness is wanting what you have. The grass always seems greener on the other side until you get there. That's when you discover it's not what it seems to be.

The message of the second reading (2 Timothy 3:14-4:2) is specifically for adults. St. Paul says, "I charge you in the presence of God and Jesus, the Christ. Proclaim the word, be persistent, convince, reprimand, encourage and teach." If we do all that well, our children can believe that they are loved by God and they will know that they are loved by you.

Recall the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the gospel every day and only if you have to use words." That marvelous insight needs no further comment.

Jesus knows that there are times when we may grow weary and perhaps even feel abandoned by God. He himself felt that way when he was on the cross.

He tells us not to worry. He tells us stop being afraid. Trust our Lord and persevere in prayer. You are an important part of God's plan and it will unfold as it should - even in those moments when you are moved to tears.

In the middle of the last century, Dag Hammarskjöld wrote these words, He said, Cry, cry if you must but don't complain. The path has chosen you. And at the end of it all, you will say, thank you.

Many more years before that, Cardinal Newman wrote these words, "God has created me to do some definite service. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve the Lord, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve the Lord, If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve the Lord. God does nothing in vain. Therefore, I will trust the lord."

Faith and perseverance. For a few moments in silence reflect on your own mission in life, your own faith in God and your own perseverance in prayer.

