

33RD SUNDAY – ORD. (C)

BY YOUR PERSEVERANCE YOU WILL SAVE YOUR LIVES

November 12/13, 2022

Nothing in this world comes cheap. One has to toil to get what to eat and wear. Bitter pill cures the disease. Hard training and discipline will bring success. No doubt St. Paul told the Christians in Thessalonica that 'if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat'. He himself toiled night and day to earn his living.

It is not different from our Christian life. Malachi warned the Israelites what was going to happen in the near future, especially at the end of time. At that time, evil doers and the proud would suffer greatly, but the righteous would rise and experience the healing rays of the Son of Man.

Jesus also made it clear to the people who were admiring the Temple that it was going to be destroyed and nothing would remain standing. It was destroyed because of the disobedience of the Israelites and their arrogance. He continued to tell them how people were going to suffer, especially His followers when the world is coming to an end. They would be persecuted and imprisoned because of Him. But He assured them that they were not to worry about what to say because He would defend them and protect them. They were to persevere in their faith and be ready to bear witness to Him.

Are we experiencing the deceit, the terrible signs and persecution? Do we see the evil around us? Churches are burnt down all over the world including this country; many Christians are killed even in Churches; praying in public is forbidden and some people are arrested for doing so.

Jesus told His disciples to give testimony about Him when they were arrested. How can I give testimony at this time in my life? A testimony is a personal witness to what the Lord Jesus has done in my life. Am I a faithful Catholic who can express that in my daily life by what I say and do? Am I able to notice the evil within me and thus trying to change? How can I give testimony since I don't want to offend people?

Where are the faithful and dedicated Catholic Christians? "You will know them by their fruits" (Mt.7:15-20). We are afraid to muddy the waters. It is difficult for many of us to accept our Catholic beliefs; how can we share them and let other people know and accept them? Even though Jesus has assured us of His support and guidance, we are very much afraid of what we are going to face.

The believers in Thessalonica thought that the world was coming to an end immediately, so they were expecting Jesus to come soon. Because of that many of them stopped working and were idling about. We have also gone the other extreme thinking that the end is not near at all, and there is no need to check our way of life. We often take things for granted and forget about the consequences of our actions and inactions as Christians.

As the liturgical year is coming to an end, we are reminded of what is going to happen at the time. There will be trouble everywhere, but we are reminded that evil will be defeated and good life rewarded. There will be temptations within and without us, but the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. This should give me hope and strength to profess and live my faith faithfully and worship in Spirit and in truth.