

REFLECTION FOR THE TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The readings for this Sunday's liturgy remind us of the importance of prayer in the life of a Christian. Prayer is the way we listen to and speak with God. Through prayer, the Christian opens his or her heart to hear God—even in His silences—to wait for His time, to understand His plan, and to trust always in His love. Prayer is essential in the life of a believer. As the saying goes: "Trusting in God and doing our part."

In the first reading, we hear an episode from the journey of God's people through the desert. During a battle between Israel and the Amalekites, Moses remained in prayer on top of a hill, asking God to save His people, while Joshua fought against their enemies. The reading tells us that the prayer of Moses was crucial for the Israelites to win the victory.

By telling this story, Sacred Scripture emphasizes the power of prayer. The believer will only be able to face the difficult battles of life if he can rely on the help and strength of God. And that help and that strength spring from a continuous dialogue—a dialogue that is never broken and never ends—with this saving and liberating God who walks with His people every step of the way.

It is in prayer that we find the light to follow God's path, the strength for our daily struggles against evil, and the trust to believe in God and His eternal love for us.

In the second reading, taken from the Second Letter to Timothy, we are invited to love Sacred Scripture, to meditate on it, and to find in it “the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” For, as the Apostle writes:

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”

The author urges Timothy:

“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”

We too must hear these words as addressed to us. Sacred Scripture is a privileged place of encounter between God and humanity. To listen to Scripture is to listen to God speaking, showing us the path that leads to true life. That is why the Word of God must be loved, studied, read, and meditated upon. It should be the primary guide for Christian prayer, always present along our life’s journey and in all our work of evangelization.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples a parable about “the need to pray always and not lose heart.” According to Jesus, God always hears the prayer of His children and, at the right time, He will answer everything they ask of Him. Yet Jesus insists that we should not be discouraged if God does not respond immediately to our requests.

Let us make time for God—time for prayer, time to listen to God speaking in the silence of our hearts. As someone once said,

“When we set out to think, we go where we want; but when we set out to pray, we go where God wants.”

Prayer draws believers closer to God, helps them understand His plan, and leads them to trust unconditionally in His mercy, His goodness, and His love. Let us pray, let us pray, let us pray—may we never grow tired of praying.

But true prayer requires faith and trust in God.

Let us ask ourselves: Am I a person of faith? Do I trust completely in Jesus Christ and in His love for humanity? Do I live by faith in Christ, or merely by superstition? Is my faith strong enough to withstand criticism, God’s silences, and the “scandals” that the Church faces—or do I abandon the ship at the first sign of a storm?

Jesus’ question at the end of today’s Gospel remains deeply challenging:

“When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

This question challenges us especially in our own times. May Jesus Christ find in each of us people of strong, enlightened faith—men and women who bring His light to today’s world.