

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, October 16, 2022
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C

When Saint Teresa of Calcutta was asked to gauge the success of her ministry to the poorest of the poor, she replied that success is not important in her ministry. Her ministry, she believed, was all about faithfulness. Saint Teresa of Calcutta remained faithful to what she had learned and believed. My dear friends, this is what all the readings are urging us all: to be faithful. Prayer, the most important aspect of a believer's life, should become a constant endeavor in order to remain faithful.

Being a priest for 20 years now, there were many times that I felt tired and almost gave up. There were times when I felt and thought that maybe I need a long break. Then I decided to bring all these feelings into prayer and reflection. It is only then that I've realized where those feelings came from. The first reason was lack of prayer life. It means lack of connection with God, lack of link with Jesus, who is the lead and guide in the priesthood. No Jesus Christ the light, means being in darkness. That is why he taught his disciples to pray to remain faithful; to pray without ceasing, and not get tired, to pray in order not to sever the connection with God, with Jesus.

My brothers and sisters, these days people become more worried when the Internet connection is lost but less worried when their connection with God is lost. Faith and church have become unpopular. The world has lost the sense of God in some way.

As Christians we need to pray hard and be faithful with Him. My dear friends, here is where we often go wrong. We pray and expect God to answer our prayers all the time. However, our commitment to Him in discipleship is, at best, patchy. And we know it is not good enough, we need to move from the practice of our Christianity as a part-time commitment to something that is a full-time reality. Our conversion to the Lord has to go deeper each day. And just when we think we have reached as far as we think we can go, we need to trust the Lord some more and go deeper still. So that when the Son of Man comes, He will still find faith on earth.