

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, October 19, 2025
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C

In the Middle Ages, some **monasteries** had a strange but sacred custom. When a young man knocked at their gate asking to join, the monks would not open. He would wait, through sun and rain, hunger and silence, knocking again and again. After days, a monk would appear only to say, “You don’t belong here. Go home.” Then the door would close once more. If the young man stayed, still knocking despite rejection, only then – after his perseverance was proven – would they finally let him in. Because they knew: only those who kept knocking were truly hungry for God.

In the same way, Jesus knew that faith would test how much we truly hunger for God. That is why today’s gospel passage begins with this powerful reminder: “Pray always without becoming weary.” To drive home the lesson, Jesus takes the risky step of comparing God to a callous and corrupt judge – a man with no fear of God and no respect for others. Yet even this judge, hardened and self-centered as he was, eventually gives in to the relentless pleas of a poor widow.

Jesus paints a vivid picture of persistence: this woman will not give up until she receives justice. Once again, Jesus presents **a parable of contrast**. The point is not that God is like the unjust judge, but rather the opposite.

In our moments of prayer, we may sometimes feel like the widow – alone, helpless, and unheard, waiting for God to notice our pain. Yet the truth is this: we are never without hope. We have an Advocate who listens, a Father who cares deeply, and a God whose justice and mercy far surpass any human comparison.

When God seems slow to respond, we may be tempted to suspect indifference. Jesus challenges that notion. If even a heartless judge yields to persistence, how much more will a loving Father hear and respond to his children who cry out to him day and night?

The message is clear: Do not give up on prayer. Keep battering the gates of heaven – not to wear God down, but to keep your heart open. Prayer, then, is not about convincing God to act; it is about transforming the one who prays. Persistent prayer reshapes us from the inside out. It opens our eyes to see our lives, and even our pains and struggles, through God's gaze of love.

I found this poetic notion on prayer:

- ***We ask for prosperity, and He gives us patience – the wealth that cannot be lost, the treasure that endures the fire.***
- ***We pray for success, but He whispers humility, teaching us that crowns of gold are nothing beside a heart of grace.***
- ***We beg for healing, and He offers His Cross, where pain becomes prayer, and tears become trust.***

- *For every “no” that feels like silence, there is a deeper “yes” ripening in the heart of God – a grace not yet seen, but already at work within us.*
- *So we keep praying, not to change His will, but to let His will change us.*