

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, November 16, 2025
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C

One of the places that we had the privileged to visit in Rome was the catacombs. It is where early Christians gathered secretly during the persecution. They faced fear and death; yet they sang hymns and celebrated the Eucharist. They could have hidden their faith, but they chose to persevere. They believed the words of Jesus: “By your perseverance you will secure your lives.” Their courage built the Church that still stands today.

Jesus, in gospel reading, speaks about a time of great distress –wars, earthquakes, persecution, betrayal, and fear. He tells his disciples not to be terrified, for these things must happen before the end. But in the midst of these warnings comes a word of hope: “By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”

Jesus does not promise an easy road. He never said that faith would spare us from storms; instead, he promised strength to stand firm within them. The word ‘perseverance’ in Greek, ***hypomonē***, means more than just endurance –it means faithful steadfastness. It is a calm courage rooted in trust that God is still working even when everything seems lost. This perseverance is not passive waiting. It is not sitting with folded arms, hoping things will get better. Perseverance is active fidelity – a daily “yes” to God amid trials,

disappointments, and uncertainties. The saints knew that perseverance is love stretched by time and purified by trial. They teach us that holiness is not achieved by spectacular deeds, but by **daily faithfulness**: praying when prayer feels dry, forgiving when the wound still hurts, and serving when no one notices.

Perseverance is one of the most needed virtues in our time. We live in an age of instant results –instant messages, instant noodles, instant gratification. We often want God to act quickly, to answer prayers on our schedule. But faith is not a vending machine. Faith is a journey of trust. When the answer seems delayed, perseverance reminds us: God’s timing is never late. When prayers seem unanswered, perseverance whispers: “God is still here.” When the road is long, rough, and winding, perseverance keeps us walking, step by step, knowing that grace often grows in hidden ways.

Each of us knows what it means to grow tired – tired of waiting, tired of struggling, tired of believing. But it is precisely there, in our fatigue and weariness, that perseverance becomes a prayer. God does not expect perfection from us. He asks for faith that stays, for love that keeps showing up even when the heart feels empty.

When faith is tested and hope feels dim, perseverance turns waiting into worship and weariness into witness. It transforms our crosses into crowns. It reminds us that every step taken in faith, no matter how small, is never wasted in God’s eyes.

Perhaps you are walking through a season of silence, uncertainty, or insecurity. Hold on – not grimly, but faithfully. The dawn is already on its way. The light you long for may not come suddenly, but it will surely come, for Christ himself walks beside you in the dark.

Jesus never said the journey would be easy, but he did promise that **those who persevere will live**. The crown of victory is not for the strongest or the fastest. It is for those who refuse to give up on God.

So, when the road feels endless and the night grows long, hold fast to Christ. Perseverance is not surviving the storm. It is trusting the One who never leaves us until every tear becomes glory and every trial, grace.