

FR RUDY'S REFLECTION

The Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Holding Fast in Hope



Fr. Rudy Coaquira-Hijale,
MCCJ, pastor

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

Not long ago, I read the story of a young medical resident working through the chaos of a hospital emergency room. On his very first night shift, he faced a surge of critical patients with heart attacks, accidents, trauma cases, who all arrived at once. Overwhelmed, he froze for a moment, tempted to despair. But then his mentor whispered in his ear: "Breathe. Focus. One patient at a time." Those simple words reminded him that even in the midst of turmoil, calm perseverance was possible. That night he discovered that endurance doesn't come from strength alone but from trusting guidance greater than himself.

This Sunday's Gospel from Luke 21:5-19 places us in a similar setting of chaos. Jesus warns his disciples about events that sound overwhelming: false prophets will rise, nations will clash, natural disasters will strike, and believers will be persecuted. For his followers, the destruction of the magnificent Jerusalem Temple must have felt unthinkable, like the world itself was unraveling. Yet in the face of these frightening predictions, Jesus does not leave his disciples in despair. Instead, he calls them to endurance and promises divine help: "By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

For Catholics, this Gospel reminds us that God never abandons his people, even in times of trial. Jesus makes clear that suffering, even persecution or physical death, cannot separate us from God's saving love. The real danger lies not in earthquakes or wars but in losing hope, in letting fear or discouragement rob us of trust in God's presence.



St. John Paul II expressed this truth beautifully when he said: "Never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid." His words echo Jesus's own assurance that the Holy Spirit will provide the strength and wisdom needed for believers to remain faithful. When Christians are dragged before rulers, Jesus says, "I myself will give you a wisdom in speaking." Persecution becomes not just a trial but also an opportunity to testify to the Gospel.

This passage also clarifies that the Kingdom of God is not bound to physical structures or earthly security. The temple stones may crumble, and even the world's stability may shake, but the Body of Christ, as the community of believers, remains unshaken in God's care. Our faith is not in walls of stone but in the living presence of Jesus, who assures us, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

So how do we live this Gospel? Not by trying to predict the end times, but by faithfully living each day with trust in God's promises. We are called to care for the poor, to persevere in prayer, and to remain steadfast witnesses to Christ even when the culture around us is indifferent or hostile.

The ER resident learned that hope and perseverance are what carry us through the darkest nights. In the same way, Jesus invites us to see beyond fear to the deeper truth: that endurance, rooted in God's love, leads to life. We may not know when the world's final day will come, but we can be certain of this: God's presence and promise will never fail.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Rudy

OUR LADY
OF GUADALUPE
FAMILY OF PARISHES



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
ST. LEO THE GREAT
CHURCH
ST. THÉRÈSE LITTLE
FLOWER CHURCH