

November 13, 2022

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mal 3:19-20a

2 Thes 3:7-12

Lk 21:5-19

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

GROW: In today's Gospel, Jesus describes events leading up to the end times: wars, earthquakes, famines, plagues, persecution, and even death. It's no wonder some Christians believe the Second Coming could be any day now. After all, our world has seen more than its share of these signs. However, as Jesus tells the disciples, we don't know when the end times will come. We do know, however, that Jesus remains at our side through the thick and thin of these "in between times." Just as Jesus tells the disciples he will give them "wisdom in speaking" to refute their enemies, he will give us the strength we need to persevere in faith. As St. Paul reminds us, we can do that by imitating the early Christians, working quietly to build up the kingdom of God each day.

GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

GO: When facing a difficult decision or situation, it can be easy to fall into the trap of "catastrophizing" – that is, thinking of our biggest fear coming true, or of the worst that can happen. Today's readings include a laundry list: a blazing fire, toil and drudgery, wars and insurrections, earthquakes, famines, persecution, and death. Yet Jesus tells the disciples, "not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives." Rather than focus on our fears – not only about the end times but in our day-to-day lives – Jesus challenges us to trust in God's love for us. It doesn't mean we should resign ourselves to the difficulties we or others face. However, by placing faith over fear we can seek to help others here on earth, confident that Jesus will lead us home when our time comes.

ACT: Many people today suffer due to natural disasters, authoritarian leadership, and human violence. Pray for these victims, of course, but also – in your creativity – seek out ways to use your time, talent, and/or treasure to alleviate their situation if possible.