

Fr. Martin's Reflection – October 19, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

This Sunday's readings from Exodus 17:8–13, 2 Timothy 3:14–4:2, and Luke 18:1–8 reveal a profound truth about perseverance in faith—remaining steadfast in prayer, in God's word, and in doing what is right even when the battle is long or the outcome uncertain.

In Exodus, Moses stands on a hill overlooking the battlefield as Joshua leads the Israelites against Amalek. As long as Moses keeps his hands raised, the Israelites prevail; when his arms grow weary and fall, they begin to lose ground. With the help of Aaron and Hur, who hold up his hands, Moses sustains the gesture of intercession until victory is won. This image of Moses—tired, upheld by others, steadfast in prayer—beautifully symbolizes the power of communal perseverance. Faith is not an isolated endeavor; it requires the support of others to remain strong. When our spirits weaken, the prayers and encouragement of the faithful help lift us back up.

Paul's words to Timothy continue this theme of endurance. He urges Timothy to “continue in what you have learned and firmly believed,” to draw strength from the sacred Scriptures and to proclaim the word “whether it is convenient or inconvenient.” Perseverance in faith means holding fast to the truth even when society, comfort, or fear tempt us to give up or compromise. Like Moses, Timothy is called to keep his arms of faith raised—sustained by the Word of God and the witness of the community.

Finally, in Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow who refuses to give up seeking justice from an unjust judge. Her relentless persistence moves even the indifferent to act. Jesus uses her story to teach that disciples must “pray always and not lose heart.” Prayer is not about wearing God down; it is about transforming our hearts so that we remain open, faithful, and hopeful despite delay or discouragement.

Together, these readings call us to a faith that endures through struggle—a faith upheld by prayer, Scripture, and community. Whether we are raising our arms in prayer like Moses, proclaiming the Word like Timothy, or crying out for justice like the widow, we are reminded that God's response may not be immediate, but it is certain. Faith that persists will always find its victory in God's time and in God's way.

Please be assured of my prayers and may you always feel God's closeness in your heart.

Dear friends, no doubt you are all aware of the peace deal that was signed in the Middle East that has helped to silence the bombs and bullets between Israel and Hamas, let us pray that this tentative peace will become a permanent fixture so that all people in living in Palestine and Israel may live in peace and prosperity.

Have a peaceful and blessed week.

Fr. Martin