

Persevere!

In our second reading for Sunday readings, we have been reading for more than four Sundays; the letter to the Hebrews, the book which has earned the reputation of being a masterpiece. Biblical Scholars believe it was written for Jewish Christians who lived in Jerusalem, and its purpose was to encourage Christians to persevere in the face of persecution. It is a book of exhortation, and the second reading today (Hebrews 12: 5-7; 11-13) encourages us, *“You have forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as children: “My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges.”*

Jesus, in this Sunday’s Gospel (Luke 13:22-30), encourages us to persevere and to *“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.”* What God needs from us most is our sincere efforts and for us to persevere in our faith journey. God knows us in and out. He knows our sincere effort to follow him. Thus, the Prophet Isaiah reminds us in today’s first reading (Isaiah 66:18-21), *“Thus says the Lord: I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory.”*

The call to persevere can mean different things to different people, being mindful of the different situations we face daily. Therefore, it is worthwhile to reflect and ask ourselves what area of our life and faith journey God calls us to persevere. For example, God might be calling you to persevere in the good work you do in your family, at your workplace, in the Church, or among your friends, even though these works may not consistently be recognized or appreciated. God also might be calling you to pay more attention to your spiritual life by persevering in spiritual exercises like prayers and participation in the Sacraments. Amen.

Blessed Cyprain Iwene Tanis- Pray for us!