

## **Persevering in the Lord!**

*“The hope in the Resurrection does not disappoint. In fact, it is Jesus Himself who first took this journey; we walk along the path He has trod. With His Cross, Jesus has opened the gate of salvation, where we will contemplate God.”*

(Pope Francis’ homily on All Souls Day 11/02/16)

The celebrations of the Feasts of All the Saints and All the Faithful Departed (All Souls) on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November respectively are very significant as we come toward the end of the Liturgical Year. Through these celebrations, we remember our loved ones who persevered in the Lord. Also, these celebrations remind us of the transient nature of our earthly life and invite us to seize the opportunity we must embrace the gratuitous gift of salvation, which God has given us in Christ. The readings of today in different ways invite us to persevere in the Lord as the only sure way to win the gift of salvation.

Prophet Malachi in a very succinct way describes to us the reward of perseverance, “for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays”. The Gospel of Luke described the events of the last days, which are not far fetched from the natural and human disasters we see and hear these days. In all these, the gospel ended by inviting us to persevere in the Lord, “By your perseverance, you will secure your lives”. Similarly, writing to the Thessalonians in the midst of their confusion regarding the second coming of Jesus, St. Paul encouraged them as he is encouraging us today to continue to persevere in our work for God’s glory.

God has given us the will power to accept or reject the gift of salvation he has given us in Christ. He patiently calls on us through different opportunities of our lives to accept and embrace this gift with its challenges. God wants us to continuously say yes to this through our perseverance. The challenges of perseverance come in the face of difficulty and disappointments of life, but that is when we have the true test of our faith in God, who will not fail us if we trust in him. Let us continue to pray for the gifts of wisdom and courage we need to continue to persevere in the Lord. Amen.

*“With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication” (Ephesians 6:18).*

**Blessed Cyprain Iwene Tansi- Pray for us!**