

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

October 3, 2010

Have you ever felt God just wasn't listening?

No matter how hard you try...no matter how loud you yell...no matter how much you pray...you get no response from God.

"Lord, I cry for help, but you do not listen...you do not intervene."

"Why do you let me see ruin...why must I look at misery?"

"Destruction, violence, strife is everywhere."

"Why don't you answer me?"

There are people starving and homeless in the streets, why don't you help them?

Why haven't you helped me find a job yet...I've been looking for so long and yet, nothing.

Why do you let horrific crimes occur to humanity like abortion, euthanasia, war, poverty, terrorism?

Why did you take my child away from me?

Why can't they find a cure for my friend's cancer?

Why must I endure hardships while trying to do a good thing... something that you yourself must approve of?

Why, Lord...why?

Why don't you answer me already?

Have you ever felt this way?

I know I have.

What did you do in these situations?

Did you keep on praying?

Or did you give up?

St. Paul tells us in his 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter to Timothy that all of us must “bear our share of hardships for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.”

In other words, our faith is not always the easiest to live out.

Yet, we are called to accept and endure troubles and trials that come our way for the fulfillment of the gospel and we are to do so not with our strength, but with God’s strength.

And if we think about this, it makes perfect sense because after all, all that we have – our successes as well as our challenges – from our very existence to the eternal happiness promised to us is one HUGE gift from God and we have done nothing to deserve any of it.

So, for all that we have been blessed with – both the good and the bad – we are to endure for the glory of God.

If we don’t think we can do this, it’s then we are to go to the Lord and, just as the apostles did, say, “Increase our faith.”

In other words, “Lord, help us to trust in you and may your divine will be done, not ours.”

As servants to the Lord, this is exactly what we are called to do.

We are not called to question God’s actions, His judgments, His will.

Rather, we are called to be open to them all and as good and faithful servants, pray, “Lord, help me to accept thy will to be done.”

May we strive to ask God for an increase of faith so that we may be unworthy servants and do what we are obliged to do, all the while, trusting in God's divine plan for each and every one of us – His children.