

# 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## John 2:13-22

**'By your endurance you will gain your lives.'**

At that time: While some were speaking of the Temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.' And they asked him, 'Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?' And he said, 'See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am he!" and, "The time is at hand!" Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.'

Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it, therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and sisters, and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.'

## Reflection

Jesus tells us that following Him isn't always easy. There will be challenges, people who let us down, and times when doing the right thing feels really hard. But He promises that if we stick with it, we'll discover true life.

Look at Blessed Rosalie Rendu: she lived for 54 years in a very poor district of Paris. She opened a free clinic, a school for children, visited the sick in their homes, and treated each person with respect and dignity. Her example shows that when you keep going in service and when you don't give up even if it's tricky, you are building true life, not just for others but for yourself.

## Materials needed

String/thread and beads

## Activity

- Give each participant a piece of thread.
- Invite participants to think of a time when they faced a challenge or found it hard to persevere.
- Ask them to tie a knot in their thread. Each knot represents a challenge or obstacle they have faced in doing what's right or serving others.
- After tying each knot, participants add a bead to symbolize perseverance — the strength and hope that helped them keep going despite the challenge.
- Continue tying knots and adding beads for each challenge the participants want to reflect on.

Ask participants to hold their threads and notice how the knots and beads together show a life of endurance: struggles exist, but perseverance and hope are always present. They could keep adding to their thread every time they face a challenge, or they could make it into a bracelet or tie it to their bag.

## Call to Action

This week, choose one challenge you might face and take a small step to respond with patience, courage, or service. Let your actions be a bead of hope in someone's life

