



Devotional for Day 21, Tuesday, March 14

Fr. Paul Felix, Chaplain, 40 Days for Life

Intention:

May we rely on the Lord to grant us the grace of final perseverance.

Scripture:

I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the LORD!

— *Psalms 27:13-14*

Reflection:

The inspired Psalmist expresses to the Lord something that weighs heavy in the hearts of most people who take seriously the effort to live a righteous life in the service of God and neighbor. In so doing, we are reminded that we are not alone in our plight. We know objectively, and we feel deeply that the Lord has called us to stand up and oppose the injustice and struggle against the atrocity of abortion.

Our opponents ridicule, sneer and mock us. This is not unlike the way Jesus was ridiculed and mocked throughout the three years of his public ministry and most intensely during his Passion and death on the Cross. This has always been the case for those sincerely dedicated to serving in the prophetic role out of love for God and neighbor. Our Lord exhorted His disciples to "turn the other cheek" and to "go the extra mile". "You have heard

that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you." (See Matt 5: 38,ff.)

We don't impose on God our list of prerequisites to be fulfilled as a precondition for our obedience. We are not engaged in our effort for the recognition or praise of our fellow man. "We walk by faith, not by sight." We are doing this because we believe in God and are obedient to Him.

Of course, we have our moments of fatigue, weariness, and discouragements. But the Psalmist provides us the exhortation to Faith, Hope and Love.

Prayer:

Good and loving Father,

Keep us stouthearted in Your Word of Truth, placing all our faith and Hope in You.

Give us the patience to wait for Your providential care.

As we repent of our own sins, give us the courage to speak the truth in love and to be ready to forgive those who offend us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.