

Reflection for the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Forever I will give you thanks, O Lord

This amazing statement is found on the front cover of The Word Among Us, November issue, 2020. We can find a connection with the statement *Forever I will give you thanks, O Lord*, with Psalms; 86, 30, 136, and 128. Psalm 86 contains the phrase, *I give thanks to you O Lord my God*, which is the most similar of the phrases that are found in the four Psalms that have a connection with *Forever I will give you thanks, O Lord*. Only Psalm 128 which contains the phrase *Blessed are those who fear the Lord*, is found in one of the Sunday Readings in the month of November.

The month of November starts with the Feast of all Saints on Sunday November 1, 2020 and ends with the First Sunday of Advent on November 29, 2020. This month is a transition time from Ordinary Time to the Season of Advent, from the ending of one Liturgical Year to the starting of another Liturgical Year. In the middle this time of transition, The Word Among Us missalette provides us with a message of hope and a reminder of what we need in this and any time of transition, *forever I will give you thanks, O Lord*. This gentle reminder to us, as we transition for one Liturgical Season and Year to another reminds us that no matter the Season no matter the year we must always give thanks to our Lord. It is in giving thanks to God that we are reminded of the blessings that He has given us and of the hope that tomorrow brings. This act of responding to God enables us to have an active relationship with Him.

We do not need to have a recent or positive reason to give thanks to God. God the Father is the creator of the world and all we are, this is reason enough for us to give thanks to Him. We can turn to the Saints that have gone before us in faith and learn from them. St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church was born in 1873 and passed away in 1897. St. Therese was a member of the Carmelite Order and lived a cloistered life, entering the Convent of Lisieux, France when she was 15 years old. This young woman wrote *"I prefer the monotony of obscure sacrifice to all the ecstasies. To pick up a pin for love can convert a soul."* St. Therese in her daily ordinary life gave thanks to God. This young Saint who only lived to the age of 24 and shortly before her death wrote *"I want to spend my heaven doing good on earth,"* clearly in her daily life in the cloister was able to *"Forever to give thanks to God."* This young Saint like all the Saints clearly shows us how to live in this world giving thanks to God.

St. Therese, saw that in small things she could do great things. Her focus was not big events or what many would consider important matters. She saw in the little and unimportant things the potential for great and amazing things, the salvation of souls. Today, with our Responsorial Psalm, *"Blessed are those who fear the Lord,"* we are provided with an opportunity to be reminded that every day and every moment we should forever give thanks to God. It is with a heart of gratitude that we can truly appreciate God in our daily lives and be able to have a complete relationship with Him.