

**Homily – Seminarian Family Day – St. Frances Xavier Cabrini  
Holy Trinity Parish – November 13, 2021**

The peaceful stillness that compassed everything frames the beginning of our first reading today. Dear families of our seminarians, we are very happy to have you here with us. We hope that you are finding some of that peaceful stillness here. We all need to alternate our activities and stages in life with moments of inner silence and prayer.

This chapter of the book of Wisdom tells us about the last plague, when the Egyptian people suffer the death of their first-born. The Israelites are saved, having marked their houses with the blood of the lamb. The just judge has restored justice and even all creation is being made over anew. The restored cosmic balance witnesses to the transcendence of the liberation of God's People, beyond their own understanding. The story is a hymn to the trust placed in God. The people are amazed and they praise the Lord, their deliverer.

In the gospel, Jesus proposes a parable that invites us to pray without ceasing. The silence required by prayer means detachment from everything that is not God. Prayer requires silence and trust, to be able to raise our eyes to God in all circumstances. This is only possible if the content of our prayer is merged with the content of our lives. The Lord links the efficacy of prayer to faith: prayer nourishes faith and this in turn grows when it is exercised in prayer. In turn, God restores balance in our lives, and through us, he begins transforming the world.

Prayer involves leaning on someone, entrusting ourselves to him, abandoning ourselves onto Another. This dynamic is learned in the family. Priestly and religious vocations are a fruit of faithfulness in the

family. In turn, priests transcend their original families when their brothers and their congregations become their bigger family. It is important for seminarians to have and maintain strong roots. Hence the importance of your presence here. Thank you!

In the social situation at the time of Jesus' preaching, widows were helpless. They lost all their rights, and even their husband's family could strip them of their property. Therefore, it is striking that the poor widow insists with determination to a corrupt judge. If an ill-intentioned man like that is capable of doing her justice at her insistence; how much more will God attend to our needs in his infinite mercy if we ask him in faith? She demands action against her adversary. Our adversary is sin.

Pope Francis says that God "will secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night." Families of seminarians share in their children's responsibility to pray for their bigger family, which is God's family.

We are celebrating the Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, a religious woman who immigrated to our country following the Pope's request. She was an obedient child and her concern was God's bigger family. Many of our seminarians were also born abroad. It is an obvious fact that we are a nation of immigrants. Our roots and our concerns belong to the whole world. The power of prayer implies our responsibility to be concerned in prayer with the well-being of God's entire people with a missionary spirit.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe inspire, protect, guide and form all of you to make all of her children fit in your hearts too.