

St Frances Xavier Cabrini, M.S.C. (1850-1917) was an Italian- American religious sister, who founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, that was a major support to the Italian immigrants to the United States. She was the first naturalized citizen of the United States to be canonized. She is the patron of immigrants and hospital administrators.



First Reading: (Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9)

While gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, thy all-powerful word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne, into the midst of the land that was doomed, a stern warrior carrying the sharp sword of thy authentic command, and stood and filled all things with death, and touched heaven while standing on the earth. Wisdom 19:6-9 For the whole creation in its nature was fashioned anew, complying with thy commands, that thy children might be kept unharmed. The cloud was seen overshadowing the camp, and dry land emerging where water had stood before, an unhindered way out of the Red Sea, and a grassy plain out of the raging waves, where those protected by thy hand passed through as one nation, after gazing on marvellous wonders. For they ranged like horses, and leaped like lambs, praising thee, O Lord, who didst deliver them.

Ps 104:2-3, 36,37, 42-43

R. / Remember the wonders the Lord has done.

Gospel: (Lk 18:1-8) Jesus told his disciples a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man; and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Vindicate me against my adversary.' For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

REFLECTION

Persevere in prayer with trust and surrender. Human beings want to have quick and instant solution to everything. This is true of our prayer too. There are people looking for quick answers to prayer. Or else they become despondent and disappointed. Prayer is a matter of relationship between man and God. Like any relationship, this also needs dialogue, respect, surrender and acceptance and so we need to allow it to mature and produce its fruit. There is no place for being in a hurry and consequently getting disappointed. So Jesus insists of the necessity to be persevering in prayer so that we are able to see its result gradually. The parable speaks of the persistence of a widow before a judge 'who neither fear God nor regard man' and she gets what she wanted. Do we have the trust in God's love for us and the patience to allow his will to unfold in us? It may need time but we need to allow God to prepare us to receive the Grace that He is planning for us.