

Daily Reflection
Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time, Tuesday
25 August 2020
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

“Stand firm and hold fast.”

While reflecting on these words from our first reading from The Second Letter to the Thessalonians the timeliness of them stood out, in light of the challenges that our country and world, and we, as Church, face today in things like the coronavirus, great division, attacks on human life and human dignity, and others issues. The author of this text could speak these words with great applicability today.

But what does it mean for us, on a personal level, to stand firm and hold fast today? How do we live this exhortation in our lives? One image that came to my mind was that of the great saints and martyrs in our tradition that held fast to their convictions and beliefs while facing great persecution, humiliation, and even death. These holy men and women of our tradition should be our models in standing firm and holding fast to the faith we have been given.

In another sense, however, we might become discouraged looking at the great deeds and challenges that the saints faced and think that we will never get to deal with such great challenges or would not be able to remain faithful if we were to encounter the same challenges. I would like to propose that we can in fact imitate these great men and women. It was Saint Mother Teresa who said: “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” We do not have to wait around looking for that large opportunity to serve God

and become saints. As Christians we are called to live holiness at all times and in all things by holding on to what has been passed down to us by the Church. This is what it means to be a saint: to stand firm and hold fast to the love of Christ and to share that love with the world.

Concretely, all of us can take small steps to prepare ourselves to hold fast to our faith. Simple, although sometimes challenging, actions: praying before a meal at a restaurant and making the sign of the cross; by (gracefully) holding fast to and standing up for our beliefs in the midst of disagreement with our family members and friends; a word of encouragement to someone going through a challenging time or situation; a small prayer of gratitude for the gift of another day.

By these small actions, by holding firm to the Lord and to the faith everyday, we will be prepared to respond in all moments of life; the small challenges and the great challenges. We will be prepared because we have engaged in lives that are directed towards the calling of love; the calling of Christ.

So today we can pray for the grace to hold firm and stand fast, anchored in Christ, saying the same words that closed the first reading this morning:

“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word.”

May we too stand firm and hold fast today.