

Daily Homily
Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro, Priest and Martyr
Optional Memorial (USA)
St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr
Optional Memorial
St. Columban, Abbot
Optional Memorial
34 Week, Ordinary Time, Wednesday
23 November 2022
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

This Gospel was given to us a few Sundays ago.

Jesus is being very upfront with those following him. They will be persecuted, they will be handed over to the powers that be, even family will play a role in lives being disrupted, and some will be put to death. One can't help but think that after this exhortation that Jesus offers that some of these people slinked away into the shadows never to be seen again.

And we know that this word became true for many of his disciples... certainly for all of the apostles who were martyred, except one, John the Apostle. The Vatican released a news, just last week, reporting that there has been a considerable increase of persecution of Christians in once peaceful areas of the world... much of it has resulted in the destruction of property and even death. So the Gospel, not just ancient words, but fulfilled in our hearing today.

But this is something that is also fulfilled in our hearing today, that Jesus offers to us... this is not all doom and gloom. As the Shepherd that he is... he also gives sound advice... very sound, assured, confident advice because Jesus is God.

Perseverance... it comes from the Latin... *Per* meaning "very"... and *severus* meaning "strict." It means to have a personal and inner strictness or discipline about ourselves that makes us endure and be strong no matter the difficulty, no matter the hardship, or the obstacle. Jesus breathes perseverance on his disciples and on us. He gives us this quality, this trait, this gift because he genuinely cares for us and prepares us for that day when all these things are bound to take place.

And come what may... he will be with us... so close and so caring... that not a hair on our head will be out of place.