

REFLECTION

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, July 26, 2026

Scripture: *Romans 8: 28-30*

Have you ever been overwhelmed by troubles or uncertainty in your life? In such times, Romans 8:28-30 urges us to trust God's loving plan: "All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose." This is not to say that every tragic occurrence is inherently beneficial. But when we entrust our life in God's hands, He can bring grace, growth, and hope even amid sorrow.

Every situation, whether favorable or challenging, is under God's power, and He actively manages circumstances to benefit people who have a relationship with Him and are committed to His mission. This verse underscores God's omniscience and His predetermined plan for believers to grow in likeness to Christ, with Jesus as the preeminent example. Thus, Suffering, illness, betrayal, loss, and injustice are not good in themselves. Rather, Paul assures us that God is so powerful and so loving that He can bring good even out of painful and difficult situations.

This reality is evident throughout the Bible. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, yet God used this tragedy to save many lives. Jesus faced rejection, pain, and death on the cross, yet God turned that apparent defeat into victory through the Resurrection and the salvation of the world. God never wastes our sorrow when we put it in His hands. For, Faith means believing that even when we cannot understand His ways, His love remains constant and His purposes are good.

"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified."

- Romans 8:28-30