

REFLECTION

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, August 2, 2026

Scripture: *Romans 8: 35, 37-39*

In our second reading, Paul wonders, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ?" He describes every conceivable suffering, including tribulation, sorrow, persecution, famine, nakedness, threat, and the sword. Paul himself faced many of them, but his response is unwavering: "Nothing can separate believers from the love of Christ."

Paul understands that Christians may encounter hardships and even persecution since faith does not eliminate adversity but rather redefines how we approach it. Similarly, John Paul II explains that suffering is more than just a negative experience; it can be redemptive since it permits us to partake in Christ's suffering. This helps to secure our salvation while also enriching the spiritual lives of others. Thus, we Christians shall overcome adversity not by avoiding suffering, but by being united with Christ in the middle of it. As a result, God's grace, rather than our own power, brings us victory. Even when we feel weak, abandoned, or uncertain, Christ's love holds us close.

This passage invites us to look honestly at the fears that occupy our hearts—fear of failure, rejection, illness, loss, or death. Paul reminds us that although these realities may touch our lives, they cannot break the bond God has established with us through Christ. But remember, our security does not rest in changing circumstances, but in God's unchanging love. May the Lord strengthen our faith to trust Him in every circumstance and help us live each day with courage, hope, and confidence in His unfailing presence.

