

OCTOBER 19 2025 MSGR. DAVID REILANDER

Today we celebrate Mission Sunday around the world. This day is focused upon missions in the developing world. Of course, myself, as president of Catholic Missions in Canada, I have to say that the collection for this need does not go to our home missions. It gets kind of confusing—about mission work, missions around the world—and then we have over 200 mission areas right here in Canada, most especially in the west and in the north of the country.

In the missions, people are constantly calling out for help. Why? Because they don't have the resources they need for the celebration of our faith.

Persistence—persistence is so important. This is what we hear in the readings this weekend.

From the Book of Exodus, we have Moses on the mount with Aaron and Hur. He's holding up his arms, and as long as he holds up his arms, the Hebrews are winning against Amalek. But, of course, he grows tired, and he has to put his arms down to rest, and then the Hebrews begin to lose. So Aaron on one side and Hur on the other bring a rock for him to sit on and rest, and they realize that the strain is too much for him. So they help him—they hold up his arms—and the Hebrews win the battle.

And in the Gospel we hear the parable of Jesus with the judge and the widow. The widow is looking for some justice. Someone has done something wrong to her, but the judge—he's being pestered by her, and she's no one of importance, so he's not paying attention. But she keeps coming back and coming back. She is persistent in pursuing what her need is. And finally, he gives in and grants it to her.

Persistence. Persistence.

The Lord wants us to persist—and a perfect example of this is a child. It always fascinates me, though, of course, it's very annoying. I'm on a bus or in a restaurant or somewhere, and I hear a child repeatedly saying, "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy," and it goes on and on and on. But the child locks on to the parent that they need something from, and nothing is going to interfere with that at all.

And that's what the Lord is asking of us. If we truly need something of the Lord, don't give up. Your persistence indicates that you have full hope that the Lord is going to give you what you need—and of course, the Lord is going to give you what you need. But it may not be in the way you want it, and it may not be at the time that you want it.

Persistence. Constantly be in conversation with the Lord, and do not give up hope. Don't go once—"Oh, Lord, you know, I'm worried about this. Can you do something about this for me?"—and think, "Well, that's it." Show the Lord that you are communicating with Him. Show your love of Him. Show your faith in Him. Persist, persist, persist in your prayer.

Just as in our missions, people have persisted—and the people of Canada respond—not only to the world missions but also to the home missions, the missions within Canada itself—who are very generous.