

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10 ♦ Hebrews 12:1-4 ♣ Luke 12:49-53

“Let us persevere in running the race.” —Hebrews 12:1

If you’ve ever been to a running race where there is a crowd of people cheering on the runners, you’ll know what the author of the second reading is talking about. Maybe you’ve even been in a race yourself, perhaps in a P.E. class at school or with other kids in your neighborhood. Isn’t it easier to run harder and faster with people cheering you on? When runners are tired or they think they can’t keep going, it’s helpful to have others cheering for them and boosting their energy so they can make it to the finish line.

This Bible reading tells us that there are many people—“a great cloud of witnesses” —surrounding us and cheering us on while we run the race of life, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus. We may not be able to see and hear them, but they are there, invisibly rooting us on. There are angels and saints and people we know who have died who are cheering for us and supporting us as we try to follow Jesus and be the best people we can possibly be. They are always encouraging us to “keep going—keep running!”

God, when I am tired or down, help me to remember there are many people who are rooting for me and encouraging me.

Who do you think is in your “great cloud of witnesses” cheering you on?

Answer the following questions together after Mass:

What Mass did you attend this week? _____

What color were the priest’s vestments? _____

What was one new insight the homily gave you?

Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?

Family name: _____