

The writing is on the wall.

This English idiom - which first appeared as a figure of speech in the early 1700's - was inspired by today's first reading - means a portent of doom.

It often shows up in literature, poetry, songs, and even in daily speech.

A recent news article had the headline: "The Writing is on the Wall for Public Libraries." I'm not sure if that's because of technology or the economy - but it is meant to say that libraries are doomed.

Today we remember Blessed Miguel Pro - a Jesuit priest. He began his studies in his native Mexico, but because of the persecutions brought about during the revolution, he continued his formation in California, then Spain, and finally Belgium.

In 1926, he returned to Mexico, but was forced underground because of the continued persecutions.

He was arrested November 13, 1927 - and despite testimony of his innocence, was executed on this day in 1927.

He boldly faced his execution with a crucifix in one hand and a rosary in the other. He prayed that God have mercy on the soldiers, and himself forgave them. He spread out his arms, and cried out "Long live Christ the King!"

In today's Gospel, Our Lord speaks about persecution.

Yet instead of being a prophecy of doom - he indicates that He will be with us until the very end - no matter what that end may be - or how it may come about - that we can rely on the Holy Spirit for wisdom in difficult situations.

As we near the end of the liturgical year ... and the end of the month of November - in which we remember the Holy Souls - let us pray for a deepening of the virtue of Hope. So that no matter the "writing on the wall," we may always have a sure knowledge that we have the enduring Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist; and the in-dwelling power of the Holy Spirit ... to support us and give us the power to persevere to the end.