"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Hebrews 12:1

Sunday was the  $35^{th}$  running of the Big Sur marathon. Last spring I signed up for the race and started training around the middle of August. I thought that would give me a good  $8\frac{1}{2}$  months to train. However, a couple of months into my training, I pulled my hamstring muscle was no longer able to train. I tried on and off to train but I just couldn't shake my injury. I spent two months going to physical therapy and was finally able to start running again but that didn't give me enough time to train for the marathon.

Hebrews 12:1 gives a command to develop perseverance. How do you develop perseverance? 2 Peter 1:5-8 tells us, "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

**Thought For Today:** Our goal is to be able to say as the Apostle Paul did, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" Let us persevere in order that we might finish the race.

**Today's Prayer Focus:** Pray for God's strength to help you persevere in your race. Deo Volente.