



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
October 16, 2022

Prayer: A Powerful Battle

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Water cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence. As believing Christians, persistence is one of the key virtues to our life of prayer. We will penetrate the solid rock of our faith, which is Christ, only through regular and relentless prayer. Saint Luke makes this clear when he reveals Jesus' intention in telling this parable "about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary" (Luke 18:1). Jesus wants us to keep at it in prayer. The *Catechism of the*

Catholic Church has an entire section devoted to prayer with the intriguing title "The Battle of Prayer." After 2,000 years of experience, the Church sums up the theme of prayer as a battle! Moses might have said the same thing, for his perseverance in prayer was reflected in the battle with Amalek.

The truth is, God doesn't entrust the treasures of his friendship to just anyone who says to him, "Lord, Lord." He knows the fickleness of the human heart but also knows that fidelity over time is the evidence of sincere love. He longs for the hearts of his children to seek him, but he also knows that for them to reach full maturity in him, growth in prayer must be steady. God is not at all like the unscrupulous judge of the Gospel. That is exactly Jesus' point. If God is literally dying to reconcile with us, then so much more will he respond to us if we are persistent in praying to him. +

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Sunday Readings

Exodus 17:8-13

Moses' hands, however, grew tired; so....Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other.

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it.

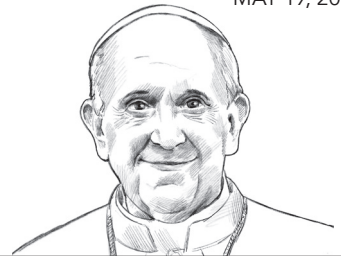
Luke 18:1-8

[Jesus] told them a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary.

A Word from Pope Francis

Do not forget the prayer that asks "why?". It is the prayer of children when they begin not to understand things,... because the child asks his father, "Daddy, why? Daddy, why? Daddy, why? Daddy, why?" But let us be careful: the child does not listen to his father's answer. The father starts to reply, but the child interrupts with another "why?"

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME,
MAY 19, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Am I as persistent in prayer as I am in pursuing other life goals?
- What would help my prayer life?

Pray Always

By Paige Byrne Shortal

Pray always. That's the message of today's Gospel and the first reading from the Book of Exodus. When you think about it, it's kind of an amazing teaching. Prayer is where our little and limited selves meet the all-knowing, the all-powerful, the anything-but-little-and-limited Creator of all things, the Force behind all that is.

I would think the message would be more like, "What do you know? Hush up and let God be in charge!" But that's not what the Scriptures say. We are to pray *persistently*. Moses is to stand with his arms raised in prayer and if he falters, the Israelites begin to lose the battle. The community, in the form of Moses' brother, Aaron, and their friend, Hur, help Moses persist by holding his hands aloft. In the Gospel, Jesus says we should pray like the woman who won't stop nagging until she gets what she wants. (My children claim she is my patron saint.)

But how realistic is "pray always"? Consider that most of us have an inner prayer going on all the time, but too often it's more like an inner whine: "I want this. I want that. Give me. Help me. Please, please, please."

What would happen if we consciously directed our inner whine to God and called it prayer? We might become aware of all the prayers



directed to God from people all over the world who are sick or suffering or in danger, who are afraid of dying, who simply love their children and want what's best for them. Then we might realize that we are not alone. We might learn to attend to today's task and not borrow trouble for tomorrow. We might trust that for every loss, there is a gain; for every death, a resurrection. We might come to know how often our desire for something else is preventing us from noticing and relishing the good presented to us each and every moment.

Directing that inner whine to God

may help us identify our deepest desires. It is in these desires that we come to know our true self. And we may come to know the good God in whose image that true self—and the true self of every human being—was created. If, like Moses, we get tired, then we can lean on the community, as he leaned on Aaron and Hur. We can rely on our community of faith to stand beside us and lift us up in prayer.

Let us pray! +

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PRAYER

Faithful God, forgive us our lack of constancy and inspire us in our prayer that we may come to know and love you and your people. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 17–22

Monday, St. Ignatius of Antioch:
Eph 2:1–10 / Lk 12:13–21


Tuesday, St. Luke:
2 Tm 4:10–17b / Lk 10:1–9

Wednesday, Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues and Companions:
Eph 3:2–12 / Lk 12:39–48

Thursday, Weekday:
Eph 3:14–21 / Lk 12:49–53

Friday, Weekday:
Eph 4:1–6 / Lk 12:54–59

Saturday, Weekday:
Eph 4:7–16 / Lk 13:1–9

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