



Bringing Home the Word

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

July 27, 2025

The Power of Prayer

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

"I'll pray for you." What a simple promise. When we make this promise, what do we expect it will accomplish? The sentence is really a statement of faith. It assumes a caring relationship between us and those for whom we pray. It presumes that the other person trusts that we do care. Most importantly, it acknowledges that there is so much we humans cannot achieve by ourselves, and so we turn in confidence to God that our needs are the concern of God as well.

Today's first reading is the startling

account of Abraham's prayer for two sinful cities. He pleads with God to spare them for the sake of any righteous citizens found there. God is willing to do that if righteous citizens can be found. Abraham prays for people who do not deserve God's mercy. But there it was. God's mercy outstrips the most horrendous crimes. Abraham kept pleading with God, and God kept saying, "All right."

The same persistence in prayer is found in the gospel passage. The message there? Keep at it. We don't know whether the praying will end as Abraham's did or like that of the determined friend in the gospel. That's not our concern, because the way prayer is answered belongs to God, not to us. So then why pray if we can't be confident about the answer? Because we believe we are connected to each other, and together we stand in need before a loving God who wants the best for us. †



We turn in confidence to God that our needs are the concern of God as well.

A Word from Pope Francis (1936–2025)

Herein lies the novelty of Christian prayer! It is a dialogue between people who love each other, a dialogue based on trust, sustained by listening and open to a commitment to solidarity. It is the dialogue of a Son with his Father, a dialogue between children and their Father. This is Christian prayer.

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Sunday Readings

Genesis 18:20–32

The LORD replied: If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.

Colossians 2:12–14

You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God.

Luke 11:1–13

[Jesus said,] "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How often do I promise "I'll pray for you"?
- How often do I keep that promise?



Day in the Life of the Working Poor

Paige Byrne Shortal

This is a true story: A young mother's driver's license is about to expire. She goes to the local license office, with her toddler and infant in tow, and discovers that she needs her birth

certificate. She was born out of state.

She goes home and greets her husband, who works the morning shift caring for mentally disabled men in a group home, and gets ready for her evening shift in fast food. The next day, she calls the Department of Vital Records. After fifteen minutes on hold, she is told she needs a credit card in her own name to order her birth certificate by phone. To send for the certificate through the mail, she must download a form—she has a friend with a printer—and submit a cashier's check, a self-addressed, stamped envelope, a notarized application, and a copy of her driver's license.

The next day is Friday, and the baby has a cold. On Monday, she visits her friend with the printer, goes to the bank, buys a cashier's check, finds a notary, and mails it all from the post office. Three weeks later, her materials are returned in the mail with no birth certificate. Her driver's license has expired and is no longer valid identification.

She calls Vital Records again and is told that her husband can request her birth certificate, but the notarized form, cashier's check, and self-addressed envelope must be in his name. He gets home at 3:00 p.m. and must make the rounds before the bank and post office close—

with two babies. It takes three days.

When she finally receives her birth certificate, she will have to retake the driver's test. Meanwhile, this young woman is driving to work without a current license. None of these details will matter if she is caught and fined and/or arrested.

This woman's experience is not unique. Pray for the working poor. †

***This is a true story.
Pray for the
working poor.***

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Our Father: The Prayer Jesus Taught Us" by Gloria Hutchinson

The earliest and probably most authentic version of the Lord's Prayer is found in Luke's Gospel (Luke 11:2-4). It contains only five petitions (for the hallowing of God's name and the coming of the kingdom, daily bread, forgiveness, and deliverance). The more familiar liturgical version appears in Matthew's Gospel (6:9-13), where Jesus offers the prayer as part of his Sermon on the Mount. Both forms of the prayer stress the fatherhood of God, the communal character of the Church, and our dependence on God, whose love sustains us day by day. The final doxology ("For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.") was added for liturgical emphasis early in the Church's history.

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Gracious God, hear the prayers of all your people everywhere and give us the grace of faith in your power to provide what we need. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 28–August 2

Monday, Weekday:
Ex 32:15–24, 30–34 / Mt 13:31–35

Tuesday, Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus:
Ex 33:7–11; 34:5b–9, 28 /
Jn 11:19–27 or Lk 10:38–42

Wednesday, Weekday:
Ex 34:29–35 / Mt 13:44–46

Thursday, St. Ignatius of Loyola:
Ex 40:16–21, 34–38 / Mt 13:47–53

Friday, St. Alphonsus Liguori: Lv 23:1, 4–11, 15–16, 27, 34b–37 / Mt 13:54–58

Saturday, Weekday:
Lv 25:1, 8–17 / Mt 14:1–12

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