

CHRISTMAS '16

STORY OF PRAYER

NEVER TO HAVE AN ENDING

“You are in our thoughts and PRAYERS”. The news commentator signs off after talking to a representative of great plight – thunderous hurricane to another slaying of varying means. And the political leader with the alleged conviction of a monk, echoes the same. BUT WHAT PRAYER? Where is the proof? How was it done? Or is it similar to the casual commitment of a farewell; “let’s Do lunch.”

The impending birth of Christ brought joy and hope as proclaimed from the foretelling within the Old Testament. It would also bring turmoil and the infusion of persecution right up to our own time. When only once asked to teach, it was how to pray. Christmas is ideal to review that key into His message.

It was nearly forty years of age before I was told of my first Christmas prayer. The observer WANTED me to know about it. I was born in March of '51, and unknowingly she would have been talking of Christmas in 1950. Stay with me to make the link. Mrs. Peterson was a rare assist to my mother for a few years as the eight of us started showing up with a challenge to “logistics”. (not me!)

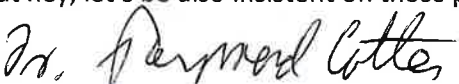
I delighted in hearing about her keen memories as varied about our “potty training” to who was the best behaved child, or the other ‘one’ – did not get drafted for either. As a Protestant, she was better able to give a special punch line. As she toiled alongside of my Mom’s dedicated spirit, she told me of the occasional break Mom would take. She said: “You would want to know this. When pregnant, she would often go upstairs and get out those beads”. Mom may not have fully grasped what she was onto, but church history of 800 years has valued that intercessory prayer taken directly from scripture. And the Joyful Mysteries – accounting for His birth and early moments of making His mark. For the entire life of the church, the Mass, Eucharist, has been the supreme prayer.

We delight when we can connect the past and present, holding out for a continuous seam into the future. Mom had one granddaughter that carried her full name from birth, Virginia Cotter. Her name would be adjusted to Sr. Virginia Joy in her thirties. Her religious community, Sisters of Life, pursue hands on efforts to protect and respect life. In Manhattan and beyond, vulnerable women awaiting a child are given a home and direction through the power of the communities’ prayer.*

The Prophets gave Christ an entrance stage and a simple town welcomed him with the grandeur of a star. The apostles picked up the story line and the Church continues His truth amidst a world often preferring mere opinions, feelings. And He was always transported engaged by prayer.

So make your day and another’s – pray for all. A New Year would be great within a quandary of not “struggling to find time to pray, but rather struggling to find time for not praying”.

But hey, let’s be also insistent on those promises of, “let’s do lunch”.


Just, Fr. Raymond Cotter, Pastor

*In their words - “Prayer: The Primary mission of the Sisters of Life is contemplative and Eucharistic prayer. All apostolic works flow from daily prayer.” (sistersoflife.org)

CHRIS O'HIER/SHUTTERSTOCK IMAGES



Why (and How) of Daily Prayer

The Register's clip-out, photocopy and pass-on guides for Advent

1 Prayer is simply talking with God about your concerns, decisions and hopes — and everything in between.

Quick Tip Have a conversation with God. Tell — and then listen to His responses.

2 Through prayer, God will guide you in all areas of your daily life, so that you can be an "ambassador for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

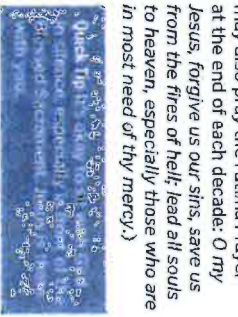


3 There is "only one thing necessary," according to Jesus, to sit "beside the Lord at his feet, listening to him speak" (Luke 10:38-42).

Quick Tip Prayer can be thought of as a conversation. Consider looking for the Holy Spirit's assistance in the wake of the Spirit's gifts. This Advent, the Register encourages readers to commit to praying the Rosary — and why stop when Advent ends?

pray an Our Father.

5. While meditating on the mystery, pray 10 Hail Marys, one on each bead. End with a Glory Be. (You may also pray the Fatima Prayer at the end of each decade: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are in most need of thy mercy.)



6. Continue with the second, third, fourth and fifth mysteries in the same way.

7. Pray the Hail, Holy Queen: Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clemency, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary, pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

8. Pray the Rosary Prayer: O God, Marys (for the virtues of faith, hope and love) and the Glory Be.

4. Holding the fifth bead up from the crucifix, announce the first mystery/read a reflection on it, and

whose only begotten Son, by his life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life: Grant, we beseech thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



9. End with the Sign of the Cross.

Joyful Mysteries (Monday, Saturday)

1. Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)
2. Visitation (Luke 1:39-56)
3. Nativity (Luke 2:1-20)
4. Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22-38)
5. Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 3:41-52)

Luminous Mysteries (Thursday)

1. Baptism of Christ in the Jordan (Matthew 3:13-17)
2. Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2:1-12)
3. Proclamation of the Kingdom (Mark 1:14-15, 2:3-13)
4. Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8)
5. Institution of the Eucharist (Matthew 26:26-32)



Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday, Friday)

1. Agony in the Garden (Luke 22:39-46)
2. Scourging at the Pillar (Mark 15:6-15)
3. Crowning With Thorns (John 19:1-8)
4. Carrying of the Cross (John 19:16-22)
5. Crucifixion (John 19:25-30)

Glorious Mysteries (Wednesday, Sunday)

1. Resurrection (Matthew 28:1-10)
2. Ascension (Acts 1:6-11)
3. Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and Mary (Acts 2:1-13)
4. Assumption of Mary into Heaven (Revelation 12:1-3, 13-18)
5. Coronation of Mary (Revelation 12:1-5)



Quick Tip Go to a quiet place, such as the school's chapel.

The Rosary

1. Holding the crucifix, make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Recite the Apostles' Creed (See EWTN.com/devotionals/prayers/creed2.htm.)



Quick Tip Hold the Crucifixion, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be.

3. Pray the Our Father, three Hail Marys (for the virtues of faith, hope and love) and the Glory Be.



"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts."

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

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