

PRAYER

We must pray, always. Never cease to pray, and never omit prayer either through indolence, discouragement, distrust, or disinclination. We must pray with courage, and without fear. Even if we do not pray at the times that we have appointed for prayer, if our intention is prayer - then every moment of ours is a moment of prayer.

If God delays granting our petition, we might think we are not yet sufficiently prepared to receive what we ask, or that He is testing our good will, and we should remember how often WE HAVE KEPT HIM WAITING ON US! He rewards each renewed prayer with fresh merit. We dare not forget that God is not our servant, bound to fulfill our every wish. He is our Father. He gives what is good, and when it is good for us. Our business is to pray. His business is to grant. And we had best leave it all to Him.

We have many, many things to pray for. He who only prays for himself and his own little personal affairs does not fill his place in the world and knows but little of the power and efficacy of prayer. Our prayer is the prayer of a child of God, and extends to all the concerns and troubles that surrounded us at every turn in life. It extends to all the concerns and troubles of the entire human race. All the affairs of our church, also, belong to our prayers. Especially so! All the affairs of the world belong to our prayers. Thus to pray is to pray in a truly apostolic, Catholic and divinely human way. So it was that our Savior prayed, and so it is that He teaches us to pray in the Our Father. Our Blessed Lord excluded no man, woman or child from the prayer He offered His Almighty Father. Neither should we. To exclude any certain person or persons from our prayers is dangerous as it indicates the presence of hatred, and we cannot hate anyone. The sins, the offences, the wrongs of this or that person are the concern of God, Himself - not ours. Our job is to try to replace friendship between God and the offending person. Indeed, there are persons in the world and in our church and in our country that we hold responsible for the turmoil, we are forced to endure, nevertheless, we are bound to pray for them. Therein is where Charity is found. We must pray that the Grace of God be given to them, and that the evil in them be changed to good. This does not mean that we should overlook the evil offences of these⇒