



## **17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME** **YEAR C – July 28, 2019**

Jesus tells us in the Gospel today that all we need to do is ask and we shall receive, seek and we shall find, knock and it will be opened to us. Did you ever ask for something from God but did not get it? How does that square with what Jesus said in the gospel? - (Luke 11:1-13). St. Luke answers that question. When Jesus says ask and you shall receive, he is talking specifically about the Holy Spirit. He's not talking about winning the lottery.

That doesn't mean we can't ask God for things we need, other than the Holy Spirit. But it does mean we need to trust God with His answer to our prayer. Recall the words in the "Novena Prayer to our Lady of the Miraculous Medal" – "please grant us what we ask, if it be beneficial to our immortal souls and the souls for whom we pray".

The worst thing we can do is think there is something wrong with our faith when our prayers are not answered the way we want them to be answered. Take for example, two people who pray for a healing. One is healed and the other dies. Does that mean the faith of the one healed is stronger than the faith of the one who died? Or is it possible that death is the ultimate healing for the person who died – and death is God's answer to the prayer.

Our faith is the "condition" for the healing, it is not the "cause". God is the cause and if God chooses to answer our prayers his way, it doesn't mean there is something wrong with our faith. The difference between a "cause" and a "condition" is not something we talk about at the dinner table. Let me give you an example that I have shared with you before.

Consider the sunlight inside the Church right now. The cause of the sunlight is of course the sun. The conditions that allow the sunlight to be inside the church are the windows. At midnight, there will be no sunlight inside the church because the cause of the sunlight is not shining. Would it not be a stupid to conclude there is something wrong with the windows at midnight because there is no sunlight in the church.

Just so, when God appears to say no to our prayers, it doesn't mean there is something wrong with our faith. Our faith is the required "condition", but God is always the "cause". If God chooses not to act as we want him to act, we must trust him to know what he's doing.

The ultimate goal for all of us here on earth is the salvation of our own souls and the souls of the people we love. Jesus would add, "Please include the souls of the people you don't love."

For a few moments in silence, reflect on your own prayer life. For "whom" do you pray and for "what" do you pray. Trust God. Take time to thank Him when his answer is yes and know there is nothing wrong with your faith when His answer is no.

**"TRUST GOD"**

