

KEEP PRAYING: TRUST IN GOD!

KEEP PRAYING: TRUST IN GOD! These are the words I keep hearing in my Heart. These are the words I heard while praying at the foot of our beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima. You may recall the end of my August 18 column HAVE FAITH: LOOK UP: " I look up to see the face of Our Lady ...and I see her lips moving...and in the silence of my heart, I hear Mary telling me: KEEP PRAYING... I believe that mini-miracles happen every day: Look up! TRUST IN GOD! HE WILL PROVIDE! "To pray is to be aware of the presence of God in our life. To pray is to trust in God and believe that He will hear and answer our petitions. To pray is to trust in Our Lord Jesus Christ and in the Power of the Holy Spirit. To pray is to feel the Love of God in our life. One of the most powerful and shortest prayer is "COME HOLY SPIRIT. Come Holy Spirit, help me to change, help me to convert, help me to turn away from sin, help me to turn toward Jesus on the Cross of Redemption, help me to feel the Love of God in my life!"

St PAUL invites each one of us to KEEP PRAYING: "Rejoice always, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU "(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). In today's second reading (1 Timothy 2: 1-8), St Paul tells us "TO OFFER PRAYERS FOR EVERYONE ...that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to GOD OUR SAVIOR, WHO WILLS EVERYONE TO BE SAVED and to come to the knowledge of the TRUTH. For there is ONE GOD. There is also ONE MEDIATOR between God and men, the man CHRIST JESUS, who gave himself as ransom for all."

While we can always pray for ourselves, it is important that we also keep praying for others. As members of the Church, we are part of One Body. If one suffers, we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice. If we pray for another person, in many ways we pray for the whole Church. When we pray together, our prayers are even more powerful. Many of us have felt that power of prayer during our first ever 40 HOURS OF ADORATION, just completed last Saturday as we entered into the celebration of our 40th Anniversary. We had suggested an 1-1-1 prayer: ONE person praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament for ONE hour for ONE person who has left the Church. Many of you came to spend one hour of silence in the presence of God. Many also came to participate in joint, vocal prayers: Litany of Saints, Angelus, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Our Lady of Sorrows Rosary and Litany, and Litany for Vocation. To see so many people pray together over 40 hours was just beautiful. I encourage all of you to consider joining us in one of our many weekly hours of Adoration: every morning Monday through Saturday: from 8 am to 9 am, and from 9:30 am to 10:30 am; every Wednesday evening from 6 pm to 7 pm; every Sunday from 7:30 am to 8:30 am. In addition, you can join every first Friday from 7 pm to 8 pm; and every first Saturday all day from 9:30 pm until 5 pm. KEEP PRAYING!

In today's Gospel (Luke 16:1-13), JESUS emphasizes the importance of being TRUSTWORTHY: "The person who is

trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones." TRUST is essential in any relationship. We know from our own experiences how long it takes to establish trust, but also how quickly trust can be lost. A single lie, even small, raises much doubt about whether you can trust the person who has been caught lying. Like a child, we tend to trust everyone. However, unlike a child who forgives easily and keeps trusting, most adults have much difficulty in continuing to trust someone who has deceived us. The only person whom we can trust always is GOD, the triune God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. KEEP PRAYING: TRUST IN GOD!

Many of you have already done the "Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary", the 33 Day Method of PRAYER and MEDITATION according to St Louis de Montfort. This is the Consecration that both St John Paul II and St Theresa of Calcutta have strongly promoted. This is the origin of the papal motto of John Paul II TOTUS TUUS - "Entirely Yours": through such Consecration, we make ourselves "Totally Yours to Jesus through Mary ". As part of our CELEBRATING 40 YEARS, many of us began such 33 days of prayer to complete our consecration on Sunday October 13 (Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima). Some used the traditional method of St Louis de Montfort (written over 300 years ago). Others have chosen Fr. Brian McMaster's modern adaptation "TOTUS TUUS - A consecration to Jesus through Mary with Saint John Paul II" As I am writing this column, it is Day 7 and today's theme is "PRAYER" and we are invited to read slowly and reflectively from Matthew's Gospel (6:5-13) . What struck me today from this passage is Jesus' command " When you pray, go into your inner room and CLOSE THE DOOR and pray to your Father in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you". For me today, "closing the door " is to forget what is going on in the world and in my own life, and to find PEACE with God in my own heart through SILENCE! I first pay attention to the noises around me for about 3 minutes. This helps me to forget the worldly worries I may have today. Then, I ask the Holy Spirit to fill my heart and help me to have a simple conversation with Jesus. This is not easy, and worldly distractions may come and interrupt my conversation. I may have to repeat the prayer: Come Holy Spirit and re-focus on my silent prayer.

Come Holy Spirit! Help me to keep praying! Help me to trust in God the Father! Help me to trust in Jesus! Come Holy Spirit! Help me to change, help me to convert, help me to turn away from sin! Help me to turn toward Jesus who suffered and died for my sins so that I can have eternal life! Come Holy Spirit! Help me to feel the Love of God in my life now and forever!



*One in Christ,
Father Alain*