



Things to Ponder

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Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Luke 11:1-13

Dear Parish Family,

1.
What is prayer? St. John Damascene defined prayer as “*the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.*” (Catechism #2559). If God knows what we need before we even ask, why should we ask? A prerequisite of prayer is a relationship with God. How can one communicate with someone he does not know? Thus, do you have a daily, personal relationship with the Lord?

There are many varieties of prayer. The Church uses the Psalms of our ancestors, the ancient Israelites, as the substance of our daily prayers in what we call the *Liturgy of the Hours*. Some still refer to this as Divine Office. A study of these 150 psalms reveals that they represent every imaginable human emotion and need.

I learned as a youth that there are essentially four kinds of prayer: Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. The Scriptures today focus on our many *supplications*. I can recall several instances in my life where I prayed ardently for specific intentions. In each case, the Lord did answer my prayers. God always responds but not necessarily in the way we expect!

When pondering the reality of prayer, it is always good to keep in mind that God is constantly seeking us in many ways every day. Our prayer, then, is really a response to God's invitation to love!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Bill Foley

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