

2.12.22

INTO THE BREACH #7 – PRAYER

In today's secular society, some men feel discouraged from praying, as though prayer is unmanly. Actually the opposite is true. Beginning in ancient times, even outside of a Christian context, prayer has always been a part of what it means to be a man, because men have always realized that there is something higher than themselves and that they have been called to service of that thing.



This morning we want to consider the importance of a husband/father/uncle/grandfather modelling prayer and setting an example.

- Does your family ever pray together?
- Have you ever considered incorporating prayer into your family life in an effective way without it seeming burdensome or boring?
- Do you communicate to your family members how important prayer is in your life and should be in their life?

There is a wartime saying that “there are no atheists in foxholes,” suggesting that even nonbelievers will often turn to God in time of extreme danger. Have you ever turned to prayer in desperate or fearful situations?

It is important that when we turn to God in desperate situations, we do not forget Him and the help He gave us once the danger has passed.

“Indeed the greatest protection from pride and self-reliance is turning humbly to God in prayer. The new technologies of social media where we can constantly display and discuss ourselves can lead to a kind of idolatry that consumes us. Honest prayer will keep us grounded and help us avoid this temptation.”*

*Into the Breach: An Apostolic Exhortation to Catholic Men.

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Psalm 143: 8-10 A Prayer in Distress

At dawn, let me hear of your kindness, for in you I trust.
Show me the path I should walk, for to you I entrust my life.
Rescue me, Lord, from my foes, for in you I hope.
Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.
May your kind spirit guide me on ground that is level.

Matthew 6:6-7 A Father's Protection

But when you pray, go to your inner room.
Close the door, and pray to your Father in secret,
and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.
Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.



Philippians 4:4-7 The Lord is Near

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!
Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, make your petitions known to God.
Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Catechism CCC 2685 Prayer

The Christian family is the first place for education in prayer. Based on the Sacrament of Marriage, the family is the “domestic church” where God’s children learn to pray as the “domestic church” and to persevere in prayer. For young children in particular, daily family prayer is the first witness of the Church’s living memory as awakened patiently by the Holy Spirit.

MODERN COMMENT

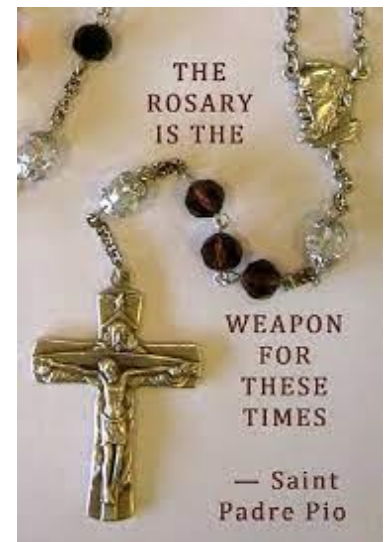
In the video, Fr. Burke Masters remarks, "The Catechism says prayer is simply the raising of our mind to God. And we have been called to have a deep, intimate, personal relationship with God."

Do you already set aside time each day to pray? If not, start by setting aside a small block of time just as you might plan to walk the dog. Ten minutes in the morning and at bedtime can be a good start.

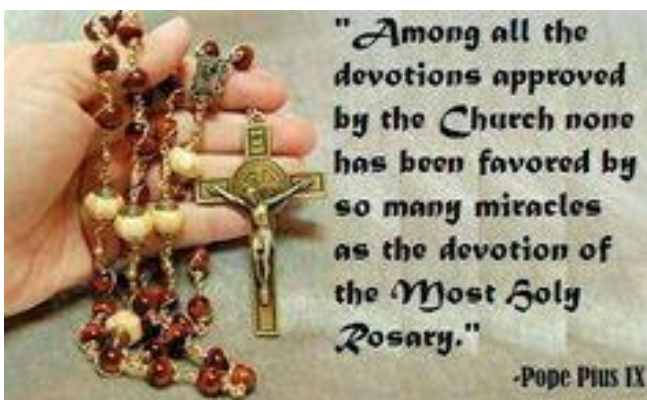
Other good prayer commitments might be to attend one or more weekday Masses or make a brief visit to the Blessed Sacrament for some quiet prayer in the presence of God. You can do this every Wednesday here at St. Hilary where we have Adoration from 7:30 AM to 7:00 PM.

Start to pray with your family daily if you already do not do so. If timing and schedules are an issue or some family members are resistant to this new idea, try to start by saying only a decade of the rosary, perhaps after dinner, as a family, for everyone's intentions.

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers notes that many saints have called the rosary a weapon in the fight against sin. Dr. Scott Hahn refers to rosary beads as "beads for the battle" and "spiritual bullets" against the devil. Praying the rosary should be an important part of every Catholic man's life.



Be mindful of God's presence. A good way to do this is through very short prayers scattered throughout your day whenever the opportunity presents itself, perhaps when you stand up from your chair or check your smart phone.



Write one of these prayers down and put it where you will see it regularly, like on your computer screen and recite it to yourself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is prayer? Why is it important to pray?

2. Do you presently set aside time each day for personal prayer? If not, what are some of the ways you can arrange your day to spend some time with God?

3. In addition to personal prayer time, what else can men do to stay mindful of God's presence throughout the day?



PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Men's Group Calendar

A man who never quits is never defeated. We are ordinary men who labor for Christ.

2/25/2022	Planning Meeting	9:30 AM Meeting Room 1
3/12/2022	MEN'S GROUP	7:00 AM Mass
3/25/2022	Planning Meeting	9:30 AM Meeting Room 1
4/2/2022	Men's Conference	Holiday Inn Rockside
4/9/2022	MEN'S GROUP	7:00 AM Mass

NOTE: A Rosary starts in the Reservation Chapel immediately following the meeting.

