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You Can't Pray Well?

Prayer is hard for most of us, isn't it? Even if we do concentrate, that concentration only makes us realize the more, God's Majesty, His Love, and His sinlessness. We think to ourselves:

"Here I am, asking for something again. Will God listen to me? Although I am obliged to do so, I never think of expressing sheer adoration and thanksgiving to Him, and very little reparation do I ever make for my past sins. Yet here I am again, just a sinner; a sinner who has slipped and floundered around, offending Him almost every day. All I ever offer to God, it seems, is the 'gimmies!'".

Well, if you understand the Mass, you will let that gift of Christ do the most effective praying for you.

The Mass Is The Real Presence.

In the Mass you have the Real Presence of Christ, the same Christ, Who laid in that manger at Bethlehem, the same Christ Who stood over the sinner, Magdalene, forgiving her out of His love, Would you not like to have walked up to Him then and said, "Christ, here is another sinner. Make me also go and sin no more." But is that all the Mass is, the Real Presence?

It Is Calvary.

No. There is more than the Real Presence. The Mass is Calvary, with all its saving efficacy. If Calvary occurred today, would you flee like the apostles? Would you take your time eating breakfast or playing your radio and then rush over late to see Christ crucified? Or would you stand early beneath the Cross as did Mary and John? Yet even if you so stood, you could not be any closer to the Cross, to its worth and meaning than you are during the sacrifice of the Mass, because the Mass is more than Calvary.

It Is Calvary Given Over To You.

It is more than Calvary. It is Calvary given over to you, placed in your hands as adoration, reparation, thanksgiving and petition to God. At Calvary itself you could have been only a passive witness, a mute, helpless witness. But the Mass is given to you that you may offer Calvary as your gift to God.

Pray The Mass.

Yes, prayer by ourselves may be difficult, but not when we pray the Mass. In the Mass it isn't you alone who honor God, but it is Christ, the God-Man in His most perfect work. And so united with Christ, you join in this most perfect prayer.

Then, great as God is, here is adequate adoration. Terrible though your sins may be, here is adequate reparation. Infinite and incessant as God's love is, here is adequate thanksgiving. Although your needs were numerous as the sands, the Mass would plead efficaciously for each individual one, because the Mass is Christ praying for you to His Father.

PRAYERS: (deceased) friend of William P. Kramer (St. Edwards); father of Maurice O'Shea '20; father of Fr. Charles Flynn C. S. C.; cousin of Roch Le Page (Lyons). Ill, uncle of Bob DuBois (Walsh); Very Rev. John Fenlon (Superior of St. Mary's Seminary); aunt of John Webster (Lyons). Nine special intentions.