

17th Sunday OT – Luke 11:1-13

Today's gospel comes in three parts: the Lord's Prayer, Persistence in Asking for a Request from a Friend, and Making Petitions to God. All three are loosely related.

Short though the Lord's Prayer is, a commentary on it can be written from the words of the rest of the gospel. For example, the one who addressed **God as Father-Abba** is *Jesus himself*, both during his public life and at his death.

And model for those who pray, "**Hallowed be your name,**" is *Mary in her Magnificat* and many others who thank God for the mercy they experience through Jesus.

And again, Those who pray, "**Your Kingdom come,**" should remember the *persistence of the widow* begging for justice from the wicked judge.

And yet the best prayer for **Forgiveness of Sin** comes from the *publican* in the Temple who asks for God's mercy and has no time to bore God with his own achievements like the Pharisee.

For the phrase, **Forgiveness of Enemies** Jesus himself gives the example at his execution and in his prayer on the Mount of Olives before his death and gives his disciples instructions on how to **avoid temptation**.

The story of the *one who wants bread from a friend at midnight*, is a commentary on the words, "**Give us each day our daily bread.**" When we pray to God, we do pray not to a sleepy friend, but to a loving father, ready to give the Holy Spirit to the children of God who ask him. Such daily bread helps us to carry the cross daily.

I thought the last part and even the second part of the gospel reading goes well with the Characteristics of Marianist Parish Ministry, which forms in FAITH. Here is what the article writes:

Understanding the Eucharist as the source and summit of the Christian life, the Marianist parish community gathers weekly for the Sunday Eucharist. This Eucharist of the Lord's Day is the foundation of the faith life of the parish. The Eucharist is always celebrated well in order to allow parishioners to participate and deepen that faith life. Blessed Chaminade stressed that the Creed is foundational to one's prayer and faith. (I would also add the Lord's Prayer for reflection.) ...Ongoing education includes the opportunity to meet and reflect on the sacraments, Scripture, Church, and faith and culture. This ongoing education is a continual rediscovery of the community's role as Christian witnesses to the world. Marianist parish ministry gives special attention to the gathering and education of youth and young adults.

Slowly we are returning to several of the activities mentioned above that this parish had scheduled throughout the year, like the Lenten Retreat and the Children's Liturgy since the Covid first changed many things. We are also planning ahead for retreats at other places, like Mount Saint John's in Kettering, our Marianist property that houses our Novitiate and the Bergamo Retreat Center.

Through these short presentation in my homilies, I hope that you are a little better informed of what is a Marianist Parish. In the fall we are planning for presentations on key topics on Marianist Spirituality and Charism where we can interact with each other on these topics.

The Lord's Prayer in Luke's version is shorter but its context is significant. It is part of the narrative of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and follows on the incident of Mary and Martha. It too can be understood as part of the answer to the lawyer's question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" The Christian must have the social conscience of the Samaritan, the eagerness for the Word of God of Mary, and also know how to address God as Father in prayer. Notice that a Marianist Parish Ministry includes all the above. That means being faithful to what a Marianist Parish represents includes being faithful to the gospel.