

## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time - Year C

- Recall my mother teaching me to pray – at bedtime
  - Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be – phrases, until the whole prayer
- Jesus teaches the Our Father because disciples ask him “Teach Us to Pray”
  - Request comes after they see Jesus in prayer
    - Do our children see us pray? Grandchildren?
    - We have a responsibility to teach children to pray (Best by example)
  - **But Listen** → difference in learning a prayer vs learning to pray
    - Jesus not only teaches them a prayer but also how to pray
      1. Starts with praise “Hallowed by thy name – thy kingdom come”
      2. Petition “give us our daily bread” “forgive us” “lead us not”
      3. Then Surrender “thy will be done”
    - Jesus isn’t done
    - THEN he uses parables, we should show persistence, boldness
      - Imagine going to neighbor after they’re in bed?
      - Neighbor may reject us, but not God
      - We are addressing Abba – our Daddy
        - **He is eager** to provide for His children
- Prayer is an important part of Christianity
  - Not an option to spend time with the beloved
  - Its like a NIKE commercial – just do it
    - We read about prayer, think about prayer, talk about prayer
    - DO IT!
- Look at persistence of Abraham in 1<sup>st</sup> reading
  - Acknowledges his dependence before →
  - Then petition - 50/40/30 ... 10
    - God is not reluctant to show justice (& mercy) 2 sides same coin
    - He doesn’t even drive a hard bargain
      - Patient with human weakness
      - Attentive to human needs
      - Wants to show His love & mercy
  - With that said:
    - There’s difference between WANTS and NEEDS in prayer
    - We bring our wants to God –
    - Most of the Lord’s Prayer is NOT concerned with physical needs (just bread)
      - Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, forgive us, deliver us from evil
      - They are Salvation-focused
      - THAT is what we need

