

## Catechesis on prayer: 33. The Struggle of Prayer

...continued.

However, the worst enemies of prayer are found within us. The Catechism describes them thus: "Discouragement during periods of dryness; sadness that, because we have 'great possessions', we have not given all to the Lord; disappointment over not being heard according to our own will; wounded pride, stiffened by the indignity that is ours as sinners; our resistance to the idea that prayer is a free and unmerited gift" (2728). This is clearly a summary that could be extended. What should be done in time of temptation, when everything seems to waver? If we look at the history of spirituality, it is immediately seen that the masters of the soul were very clear about the situation we have described. To overcome it, each of them offered some type of contribution: a word of wisdom, or a suggestion for dealing moments fraught with difficulty. It is not a question of elaborate theories, of preconceived theories, no, but of advice born of experience, which shows the importance of resisting and persevering in prayer. It would be interesting to review at least some of these pieces of advice, because each one deserves to be explored further. For example, the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola is a short book of great wisdom that teaches how to put one's life in order. It makes us understand that the Christian vocation is militancy, it is the decision to stand beneath the standard of Jesus Christ and not under that of the devil, trying to do good even when it becomes difficult.

In times of trial, it is good to remember that we are not alone, that someone is watching over us and protecting us. Saint Anthony the Abbot, the founder of Christian monasticism, also faced terrible times in Egypt, when prayer became a difficult struggle. His biographer, Saint Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, recounts one of the worst episodes in the life of the hermit saint when he was about the age of thirty-five, a time of middle age that for many people involves a crisis. Anthony was disturbed by the ordeal, but resisted. When he finally became serene again, he turned to his Lord with an almost reproachful tone: "But Lord, where were you? Why did you not come immediately to put an end to my suffering?" And Jesus answered: "Anthony, I was there. But I was waiting to see you fight" (Life of Anthony, 10). Fighting in prayer. And very often, prayer is combat. I am reminded of something I experienced close up, when I was in the other diocese. There was a married couple with a daughter aged nine, with an illness that the doctors were unable to diagnose. And in the end, in hospital, the doctor said to the mother, "Madam, call your husband". And the husband was at work; they were labourers, they worked every day. And he said to the father, "The child will not survive the night. There is nothing we can do to stop this infection". Perhaps that man did not attend Mass every Sunday, but he had great faith. He left, weeping; he left his wife there with the child in the hospital, he took the train and he travelled seventy kilometres towards the Basilica of Our Lady of Luján, Patroness of Argentina. And there – the Basilica was already closed, it was almost ten o'clock at night, in the evening – he clung to the grates of the Basilica and spent all night praying to Our Lady, fighting for his daughter's health. This is not a figment of the imagination: I saw him! I saw him myself. That man there, fighting. At the end, at six o'clock in the morning, the Church opened, he entered to salute Our Lady, and returned home. And he thought: "She has left us. No, Our Lady cannot do this to me". Then he went to see [his wife], and she was smiling, saying: "I don't know what happened. The doctors said that something changed, and now she is cured". That man, fighting with prayer, received the grace of Our Lady. Our Lady listened to him. And I saw this: prayer works miracles, because prayer goes directly to the heart of the tenderness of God, who cares for us like a father. And when He does not grant us a grace, He will grant us another which in time we will see. But always, combat in prayer to ask for grace. Yes, at times we ask for grace we are not in need of, but we ask for it without truly wanting it, without fighting... We do not ask for serious things in this way. Prayer is combat, and the Lord is always with us.

If in a moment of blindness we cannot see His presence, we will in the future. We will also end up repeating the same sentence that the patriarch Jacob said one day: "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I did not know it" (Gen 28:16). At the end of our lives, looking back, we too will be able to say: "I thought I was alone, but no, I was not: Jesus was with me". We will all be able to say this.

Thank you.

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González  
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### PENTECOST



#### HOLY MASS

**Saturday:** 05:30pm English, Church.

**Sunday:** 09:00am English, Church.  
10:30am Creole, Church.  
12:30pm Spanish, Church.

**Weekdays:** 05:30pm English, Church.  
(*Except Wednesdays*)

**Fridays:**  
05:30pm Church.  
06:00pm Adoration Blessed  
Sacrament and Rosary.

#### SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

**Baptisms:** Contact one of the priests in person.

**Confessions:** Everyday before Mass or by appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Upon request.

**Marriage:** Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.

**1st Communions:** June 6, 2021.

**Confirmation:** Fall 2021.

With Pentecost Sunday the Easter season comes to a close, but it goes out with a bang and not a wimper! The main point of Jesus ministry is to give us His spirit. Without it we cannot do a thing. The Holy spirit is the Spirit of truth. this means He will enlighten you about your deepest reality and this can be quite painful but indeed necessary, as the truth will set you free. This is what the Spirit wants to give you, that is, His freedom. In Chapter 3 of John's Gospel Jesus says to Nicodemus that the wind blows where it wants and you do not know which direction it is coming from or going, and so it is with one born of the Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes He breaks your plans and ideas, as these are from your reason, and He has a broader vision of things than you, because He is God. You need the Holy Spirit every day, just to guide you and to help to make difficult decisions. St. Paul also says that it is the Spirit that inspires in you any good desire, e.g. to come to church or not, to be kind or not, etc. It is not you but the Spirit that inspires and guides you. However, the strangest thing is that the Holy Spirit is the most subtle member of the trinity. Generally, you are not even aware of His presence or of His guidance and yet He is present and guiding you all the time, if your heart is open to Him. I am sure that you rarely pray to the Spirit but how often do you pray to Jesus Christ? Much more often! He is the forgotten one of the Trinity and yet you need Him every day.

How can we open our ears to the Holy Spirit? Well, by praying to Him, but also asking him to have our ears opened, and our hearts to be humble, because often His will goes against our own. We can be stubborn people and fail to heed his promptings.

Let us pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit that He might descend upon all of us and on all the peoples of the earth, because Jesus came so that He might be sent to us.

Fr. Paul

## The gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Counsel
- Fortitude
- Understanding
- Piety
- Fear of the Lord

## Parish Events May 23-May 30

**Sunday:** Holy Mass: 09:00am, 10:30am and 12:30pm  
 05:00pm Coeur de Marie: Children's group.  
 05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.  
 05:00pm Fraternité, Red Room.  
 05:00pm Creole Youth Choir Practice  
 05:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

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**Monday:** 05:30pm Mass, Church.

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**Tuesday:** 05:30pm Mass, Church.  
**Liturgy of the Word, NCW.**  
 1<sup>st</sup> English Community, S.M.Goretti  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Spanish Community, Red Room

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**Wednesday:** Liturgy of the Word, NCW.  
 1<sup>st</sup> Spanish Community, SM.Goretti.  
 1<sup>st</sup> Creole Community, Red Room.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> English Community, Parish Hall.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> English Communities, Blue Chap.

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**Thursday:** 05:30pm D. Mass Church.  
 06:00pm Creole Choir Practice  
 06:30pm English Choir Practice.

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**Friday:** 05:30pm Daily Mass, Church.  
 06:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.

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**Saturday:** 05:30pm Mass Church.  
**NCW. Eucharist**  
 05:30pm  
 07:00pm



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy  
 Tel: +1(649) 941-7875

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 31 JAGS McCartney Day.—National Holiday**  
 James Alexander George Smith (JAGS) McCartney, first Chief Minister of the Turks & Caicos Islands 1976-1980.— School Closed.

**Jun. 4 First Confessions**  
 2nd grade. OLDP Church. 06:30 pm.

**Jun. 5 Rehearsal for First Communions.**

**Jun. 6 First Communions**  
 3rd grade. OLDP Church. 02:00 pm.

### Want to learn more about HFA?

Visit our website for information about our History, Mission and Academics! You will also find updates and news about our school year, students and staff. Visit us today at [www.hfa.catholic.tc](http://www.hfa.catholic.tc)

### SPONSORS / BENEFACTORS

We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our **Scholarship Program** and help the school with necessary supplies. Any help God will reward you a hundred fold. If you would like and are able to help contact us at [holyfamilytci@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilytci@gmail.com)

**You can also donate from the US in the following link:** <https://www.rcan.org/mission-turks-and-caicos-islands>

### Wish List

This is another way to help the missionary school or students who are in need, by donating any of the following:

- Moving Outdoor planters and gardening material
- Heavy Duty Sun Shade Sail Canopy
- Tablets
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Paper hand towels
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255

Thank you!