**17th Sunday Ordinary Time, Cycle. C. 2025.**

It is said that even the most patient parent can lose patience with their children. But **Jesus says that His Father has unlimited patience**. Jesus challenges to go out and **wear him out with** our prayer requests. Despite these assurances of God’s patience with our prayers, we can still find it hard **to keep on asking, seeking and knocking on heavens’ door**s. Perhaps we might spend a day or two on a petition, but we are nothing like the persistent neighbor **with his night-time request**.

We all know that prayer is a conversation with God; Prayer is a connection with God, connecting with God. We know this, yet we do not trust **when it comes to our conversation with God.**

**Once a young man, a university student, approached his parents for financial he**lp. He arrived home, cleared the kitchen table, spread out blue prints, and made his presentation, which took about 20 minutes. His father a man of few words, listened attentively to his son’s presentation. And when the son was finished his father said, “***You just wasted 20 minutes of my time***”. The sons’ heart sank even as he saw his dream go up in smoke. Then his father smiled and said, “***Of course we will loan you the money- but why did you feel you had to make a presentation to us as though we are strangers***”. When the son later reflected on his conversation with his parents, he realized that he did not actually have a conversation with them. He gave a presentation instead, when a conversation was all that was needed. Too, often we do the same with God, we make a presentation, not a conversation.

**In Genesis** 18:-20-32, we encounter Abraham bargaining with God as merchants and prospective purchasers still do in many countries. Abraham is speaking to God in defense of the innocent people of Sodom and Gomorrah. He implies that God **who is just, could not treat both the just and the unjust in the same way.** When the innocent are punished, there is something terribly wrong with the delivery of justice. Abraham, like the later prophets, is an intercessor for mercy. We can learn a lot from Abrahams’ dialogue with God. **We learn, above all, that tremendous courage is needed in the work of prayer**. He speaks to **God with ten**acity and keeps up his argument, over and over, each time gaining a little ground on God’ favor. And he doesn’t’ quit until he gets the terms that satisfy him.

**In Lk 11: 1-13, after telling a parable about a man banging on his neighbors’ door, Jesus calls for a similar persistence in prayer, especially when things seem desperate. Normally,** **what do** we do? We make a lament, lodge our complaint, after a half-hearted bid, and get out. We don’t expect God to take our prayer very seriously, so perhaps we don’t either. Keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking: ….**persistence in prayer is what will prevail where giving up won**’t.

Jesus encourages his disciples to pray with a proper attitude addressing God in familiar **terms like Father**, which shows a close relationship and can engage in intimate conversation with Him. God is honored when he is addressed personally. **Secondly, give primacy to the f**irst petition: “**Thy kingdom co**me”. That is a big request. We tend to fixate on the mechanics of prayer: **“how, why, when**”. Prayer can be said anywhere and everywhere. Once **a priest, a minister and a teacher** were discussing the best positions for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby. “***Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray***”, the priest said. “***No, the minister said, “I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched towards Heave***n”. “*You are both wrong, the teacher said. The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor”.* The repairman who was listening in on the dialogue could contain himself no longer. “***Hi, fellows, he interrupted, “The best praying I ever did was when I was hanging upside down from a telephone pole”.***

In prayer there is room to pray for our daily bread, the resources you need to live well and creatively today. We must also acknowledge our sinfulness and remember how challenging forgiveness and reconciliation is. Then with Confidence, let us ask for what we really need, not for all that we want. Several years ago, **Mother Teresa** appeared on the “**Hour of Power Television program”.** The host, **Pastor Robert** reminded her that the show was being broadcast all over America and in 22 foreign countries including her native country. He asked her if there was one message she would like to convey to all those viewers. Her response was- “***Yes, tell them to pray, and tell them to teach their children to pr***ay”. In Todays’ Gospel, Jesus and the disciples were following Mother Teresa’s’ message. Jesus told them to pray, and taught them to pray, too. The lesson he gave them became the pattern for the prayer we all know, **namely, the Lords’ prayer.**