



**Orthodox Mission of the  
Entrance of the Theotokos  
into the Temple**

**306 W. Main Street  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727**

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***Prayer as Action***  
**February 21, 2021**

**Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

**Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!**

Remember our reading of the *Way of Ascetics* by Tito Colliander? Here is one of my favorite quotes from that remarkable book:

*Prayer is action; to pray is to be highly effective.*

*Prayer is the science of scientists and the art of artists. The artist works in clay or colours, in words or tones; according to his ability; he gives them pregnancy and beauty. The working material of the praying person is living humanity. By his prayer he shapes it, gives it pregnancy and beauty; first himself and thereby many others*

*Man is created for prayer just as he is created to speak and to think.*

We may wonder why the Lord Jesus Christ teaches us to pray when it is the case that our Father in heaven already knows what we need before we ask. He teaches us to pray so that we may

grow in our union with Him and so that we may participate in His saving grace, offered to all mankind. We pray, because we love; and, we love, because He has first loved us. Our prayers offered on behalf of all and for all are an expression of our love, the love He has freely shown to us, trampling down death by death, and rising from the tomb, the unforgettable sign that He will raise us from the dead also. We pray, because in our discipleship we begin that eternal growth toward the fulfillment of His likeness, becoming *gradually* but *really* ever more like Him. We pray, because we love, and we love, because He has first loved us.

These should be our thoughts, Brothers and Sisters, as we begin the first of three weeks in Triodion prior to the start of the Great Fast. As Tito Colliander said, prayer is action, action in which God allows us to be participants in His saving grace of salvation of all mankind. Let us take up the cross of that action with joy, the action of loving prayer for others; and, let us do so with the spirit of gratitude and humility shown to us by the Publican in Sunday's Gospel, saying with him from the heart, "God be merciful to me the sinner!"

Fr. Elias

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