

We live, each one of us, in God, in closest dependence on him. And yet he has, in a manner, discharged us from the tutelage of his will and left us our free choice. We can use this freedom of action for him or against him as we please. He never dictates to us, never infringes on our liberty. Our task in life consists in the voluntary surrender of our free wills in order to subject them to the divine will, absolutely but confidently. In that, precisely lies our service of God. "Sacrifice and oblation thou wouldst not, but a body thou hast fitted to me. Behold I come . . . that I should do thy will, O God." (Hebr.10, 5 f.)

One of the most important means of reaching our Father's house (Luke 15, 18) is assuredly prayer. In prayer we have on the one hand an element of power and of self-sufficiency in its better sense, and on the other of dependence and reliance on one outside ourselves. Nowhere else do we find features so intimately personal and yet so universal as in prayer. By prayer man ascends to God and God descends to man. Prayer is a bridge and a unification of hearts; it is devoted giving and receiving; it is action and enduring; it is overflowing joy and profound sorrow. To grasp what prayer is in its total compass and depth one should know man and know God and be familiar with the countless subtle contacts and reactions that can be set up between them.

In this volume we have to deal, not with prayers but with *PRAYER*, with the life, the spirit of prayer. We deal with the back-ground essential to make prayer what it should be; we treat, not so much of the theory as of the practice of prayer, of a living, personal intimacy — a thing more difficult to handle than mere theory.

If one had to explain what lifeless blood is one would need to speak of its chemical and physical properties only; one's task would then be completed. Not so, however, if there were question of blood that courses through a living body. In this case one would have to treat also of the heart which with ceaseless effort pumps the blood through the arteries, to refer to the respiratory system, such an important factor in the circulation of the blood; and show further how the blood acts as food carrier to the whole organism. In short one would have to treat of each organ of the body and its complete functioning, pass from one physiological element to another, omitting none.

Similarly with an explanation of the life of prayer. One department of the interior life leads naturally to another; so that for a full treatment of living, organic prayer we need to describe the spiritual life as a whole. What blood is to the body, prayer is to the spiritual life, namely a life carrier. Were the blood to cease circulating death would quickly ensue. Without an active life of prayer one cannot lead an active interior life. Hence prayer should not be regarded as the drudge of the home, but as the queen; not as a pious practice, but as constituting the very essence of the interior life. To treat of prayer is to treat of the supernatural life. St Alphonsus Liguori hits the mark when he reminds us that our eternal happiness hinges on our practice of prayer.

N.B. parents – Watch Your Children this morning because of the dangers of the construction that is going on in front of the church and parking lot.

1. There will be Catechism classes after 10:00 AM Mass this morning.
2. Once before we distributed to you a small booklet entitled "Perfect Contrition – The Golden Key To Paradise" translated for us by Father Augustine Lehmkuhl, SJ from the French. It was published in 1930, and is now distributed by Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel (Bishop Robert McKenna OP) Monroe, CT. We want each family to have at least one copy of this booklet and we present it to you once again. It is most valuable and a further addition to our ongoing study concerning prayer. Please keep this book in a safe place and read it from time to time. Be sure your children have access to it. It is excellent table reading.
3. Sunday, July 12, 2009, is the Feast of Saint Veronica (Roman calendar), and is the Name day of our Sister Mary Veronica, OSB. Please remember Sister Veronica in you very special prayers.
4. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels.
5. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY:	Special Int. Sister Veronica OSB Feast Day
TUESDAY:	Special Int. Estella Wells
WEDNESDAY:	Special Int. Peggy Rosenberg
THURSDAY:	Special Int. Jean Henderson
FRIDAY:	Special Int. Mrs. John Bieker
SATURDAY:	For the Poor Souls

A Thought To Remember...

It will always remain my unbounded duty to try to offer my life to the most adorable Trinity in testimony of my absolute trust in the promises of Jesus Christ. I must surely remain, at every moment of my life, prepared to lay down my life rather than listen to the sweet melodies of the demon when he works to diminish virtue in me!